

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 4

APRIL 1999

Update on Powerline Products and Production.

Austrac 48 Class MK 1 Locomotives.

The decorations for this run of 48 Class locomotives are going to be one of the most complicated ever attempted by Powerline Models P/L. The number of masks and plates required to get the decoration correct are enough to do 4 normal locomotives.

The contractors in Hong Kong have taken great trouble to advise us of the problems. They agree that the decoration is one of the most complicated they have ever been asked to produce. They are going to make sure that the final result will be as detailed and correct as they can make it.

One of the problems incurred is the strip along the side of the body. Take a good look at how this stripe goes over three vents on the side. Not just over but up the side of the vent. The problems of painting this correctly are a nightmare. Ask any modeller who does his own painting.

Another problem is the pilot. It has stripes. Simple, until you realise the moulding of the pilot has raised parts. Cannot be easily pad printed. Result, an expensive masking and spray paint job. But you cannot produce a 48 Class Austrac with out this stripped pilot.

The end result is that we are going to do the decoration correctly but it is going to cost a lot more money to get it exactly right. This means that the run of 48 Class locomotives that are being produced will not all be the same price. The Austrac 48 Class will be the most expensive 48 Class yet released on the market. Even allowing for the fall in the \$A it will still be the most expensive. But it will be one of the most colourful 48 Class produced.

If you work out what the last 48 Class locomotives sold for, around \$A110 – 120, add 20% for devaluation of our dollar plus the extra work for the Austrac. Plus remember the last run was made some 6 years ago. We have had a little inflation since then. Not the 1980s style but enough. You will quickly

come to realise that there has to be a price rise from the last selling price. Rest assured Powerline will do its best to minimise this as much as possible.

48/830 Class Locomotives.

All the update items have been completed for these locomotives. We are held up with the Austrac decoration. When this is correct we are preparing the Freight Corp. Blue locomotive and the 830 Class all green AN livery.

We hope the Freight Corp. & AN liveries do not take as long to produce as the Austrac has. Otherwise we will not be able to get the 48 / 830 locomotives on the market until late this year. We were hoping, all things going right, to have them ready by the middle of the year.

81 Class Locomotives.

The sample of the Freight Line. 81 Class arrived in Melbourne early in March. This is the new SM/2 unit. New PC Board, new wiring set up, new light guides. Plus the new wheels produced on our new wheel die and assembled in the new assembly tool. We hope to get 99% perfect wheels now.

G / BL Class Locomotives.

New light guides have been tested and although they do not light up the world they do light up quite noticeably. The headlights are now as bright or brighter than the marker lights.

Improvements to the PCB have given HO scale speeds of 144 Kph for a single motored locomotive and 136 Kph for a dual motored locomotive. Not bad straight out of the box with no running in or any attention. With a few hours running in, and a little more for the dual motor, these locomotives should run very well and achieve real scale speeds.

CL Class Ready To Run

Due to numerous requests Powerline decided in 1998 to re release its CL Class locomotive kit as a ready to run locomotive. This project is now well on the way with the first batch completed and awaiting mechanisms so they can go to their new owners. These are being hand built with a limited number being produced each month in Commonwealth Railway Marron and Silver, A.N.R Marron and Silver and A.N Green and Yellow. These are an order item only due to limited supply meaning we make them to order, you can order any number in the livery of your choice.

CLP & CLF

These are planned for latter in 1999 in a similar manner to the CL Class locomotive. These too will be order only productions.

AL Class locomotive Kit

Using Epoxy resin as the medium Powerline has decided to release limited runs of the AL Class locomotive as a kit. There is at this time to be an initial run of only 50 units produced so you must order one now if you want one. These are expected to be available soon and as soon as we can confirm the date we will.

V/Line Passenger Corporations Coaches

These are ready for shipment and should be available in April. Supply of these is limited so make sure you have an order in with your retailer today as these are selling fast and should be sold out by the time they arrive.

If you have been to the following exhibitions you will have seen the prototypes and how good these are: Warrnambool, Croydon, Corio, Camberwell, Illawarra or Springwood. They will also be on display at Bendigo during Easter.

West Coast Railways Passenger Coaches

These too have been approved and should be in production soon with delivery expected in May 1999. These too are excellent re productions of the prototype and the people at West Coast Railways are as excited about their release as we are. Samples of these are also available for viewing at the above mentioned exhibitions.

V/Line Tangerine Passenger coaches

P455 the Powerline Tangerine V/Line coach is to be re run due to demand and popularity. These are expected after the release of the West Coast Railways Passenger Coaches.

Powerline/Freightline Gondolas.

Powerline has been working on increasing its production of product in Australia. The result is a re run of gondolas in red, brown and blue and a new release in yellow. These were all produced in Melbourne and are due for release very soon with the yellow first to come.

Commonwealth Bogies

These should be here by about May and will be in two versions, P1118 Black and P1118G Grey. The black being the normal bogie and the grey being those required for West Coast Railways.

Couplers

There have been moves at Powerline to make it easier for all to couple most other brands to Powerline products. This started with the P1007 Compact coupler, which could be used in many products and modified to fit others. Now we have the P1007A, which fits the standard Kadee R No 5 coupler. The result is it fits straight into Athern, Roundhouse, ConCor and many other American manufacturers products.

The result now with the P1007, P1007A and the NEM clip coupler is that other brands of product from the U.S.A and Europe can be easily made to couple to Powerline.

Others have suggested we move over to Knuckle couplers like EZ, McHenry's or Kadee R and this has been noted. To this end we have produced easy to fit adaptor kits for our locomotives and used NEM style clip couplers in all our freight. Now Kadee R No 17-19 clip straight into our freight rolling stock with no problems.

The reasons for not going totally over to the knuckle style coupler could easily be a newsletter in itself. To make it simple the European coupler used is more tolerant to height deviations and differing track work than the knuckle coupler. As many will tell you Knuckle couplers require correct height

adjustment and good track work or they are prone to uncoupling. When using different brands of product heights change and deviations occur. For many this is frustrating, especially when starting out, so we have decided to stick with the standard as used in Australia whilst also making it possible to convert to knuckle couplers.

RP-25 Wheels

After much work these have been redone, to improve on an already great product, with improved bushes, a slight profile change and a new wheel-pressing tool. The new sample has been seen, tested, checked against drawings and approved. Production is expected latter in the year with delivery around the same time as the Big Locomotives.

LINKLINE Budget Bottlebrush Pine Tree Kits, L601

With promotional activity by How To Solutions showing you how to do your scenery these tree kits have been selling fast. So fast in fact that it has been difficult to keep up. These trees are easy to make and one kit, RRP \$2.20, can yield up to forty, 40, trees. Considering the only added cost is spray paint and some Woodlands foliage, they are very cheap. These are now available in most good hobby shops now and if they have not got them get them to order some. These are fantastic value and fun to make.

The End of an Era

As of the end of March 1999 Roger and Beverley Jones have decided to concentrate on their own business venture. Many of you will remember Thomas the Tank Engine and the other attractions Roger and Bev had out at Emu Plains, well all that plus much more has been re established at Vicary's Winery. They have always had a desire to run their own little railway and after many false starts it is now off and running.

As a result the association between Powerline and the Jones family in day to day running and administration is at an end. There are not enough hours in the day to run a railway, distribute a product and be an R&D consultant as well. This has been a mutual agreement by all concerned although Roger

will still be popping up from time to time assisting our R&D consultant and selling Powerline products at his railway shop. We wish Roger and Bev all the best in their railway venture.

All of you are welcome to visit Roger and Beverley at Vicary's Winery and take a ride with the children on Thomas the Tank Engine. Fax 02 4739 0199 or post to P.O. Box 264 Penrith 2751 for details.

Yes Mr Ray Tolley is still with us at Powerline.

Even after our last issue people continue to ask about Ray Tolley. Well Ray, and his lovely wife Jenny, are still active in Powerline. Ray continues to look after a few shops for us as well as doing warranties and repairs. Ray and Jenny together run the Powerline Production Centre putting sets together, assembling product and packaging items for sale. When they can Ray & Jenny also attend exhibitions with Powerline to keep in touch with friends and meet the public.

All this on top of full time work and family commitments.

The Powerline Club

We have received here at Powerline Models Pty Ltd a lot of questions and requests concerning the Powerline Club. The Powerline Club is at present run and operated by Roger and Beverley Jones through their own company Hobby Wholesalers and all matters concerning the club should be sent to them at P.O. Box 264 PENRITH 2751. Powerline Models Pty Ltd neither operates nor runs the club.

The Powerline Despatch

Roger and Beverley Jones publish the Despatch and is the magazine for Powerline Club members and all interested in Australian Railways. It is available to club members as part of club membership in the Powerline Club or through Powerline dealers across Australia. This magazine is not published, operated, run or distributed by Powerline Models Pty Ltd. If anyone requires more information on the magazine or the Powerline Club they need to write to P.O. Box 264 PENRITH 2751.

LOCOMOTIVE BODIES.

We are getting many requests for bodies of our locomotives. In particular the 48 Class. The biggest requests come from South Australia. We believe modellers want to use them to produce a 3' 6" gauge locomotive.

The way we import the locomotives from China is as a complete unit. (Locomotive complete body/power unit.) We do not get any spare bodies.

What does happen is that we do sometimes have faulty motor units and we use the unit for spare parts. In this case we do sometimes have a spare body. But it is not very often and we like to hold onto the body in case we get a faulty body that needs replacing.

If there were enough demand we would be prepared to bring in a batch of grey bodies. (unpainted or decorated body.)

The Powerline Web site

A lot of comment has been made on the fact that this site is out of date and in fact has not been up dated since September 1997.

Unfortunately this is true and the site is in desperate need of improvement and upgrading. There has been a lot of push by Powerline Management to get the site up to date and to improve its services. The good news is that we have a new site that is 20 Meg in size but the upgrade will not be in place till August/September at the earliest, hopefully to coincide with some new releases.

The web site is a part of Powerline Direct, which exists to provide service, advice, and assistance to all interested in Powerline. It also provides retail sales to those overseas, those in remote areas and those who are finding it difficult to get the Powerline products they want. Powerline Direct is not a competitor to retail shops it is more of a service filling in where shops do not or will not.

The web site is at www.powerline.com.au for all those interested.

Exhibitions for April:

Bendigo 2nd to the 5th April
Hobsons Bay 2nd to the 5th April

Exhibitions for May:

Brisbane

1st to the 3rd May

Powerline Train sets

Powerline currently has a large range of sets available and is also open to doing special orders, as long as they fit with in our wooden or cardboard boxes.

The current cardboard sets available are:

<u>Cat#</u>	<u>Loco</u>	<u>Contents</u>
PCS-001	81 Class	3 Tuscan Coaches
PCS-002	81 Class	3 Candy Coaches
PCS-005	G Class	3 Tang Coaches
PCS-010	81 Class	3 Gondolas
PCS-011	G Class	3 Gondolas
PCS-012	BL Class	3 Gondolas
PCS-030	48 Class	3 Tuscan Coaches
PCS-031	48 Class	3 Candy Coaches
PCS-040	48 Class	3 Gondolas
FCS-001C	81 Class	3 Cont Wagons
FCS-002C	BL Class	3 Cont Wagons
FCS-003C	G Class	3 Cont Wagons
FCS-001T	81 Class	3 Tank Wagons
FCS-002T	BL Class	3 Tank Wagons
FCS-003T	G Class	3 Tank Wagons
FCS-001H	81 Class	3 Hoppers
FCS-002H	BL Class	3 Hoppers
FCS-003H	G Class	3 Hoppers
FCS-001M	81 Class	1 H + 1 T + 1 C
FCS-002M	BL Class	1 H + 1 T + 1 C
FCS-003M	G Class	1 H + 1 T + 1 C
FCS-016C	48 Class	3 Cont Wagons
FCS-016T	48 Class	3 Tank Wagons
FCS-016H	48 Class	3 Hoppers
FCS-016M	48 Class	1 H + 1 T + 1 C

Linkline Trainsets

LCS-001	S Class VR	3 VR Coaches
LCS-010T	S Class VR	3 Tank Wagons
LCS-010C	S Class VR	3 Cont Wagons
LCS-010G	S Class VR	3 Gondolas
LCS-010H	S Class VR	3 Hoppers
LCS-010M	S Class VR	1 H + 1 T + 1 C

All sets come sealed in a cardboard box with a cardboard lid. Apart from the locomotive and rolling stock the sets also include a 12 volt transformer/controller, a circle of quality code 100 Atlas Nickel-Silver track (18" rad) and power connections.

Arriving in April

P1007A Draft box Coupler
P676 Yellow Gondola

P475 V/Line Passenger Corp Coaches

If you are interested in receiving this up date free each month please send your details to:

**Powerline Update
P.O Box 2100
North Brighton 3186**