

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 12

December 1999

Update on Powerline Products and Production.

*Merry Christmas
and a prosperous
New Year
to all our valued
Powerline customers*

*From the Management, staff and representatives
of Powerline Models Pty Ltd*



LOCOMOTIVE UPDATE

CL Class Locomotives

Demand has been so strong for this locomotive that at the present time Associated Distributors can not keep up. The main reasons for this is the time taken to finish the bodies and the shortage of mechanisms. To try and alleviate this situation, Associated Distributors has decided to release finished and painted CL Class bodies for sale. These will be available just after this update goes to press. The bodies are available in Commonwealth Railways Maroon and Silver, ANR Maroon and Silver, and AN Green and Yellow. Those with existing orders will be met but the option is there to transfer your order to body only. The number of bodies available is still limited in quantity. These will be available as this Update goes to press and should be available in stores in January 2000.

AL Class bodies

These are currently available from Associated Distributors to all Powerline Dealers. These are unpainted resin bodies with sand boxes and pilots as well AN decals. At present there is a good stock available but like the CL numbers are limited.

BL Class

At this point in time the BL Class, National Rail, is sold out and currently unavailable from Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Stocks across Australia are low although we believe there are still a few shops with some in stock. The BL with the new SM2 is due for production later in 2000, hopefully around March.

G Class

These too have sold quite well and Powerline Models Pty Ltd has sold out of this model as well. In Victoria though there are shops still with a few still in stock. Like the BL there is a small run of locomotives with the new SM2 mechanism due sometime in 2000, also around March.

81 Class

Like the BL and the G Class Powerline Models Pty Ltd sold the Freight Corp and Stealth 81 classes out midway through 1999. Although we note a few shops still have some in stock. A short run of both 81 Classes with the SM2 mechanism is also expected in 2000.

A quick note that Freight Corp decals are currently available to convert that Freight Rail 81 Class into a Freight Corp locomotive. Even the real thing had just a sticker to convert Freight Rail to Freight Corp.

48 Class Austrac

4814 and 4836 in the Austrac livery is about to go into production but a three week delay due to our desire get it as close to right as we can has meant delivery will not take place until about February 2000. They are still coming but not as soon as we had hoped but when they do arrive we do not expect them to last long. We feel they are Powerlines best 48 Class yet. Did any one spot the error in our December 1999 AMRA advert?? The locomotive was advertised as a 48 Class Mk 5 when it should have been a 48 Class Mk 1, another one goes through to the keeper

48 Class Freight Corp

Due to the delay with the Austrac 48 Class this locomotive has also been delayed but will arrive around the same time as the Austrac 48 Class. This too is a fine looking locomotive which will take pride of place in many collections along side previous Powerline productions. Expected delivery date February 2000.

830 Class AN

Yes this Green and Yellow locomotive will also be arriving sometime in 2000, approx February. This locomotive is different from previous AN 830 Class locomotives and we feel an improvement over previous productions. This locomotive is only being produced in one number in a small production run to satisfy our South Australian and AN modellers.

Rolling Stock Update

Gondolas

A small variety of Gondolas is currently available from your Powerline Dealer. These include P671 V/Line, P672 SAR, P674 AN, P675 BHP, P676A Yellow undec, and P678 NR. P671, P674 and P676A are currently in short supply but since these units are produced in Australia supplies will be available again soon. Making a long needed return to the range in January 2000 will be the blue and Indian red Gondolas available for the first time as undecorated units first and as decorated units later in 2000. These units are 90% Australian made, 100% Australian assembled and 100% Australian Owned.

Coaches

The full range of NSW Tuscan, VR Blue, V/Line Tangerine, V/Line Passenger Corporation and West Coast Railways passenger coaches is still currently available and in stock. Although stocks of some individual variations are running low. P464 3801 Ltd passenger coaches are still available as are P462 Red Cross, P463 MHO Yellow, and a very limited number of P465 Bi Centennial MHO.

Tankers

P641A Caltex, P642 Golden Fleece and P651A Ampol are all still currently available.

Container Wagons

Always a good seller stocks of these are currently limited, although some stores still have a good range. Those still currently in stock are those wagons with Allied Pickford, CSR or TrackFast containers on them. K&S and FCL containers and container wagon are all sold out.

Hopper Wagons

P603 AN and P604 V/Line are currently the only Hopper Wagons still in stock with P601 WestRail and P602 Freight Rail sold out.

Flat Cars

P689NR National Rail Flat Cars are currently available as well as a limited number of P620U NSW undec Flat Cars.

Containers

Undecorated (white) and Allied Pickford containers are all that is currently available.

Spare Parts

A full range of couplers, bogies, traction tyres, corridor connectors and Kadee R adapters as well as assorted other spares are currently available. Spares for those locomotives produced in 2000 will be available by the middle of 2000.

Train sets

A very limited range of Powerline, Freightline and Linkline train sets is currently available but only in the wooden box packs. The cardboard sets are all out of stock.

Future Locomotives and future productions

With the success of the West Coast Railways and V/Line Passenger Corporation coaches and the pending success of the soon to be released range of 48/830 Class locomotives, Powerline is now planning other productions to fill into the gaps created by items being sold out. You will read about it first in your Powerline Update where announcements will be made first.

Powerline Conversions

Athern and American draft box, Kadee R #5 conversions to Powerline couplings

For those who want the reliability and tolerance of the Euro style coupler and/or wish to use one common coupler, Powerline produces couplers to convert other units Euro couplers. With the Powerline coupler P1007A you can convert your Athern, Roundhouse, Concor, Walthers and Kadee R No 5 style draft boxes to the Powerline coupler. It really is as easy as removing the X2F, American style coupler, and replacing it with the P1007A. It just fits straight in with little fuss and no mess. This is an Australian designed, injected and assemble product.

Likelike, Model Power and Talgo style coupler boxes

For those with Model Power and Lifelike or similar the P1007 is made by Powerline to convert these units to run with Powerline products. For most of these it is simply a matter of snapping or unclipping the existing coupler and replacing it with a Powerline coupler.

Converting other models to Powerlines coupler

Any model that can be made to take a Kadee R No 5 Box can be converted to a Powerline coupler very easily using P1007A instead of the No5 coupler, and when required a Kadee R draft box.

In 2000 Powerline will be releasing a coupler that will fit into any NEM 362 clip style box. This will be good for those wanting to run some European products with their Powerline models.

For other models like Hornby, Branchline and others it is a matter of selecting the Powerline coupler you can best use and modify the product or the coupler to suit. Remembering that the coupler height and centring are important and it may be a matter of shimming the coupler down or filing the model to get the correct height.

Converting Powerline models to Kadee R couplers

For those who wish to convert their Powerline products to Kadee R couplers the process is quite simple.

For our current range of freight rolling stock, Freightline, just unclip the existing Powerline coupler and clip in a Kadee R No 17 or 18. It really is that simple

S type carriages; you simply cut the existing coupler off level with the first axle and used a Kadee R No 5 coupler. The assembled No 5 is then screwed onto the provided platform after drilling a 1.5mm hole in the centre roughly where the sink mark is.

FS/BS/MHO/KB type coaches; as per the S type carriage you cut the existing coupler off level with the first axle. Then you build a small platform using styrene at either end on which you will mount the No 5 coupler. For a rough guide check out an S type carriage and the platform it has.

For Powerline locomotives Powerline produces a range of adaptors to fit Kadee R couplers to your 48/830/81/BL and G Class Locomotives. These adaptors fit neatly into your existing pilot after removal of the existing coupler and the cutting back flush of the tongue on the bogie that held the existing coupler. The adaptors push in tightly from the back giving a neat flush appearance up front, add a drop of MEK or Faller Expert to glue it into place. With the release of the big locomotives in 1998 Powerline release a range of adaptors coloured to suit individual locomotive liveries and provided coupler for close or medium coupling depending on your curves.

P1218A-1	81 Stealth Short Kadee	P1218A-2	81 Stealth Long Kadee
P1218A-3	BL Nat Rail Short Kadee	P1218A-4	BL Nat Rail Long Kadee
P1218A-5	81 Frt Rail Short Kadee	P1218A-6	81 Frt Rail Long Kadee
P1218A-7	G V/Line Short Kadee	P1218A-8	G V/Line Long Kadee
P1238	48/830 Grey adaptor No coupler provided in pack	P1238Y	48/830 Yellow adaptor No coupler provided in pack

Powerline coupler or Kadee R Coupler

The choice is a matter of personal preference but for beginners and those starting out we suggest sticking with the Powerline coupler.