

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 11

November 1999

Update on Powerline Products and Production

Big Locomotives.

The saga continues. During the month of October the BL Class locomotive arrived in our offices for checking. This locomotive has the new SM2 mechanism, new wheels, new PCB, wiring revised and new tyres. A completely reworked locomotive and a large improvement over previous productions.

Our testing division reports:

Straight out of the box:

Lights good. Very clear and bright.

Wheels excellent no wobbles

Speed good. Without running in does a scale 129-130kmph.

Paint job excellent.

New wiring set up good except you still have to be careful when putting the body on that the wires are not caught between the body and the weights.

With this report we are now able to advise our contractors that production can now proceed for the 81 class, G Class & BL Class locomotives. It has been 2 years (yes 2 years) of hard work to get the Big Locos reworked and ready for full production again. Once we complete the present production schedule (Freight Corp Blue 81 Class, G Class Mk 1 V/Line & BL Class in NR) then we can plan and start the new decorations for 2000.

48 Class.

With new liveries, an upgraded mechanism, new pilots and the fletner vent, the 48 Class production run was being held up.

In early October painted samples of the Austrac, Freight Corp and AN locomotives arrived with the modified pilot, in time to be

displayed at the Liverpool exhibition. These created a lot of interest and resulted in an increase in orders. Yet the locomotives were still not quite right with a few very minor errors that most people could not pick. In fact no one person got every error or fault.

The Fletner vent arrived late in October and has been approved. It is an excellent addition to the locomotive. This with the new pilots ensures a new upgraded locomotive for Australian modellers.

Also with the fletner vents came a tweaked mechanism with a few very minor modification that should improve performance, this is at present being tested.

Production now awaits final approval when completed and finished samples arrive. Everything for the 48/830 Class is now in place and awaiting the final approval. Stay tuned as production is very close and when these locomotives hit the shelves they will sell very quickly.

The CL Class Locomotive, by Associated Distributors

The production of the CL Class locomotive has been a drawn out affair due to the fact that each locomotive is hand assembled. These are not a mass produced item but a completely hand made model in all areas, produced by Associated Distributors, and the time taken to get each locomotive ready is a long one. Associated distributors did not wish to rush these locomotives as haste creates waste which became evident with a few that had minor errors due to Associated Distributors haste to meet market demand. This is not to be repeated and each locomotive is now going to be checked and tested before they get sold so there is going to be a time delay. Each body is made in Sydney, hand painted elsewhere, the mechanisms are hand modified and assembled in Melbourne (using a Powerline Mechanism) and the locomotive is then hand

assembled in Melbourne. At this point in time due to high demand only existing orders will be met and Associated Distributors will accept no new orders. Those orders with a deposit will be supplied first and those with an order and no deposit will be supplied after that. So until we meet existing orders no new orders will be accepted. Be assured those with orders will be supplied as soon as is possible. The CL is available in CR, ANR and AN with a few options. Associated Distributors apologises for the delay and wishes to assure those that have orders with Powerline Models Pty Ltd, or Associated Distributors, that they will be supplied. For those wishing to order a CL, no new orders will be accepted at this point in time.

The AL Body kit by Associated Distributors

Quite some time ago Powerline planned to do an AL for the Australian market. Due to production and time constraints this was reduced to a body kit. This was then passed on to Associated Distributors who have successfully released the AL Kit onto the market and sold very well. These kits are only produced in limited numbers and are in quite short supply so anyone who wants one we suggest you get down to your local hobby shop very quickly or contact Powerline Direct. These kits are not made or distributed by Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

Preliminary results from our questionnaire

It would appear from questionnaires returned to date that many people are not aware of what is still available in the way of passenger coaches and freight wagon from Powerline. Powerline Models Pty Ltd still has a large range of passenger coaches and freight wagons available right now which if your local hobby shop does not have in stock you can order from Powerline Direct. For your interest we will produce a list of what is still available from Powerline now.

AUSTRAC Colours.

Small point for all Powerline customers. The roof colour should be black. Some of you may use as a point of reference the colour photo in the Railway Digest, which featured on the front cover. This shows the roof of the Austrac 48 Class as blue due to a

photographic problem relating to a Polaroid lens. The result being a reflection of the sky giving the roof a blue appearance. Our R&D team has been all over the Austrac 48 Class locomotives and the roof is black.

Powerline couplers for American products.

Quite a number of people have question Powerline Models Pty Ltd about coupling various models to their Powerline Locomotives and rolling stock. For those using some LifeLike and Model Power products, the P1007 compact coupler will do the job. For those using Athern, Roundhouse, Concor, Walthers, and other similar leading American brands the P1007A Draft box coupler will do the job. The P1007A is designed to fit most American style boxes similar to the Kadec R No#5 draft box. For those using European there are usually similar couplers available of the shelf but Powerline is planning a coupler for the NEM clip in style.

Movements at Powerline Models Pty Ltd

A part from the model and production movements and activities, there are also other movements happening within Powerline Models Pty Ltd. The registered offices Of Powerline Models Pty Ltd are now also on the move, to more modern and updated offices. From memory this is the fourth move in ten years and hopefully the last for quite some time. Although the move will cause some disruption to Powerline Model Pty Ltd, and a few added delays, the final result, after all the moves and resettlement have been completed, should be smoother and more pro-active operations. Nothing like a move to find lost articles, shake up all the dust and stimulate activity.

Powerline questions or queries

For all you questions, queries and requests concerning Powerline Models Pty Ltd products, please contact Powerline Direct. Powerline Direct can be contacted at;
Powerline Direct
P.O. Box 2100
North Brighton 3186
Or Fax (03) 9596-3917 or e-mail
platform@powerline.com.au

COACHES

P420	NSW FS (2nd) (Tuscan)
P421	NSW BS (1st.) (Tuscan)
P422	NSW BSR Buffet (Tuscan)
P423	NSW MHO Pass. Brk. (Tuscan)
P424B	NSW KB Parcels (Tuscan)

P434A	VR Blue/Art Deco 1st/2nd.
P435A	VR Blue/Art deco 2nd.
P436A	VR Blue/Art Deco 1st.

P438S	VR St. Gauge Buffett (Blue) "Spirit of Progress"
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P440	NSW FS Coach (Candy)
P441	NSW BS Coach (Candy)
P443	NSW MHO Pass. Brk. (Candy)
P444	NSW KB Parcels (Candy)

P455	V/Line BS Eco Car. Tang.
P456	V/Line BRS Snack Bar Tang.
P458S	V/Line VRS Buffet . Tang.

P462	NSW Red Cross Car
P463	NSW MHO B/down (Yellow)

P464	NSW FS "3801 Ltd." Livery
P465	NSW MHO Bicentennial L/ED

P475	V/Line Pass. Corp BS Coaches 3 num.
P495	West Coast Rly BS Coach 2 num.
P496	West Coast Rly BRS Snack

SCALE FREIGHT

P500	MHG Brake Van Black
P504	L550 Lab Test Car

P510	BDX Gondola NSW Black
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FREIGHTLINE ECONOMY FREIGHT

P603	AN Grain Hopper
P604	V/Line Hopper
P641A	Caltex Tanker
P642	Golden Fleece Tanker(yellow)
P651A	Ampol Tanker
P663	Coal load for short hopper
P664	Roof for short hopper
P671	V/Line Gondola
P672	SAR Grey Gondola
P674	AN Green/yellow Gondola
P675	BHP Steel Gondola
P676A	Yellow Undec. Gondola
P678	National Rail Gondola

The container wagons (listed below) have 2 x 20' containers.

P620A	TrackFast Container Wagon
P681	CSR Container Wagon
P683	Allied Pickfords Cont. Wagon
P683N	Allied Pickfords on NRC Flat

P683V	Allied Pickfords on V/Line Flat
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LOCOMOTIVES

P204S	81 Class, Stealth LTD ED...
P204S-RP	P204S with RP25 Wheels
P206	81 Class Freight Rail Blue
P207	81 Class Frt Rail Blue D/Motor
P207-RP	P207 with RP25 wheels
P216	G Class VR Mk 1
P217	G Class Mk 1 Dual
P217-RP	P217 with RP25 wheels
P218	BL Class National Rail
P219	BL Class Nat Rail, Dual/Motor
P219-RP	P219 with RP25 wheels

Note : only the dual powered versions are offered with RP25 wheel sets. Prices subject to change.

P239	48 Class Mk 1 Austrac
P235B	48 Class Mk 1 Freight Corp.
P237A	830 Class Mk 1 Green Roof

Production of Locomotives to start late 1999 with some possibly being available before Christmas. Although exact dates are to be confirmed on all locomotive productions, some products are being ordered and sold before the production and delivery dates are confirmed.

Please note that the passenger coach and freight wagon listing given here is only a guide to what Powerline Models Pty Ltd has in stock right now. It has been noted that some shops still have some other items in stock. Like the P622A TNT Container wagons, P682 K&S Container wagons, P684 FCL Container wagons and the containers themselves.

So what is on this Powerline Models Pty Ltd listing is a minimum of what any shop stocking Powerline should have or be able to get into stock. Every item, as of this newsletter going to press, listed is available.

Note though that some shops will also have other items not listed, which Powerline Models Pty Ltd no longer has in its stocks. So it always pays to check out what your local hobby shop has in stock. There are over 150 shops across Australia stocking Powerline and if you can not get to one contact Powerline Direct and we will do our best to provide you with the products you want.

Train sets for Christmas

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has a very limited number of special wooden box train sets available.

These train sets come in stained and varnished furniture grade wooden boxes and unlike other train sets can be stored and kept in tact.

These are a premium grade train set and there are only a very few left and these are not likely to be made again

So check them out at your local dealer or contact Powerline Direct. As they make ideal Christmas presents and there is only a very few left.

These sets come in numerous configurations using Powerline locomotives, G/BLG Classes only, with Powerline rolling stock and Atlas track. Also a few LinkLine sets using Lima locomotives are also available but these too are in very short supply. So contact your local dealer now or Powerline Direct.

Powerline Limited Editions

As the name implies all products called Limited Editions by Powerline Models Pty Ltd are Limited Editions. That is they are limited in how many are produced, and that once produced and sold that particular locomotive will never be produced again. Classic examples are the Bicentennial 81 Class and Bob Hawke locomotives.

The value of each Limited edition is subject to supply and demand but it must be noted that a Limited Edition is not worth a cent without its certificate. All Limited Edition locomotives produced by Powerline come with certificates.

We strongly advise that no Limited Edition locomotive be bought or sold without its certificate.

The BL Class GM Demo

For quite some time now Powerline has been making it known that it intends to do a BL Class GM Demo, although one never really existed.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd still intends to produce this mock up of how EMD or Clyde would have painted a BL Class Demonstrator.

The policy on this locomotive is that once the big locomotives have been produced and the SM/2 seen to run well. Then and only then will Powerline go ahead with production of the BL Class GM Demo.

This locomotive is very much in demand and is to be produced as a Limited Edition locomotive. Actual dates are to be confirmed and you the reader of the Powerline Update will be the first to know.

As soon as production is announced in the Powerline Update it is suggested that anyone desiring one should place an order straight away. Until that announcement is made no more advanced will be accepted.

This locomotive is sure to be a highly collectable model and much sought after in years to come.

Future Productions

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been investigating many possible future productions.

To try and get some idea of what you the purchaser and our valued customer would like we produced a questionnaire in the last issue of the Powerline update. Your answers to this questionnaire and your suggestions are still being sought.

At recent exhibitions Powerline has given hints as to some future ideas. These include an 81 Class in National Rail livery and a mock paint job of a BL Class in Steel Link colours.

So look out for a Powerline display at your local railway exhibition because you just might find some clues and even some answers to Powerline's plans for the future.

Past ring ins have included CL Classes, AL Classes and the BL Class GM Demo.