

# POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 3

March 2000

## Update on Powerline Products and Production.

### The 48/830 Class

#### The locomotives are here

#### DELIVERY ON TIME

The much awaited and sort after 48/830 Class locomotives have arrived with all shops having their allocations sent out on or by the 25<sup>th</sup> February. From Wednesday to Friday Powerline staff were working to fill all orders and get them all out by the deadline, which they did. So all Powerline dealers now have the 48/830 Class locomotives in stock.

On Monday it became apparent that dealers had not ordered enough stock as reorders rushed in and what was left rushed out. From the start we knew these locomotives would sell fast, dealers were selling out the day the locomotives arrived, and by the reorders coming in we have been proved right.

Locomotives available are:

P239	Austrac	4814
P239	Austrac	4836
P235B	Freight Corp	4806
P235B	Freight Corp	4862
P237A	A. N	846

These are the best 48/830 Class locomotives produced to date by Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

#### Findings upon receiving the locomotives.

Upon receiving the locomotive Powerline did a lot of checking and test running of locomotives in mass. The results were most pleasing with locomotive performing well and looking good, straight out of the box they ran well.

Any manufacturer or producer that tries to tell you their entire final product is perfect is kidding themselves so we set out to find faults in our locomotives. Over three days of testing and checking hundreds of locomotives only a few issues appeared. One locomotive had a poorly seated traction tyre, three had handrails that needed to be put back in place and a few locomotives had lose air reservoirs. On Saturday a sample of locomotives were tested at a Hobby Expo in St Kilda, and all performed well.

As they say, "The proof is in the pudding", and the sales, reorders and responses have already been very positive with many dealers selling out the day their locomotives arrived. So if you are Thinking of getting a new 48/830 Class locomotive, don't wait buy it today because tomorrow may be too late.

#### I can not find a 48/830

It must first be noted that this production run was a small production run.

If you can not find a 48/830 Class locomotive or your dealer has not got any, you can get your local Powerline dealer to order one for you. When you don't have a local Powerline dealer, or you just can not order a locomotive, contact Powerline Direct. Powerline Direct sells Powerline product at the suggested retail price plus postage. Powerline Direct is a supplier to those with out a local Powerline dealer or who can not find or get the Powerline products they want. Powerline Direct accepts Visa card, MasterCard, Bankcard, Money orders and cheques.

P239 Austrac (4814 or 4836)  
\$165 plus \$5 postage = \$170

P235B Freight Corp (4806 or 4862)  
\$130 plus \$5 postage = \$135

P237A A.N 830 (846)  
\$140 plus \$5 postage = \$145

Powerline Direct  
P.O. Box 2100  
North Brighton 3186

Fax: (03) 9596-3917  
Email: [platform@powerline.com.au](mailto:platform@powerline.com.au)

#### Historical Notes

Provided with the 48/830 Class locomotives is a brief Historical Note on the locomotives. This makes interesting reading and informs the reader about the class. This information as well as the specifications, technical details, were provided by Mr Peter Clark and the photographs by Mr Ralph Cooke.

## Registration and Warranty procedures

All Powerline locomotives have a warranty of 12 months covering defects due to faulty workmanship and/or materials. To validate your warranty you must forward the provided warranty card to the Powerline Production Centre with proof of purchase, a purchase date and place of purchase. Any warranty claims require the warranty to be validated, so you must submit your warranty card within two weeks of purchase to be covered. It is advised that all information provided with the locomotives should be read thoroughly.

Note all repairs or warranties must be through the dealer from which the purchase was made.

### IMPORTANT USE ONLY PLASTIC COMPATIBLE LUBRICANTS

## Fitting Kadee ® couplers to a 48/830 class.

Yes you can easily fit Kadee ® couplers to your 48/830 Class locomotive. All you require is Powerline part P1238 Kadee ® adaptor and a number 5, 36 or 38 coupler. Although the modification is easy we do not recommend beginners or young children attempt the conversion.

Required:

- A small phillips (+) screwdriver
- A small standard screwdriver
- P1238 48/830 Adaptor
- Kadee ® couplers (pair)
- A fine saw or sharp blade
- A flat needle file
- A small hand drill vice
- A 1.5mm drill bit
- A pair of tweezers
- M.E.K or liquid cement
- Steady hands
- Good lighting (and ventilation)

The conversion requires the body to be removed first. This requires the removal of the couplers from each end of the locomotive first and then the unscrewing of the screws in the fuel tank. Take care not to lose any screws. Carefully remove the body taking care not to snag any wires.

On the bogies there are tongues, which are the standard coupler, mounting points. These must be carefully cut off; I use an Atlas snap saw (400). To be safe it is best to remove the bogie frames to do this. The cut must be flush with the bogie to allow movement with the Kadee ® fitted. (File area if required)

To fit the couplers you first need to put the adaptor into place. The part number is P1238 and this is fitted from the inside of the body by pushing it into place in the coupler hole, ensuring the actual mounting section (or tongue) is up. Filing around the inside to take the square edge off the inside lip helps with fitting. After pushing the part

firmly into place, checking a flush fit at the front of the pilot. After this apply some M.E.K or Testors liquid cement to around the adaptor plate inside the body.

Select the Kadee ® coupler you wish to fit and place it in the adaptor to ensure correct fit, taking into consideration the fitting of the chassis, and then drill the hole for the mounting screw. A 1.5mm drill bit is the size I use to do the job. Fit the Kadee ® and tighten the screw till it is firm but not tight.

Refit the body to the chassis and enjoy operating your railway. It must be noted that P1238 only comes in the grey colour in which it is moulded. A limited number of P1238Y, yellow adaptors, are available but no colour-coordinated adaptors are available. Colour matching is possible and we recommend painting the adaptor before fitting.

## Note from the BOSS

Ian Comport & Ralph Cooke combined together to produce a very accurate production run of the 48/830 Class locomotives. Ian chased up the details, specifications and requirements and Ralph did the original drawings, model specifications and model requirements. From here Ian ensured that the contractor produced the final correct product. This was only achieved after many samples had to be rejected, altered, colour corrections done and that the models actually adhered to the plans, this was strictly enforced. The end result is a credit to both Ian and Ralph and also to the management and staff of our contractor in Hong Kong. Who was only too willing to change and adapt to ensure the high-class product and finish that Australian modellers have come to demand.

## NEWS

### Products out in March 2000.

March sees the release and re-release of the following products.

P511U	Blue NOBX Undec
P512U	Indian Red NOBX Undec
P510	Black BDX
P676A	Yellow Gondola
P671	V/Line Gondola
P674	A.N Gondola
P689NR	Nat Rail Flat car
L401	HO Cork
P1007A	Draft Box Coupler

All these products will be available in store in March.

## The Big Locomotives

As per the 48/830 Class locomotives, the 81/BL/G Class locomotives have been under further development and testing. Those of you that read the Update will be familiar with what I mean.

Checks and testing of these locomotives have resulted in many changes including:

- Reworked light guides
- Change of material used in light guide
- Reworked PCB
- Reworked traction tyres
- Reworked wheels
- Change in wiring
- Reprofiled RP-25 wheels
- Improved QC & QA

All this takes time and with the release of the 48/830 Classes this adds up to a delay.

Needless to say we are not resting there with research and development continuing and on going. All of this work occurring in Australia.

The 81/BL/G Classes with the SM/2 are still coming re-released in Stealth, Freight Corp, National Rail and V/line as per the previous production only better.

Date of release to be announced in an issue of the Update.

## LINK LINE TREES

The Link Line Budget BottleBrush Pine tree kit is now available once again.

Developed by the Bruce Ritchie and Murray Johnstone team from How To Solutions, it is an easy and inexpensive way to create trees and forests.

All you require to make approx 40 trees is one tree kit, one packet of Woodland Scenics number 63, and a can of mission brown spray paint. Using a nail and a hand drill (and a pair of pliers if you like) this kit is really simple.

Those who have attended one of the exhibitions where How To Solutions has been present will know how easy it is. Their next exhibition is Camberwell followed by Bendigo and Brisbane.

Kit cost	approx \$2.20 retail
Woodland Scenics Material	\$7.75 retail
Can of Spray paint	\$2-\$11

(go to the \$2 shop)

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## Exhibition dates

Powerline Models Pty Ltd can be seen at the following exhibitions:

Camberwell, Vic,	10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> March
Illawarra, NSW,	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> March
Canberra, ACT,	1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Bendigo, Vic,	21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April
Hobsons Bay, Vic,	22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April
Brisbane, QLD,	29 <sup>th</sup> April-1 <sup>st</sup> May
Adelaide, SA	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> June
Ballarat, Vic	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> June

Other dates and places to be confirmed.

## MAGAZINES

As this issue of the Update goes to press news of a new magazine and the coming issue of a favourite have sparked some interest. Branchline Modeller now known as The Australian Journal of Model Railways or AJMR is returning with a new issue. The new issue is expected to be out in March, possibly in time for the Camberwell Exhibition in Melbourne. It is great news to hear such a good magazine has returned after so long an absence.

Also due out sometime soon is a new magazine for the Australian model railway enthusiast. Called Rail Modeller Australia it sounds like it will be a magazine to keep an eye out for.

Those who frequent the magazine racks in Newsagencies and hobby shops will notice the range and quality of magazines on Australian railways improving. This can be seen as a positive sign for enthusiast and the hobby as competition will encourage quality articles, pictures, information and formats. This will further create and foster interest in this great hobby by putting on the shelf magazines that will interest and attract those who are currently not in the hobby.

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## Pricing Policy

Powerline does not set or enforce any retail price and does not discount or favour any client, customer or dealer. What Powerline does offer is a suggested retail price, which is the retail price at which Powerline Direct sells its product. This is a guide for dealers and a retail price list for purchases from Powerline Direct. This list provides details of what is currently available and a suggestion of what items retail for.

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## What's next from Powerline?

This has to be the most commonly asked question we get. Then come the suggestions of what we should or should not produce. To cut it short, you will find out first in the Powerline Update. Nothing will be released until it is in the Update and nothing is official till it is in the Update.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is always looking at ways to improve its models and develop its own bodies, mechanisms and range. Every thing in the red and yellow box is Powerline from the wheels to the mechanism through to the body. To research and develop your own models takes time and patience. Proof of this is in the current 48/830 Class production and the 81/G/BL Classes due for release later in the year. Producing the largest range of Australian ready to run model trains does not happen over night, and we have the largest range of ready to run Australian model trains in Australia and we are Australian.

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### Associated Distributors

#### The CL Class

As this issue goes to press the CL Class ready to run locomotives are arriving. A new assembly contractor has been assembling these locomotives by hand modifying each one individually. He has been enhancing the built and the finish. Each locomotive being individually hand built, checked and finished. Standard these have been fitted to modified Powerline BL Chassis, but research and development has gone into fitting these bodies to Athern mechanisms. The modified BL chassis are correct, look good and run well but some people have expressed interest in an Athern mechanism.

Those CL Classes ordered will be supplied in March, and are going out as you receive this update. The retail price for these hand made originals is \$285. Those fitted with Athern mechanisms, which are not quite right in the tank or bogie as yet, will sell for about \$300.

No more orders at this time will be accepted.

Associated Distributors apologises for the delay.

#### The CL Class Bodies

Ready to go painted and Kadee ® fitted bodies have virtually all gone with only maroon and silver left in stock. With the success of the new ready to run versions the bodies will be very few. These are a limited run item and future availability is unknown.

These bodies are made to fit the Powerline BL/G Class Chassis. With some modification they will fit the Athern SD40-2 mechanism. The Athern mechanism may run well but needs modifications to the fuel tank, bogie side frames and the chassis generally to get it to be right. For those that don't count rivets it does look OK.

#### The AL Class body kit

These are still available. They fit the Powerline BL Chassis or modified F45 or SD40-2 Athern mechanisms. They come as a raw body with pilots, sandboxes and A.N decals.

#### THE CLF & CLP Project.

Due to delays with the CL Class and the problems encountered these projects are uncertain.

No orders or correspondence on these two models will be entered into at this time.

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### POWERLINE MODELS PTY LTD

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is an Australian owned and operated company based in Melbourne Victoria. Powerline Models Pty Ltd is the largest producer of ready to run Australian model trains in Australia. Powerline Models Pty Ltd aim is to foster interest, encourage modelling, promote and produce Australian Ho model trains, combining detail and accuracy at an affordable price tag. Powerline is 100% Australian owned and operated, producing everything from trainsets to collectable limited editions.

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