

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 4

April 2000.

Update on Powerline Products and Production.

The 48/830 Class Locomotives.

These fine models are now available in stores across Australia. The reception to these locomotives has been good with many stores selling out of stock in the same day they received it. Across the board all are selling well and at times Powerline Models Pty Ltd has had problems keeping up supplies to the stores.

Comments on the liveries, finish and running of these models have been more than good, it's been overwhelmingly a chorus of congratulations on an excellent all round product. This is not to beat our own drum but to thank those who took the time to write letters, send e-mails or phone us to tell us how pleased they are with the model. At the Illawarra exhibition one gentleman informed me our 48/830 Class out performed the real thing, one of his Austrac 48 Class locomotives pulled 19 Powerline coaches up an incline.

48/830 Class supply delays

The new locomotives have been selling quite well and at times we have been working flat out meeting demand; as locomotives are unpacked, each locomotive is checked, instructions produced, instructions and warranty cards are folded and then the locomotive along with instructions and warranty card are packed. This is not a fast process and we have had to have someone assist us with this. As such there have been supply delays and due to illness and staff movements more delays have been encountered. The end result being a delay in supplies in March and April for which we apologise.

4836 goes black

Austrac locomotive 4836, we have been informed, has had a rather serious fire and is now black and not running. Details are to be confirmed, but we will not be changing our model to replicate the changed appearance or nature of the real locomotive. For those who do wish to do so, sorry we do not have any spare 4836 bodies.

A brief on what is available

Locomotives

P235B Freight Rail 48 Class, P237A Australian National 830 Class and P239 Austrac 48 Class are all currently available from a Powerline Dealer near you now. These have proved to be our best production of this locomotive type yet.

Tuscan Coaches

FS, BS, BSR, MHO and KB N.S.W Tuscan coaches are all now available. All should be available now in a Powerline Dealer near you. Part numbers P420, P421, P422, P423 and P424B.

Candy Coaches.

FS, BS, MHO and KB N.S.W Candy coaches are all available now from all Powerline dealers. Part numbers P440, P441, P443 and P444

V/line coaches

P455 Economy, P456 Snack Bar and P458S Buffet car in Tangerine as well as P475 V/line Passenger Corporation in Heritage colours are all available and in store at a Powerline Dealer near you now.

Westcoast Railways.

P495 Economy and P496 Snack bar (Economy) are still available in stores across Australia.

VR Coaches

P434A Composite 1st/2nd, P435A 2nd Class, P436A 1st Class and P438S Spirit of Progress Buffet are still available.

Coach Specials

P465 Bicentennial MHO, P464 3801 Ltd FS coach, P462 Red Cross coach, and P463 Yellow MHO are all still available. These should be available in a Powerline Dealer near you yesterday.

Gondolas

The Indian red and the Blue (P512U & P511U) gondolas are now available as undecalled units at a Powerline Dealer now. These add to the BHP Steel, V/Line, A.N, National Rail, S.A.R, Black BDX and the yellow gondolas which have all been re-released. Parts numbers P675, P671, P674, P678, P672, P510 and P676A.

Container wagons.

P681 CSR container wagon, P683 Allied Pickfords container wagon and P620A Track Fast container wagon are all available from your local Powerline Dealer now.

Tankers

P641A Caltex, P642 Golden Fleece, and P651A Ampol are all available now from a Powerline Dealer near you now.

MHG

P500 MHG Black, P504 L550 Lab test car and P509 MHG Black undecorated are all currently available from Powerline Dealers.

Containers

P820A TrackFast, P881 CSR and P883 Allied Pickfords as well as blank white containers will be available in April packaged as pairs.

Kadee Adaptors

All Adaptors are currently available for all locomotives.

Metal Wheels for Freightline wagons

Part number P1109, metal wheels, are produced for both coaches and freight wagons. These are a simple and straightforward swap over.

Out of Stock

The following items are no longer in stock. P601 Westrail Hopper (Yellow), P602 Freight Rail Hopper (silver), P682 K&S container wagon, P684 FCL container wagon, P882 K&S containers, P884 FCL containers, P206 & P207 Freight Rail 81 Class, P216 & P217 V/Line G Class, P218 & P219 National Rail BL Class, and the Stealth 81 Class. Most accessories for the 81 Class etc are also out of stock.

Please note that Tuscan 48 Class locomotives plus many others have been out of stock for quite some time especially since the last production run, until this year, was in 1993/94

Coming soon

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is due to release details for its train set range for 2000 and beyond. Exact details are not to hand right now but all Powerline Dealers should have details by the time you receive this Update. The range of sets will be quite extensive to cater for a broad cross section of beginners and people re-entering the hobby. These sets will all feature Atlas nickel silver track and be easily expanded and up graded.

New Developments

In today's hobby industry there is a lot of competition between the different hobbies and past times, in the model railway hobby there is also a lot of competition between prototypes and brands. As such the need to broaden ones range and become more competitive is a necessity for survival. The consumer looks for

value for money, which Powerline meets, and/or the best, cheapest, prices.

Some manufacturers sell locomotives, both individually and in sets that are generic, and not Australian, but paint them up as Australian to market them in Australia. These locomotives are very cheap and attractive to the new hobbyist.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd with this in mind has decided to meet its overseas competition head on and use an overseas locomotive painted in an Australian livery. Only we feel we went one better as the locomotive we are using is, we feel, is a better locomotive.

The locomotive will be an F3A painted in Australian National colours, green and yellow. This locomotive features a central semi can motor, all wheel drive, all wheel power pick up, metal wheels and a metal chassis.

This new addition to the Powerline range, under the Link Line banner, will provide our market with a price competitive locomotive and price competitive sets of a better quality than our competition, and you heard it first in the Powerline Update.

The Rumour Mill.

It would appear from e-mails, letters received, conversations at exhibitions, chance meetings, conversations with shops and feed back from our state based representatives that there are a lot of rumours about Powerline. These rumours have wasted a lot of time and concerned many people and 99.99% are untrue and have no foundation. The only cold hard facts you can rely on will be in the Powerline Update, if it is not in the Update it is not official.

See the Bosses column.

Camberwell 2000.

For those of you who visited the AMRA (Victorian Division) Camberwell Model Railway Exhibition, over the Victorian Labour Day long weekend in March, you would have seen the Powerline display featuring a 3 meter by 4 meter poster and two double display cases. The poster was excellent featuring currently produced products in a montage, which really hit you with size and colour. Our friends at Pageset produced this masterpiece and we wish to thank them for their great effort, an excellent display.

The exhibition this year featured layouts such as Brisbane Waters, Marias Pass, Pelican Point, The Great Lithgow Zig Zag, Beechy, Kyneton, Rippon Lea, Loch, Brent, Dirt Steel works and many other fine displays. Powerline dealers present included Branchline and Train World who were on hand to supply product and information.

Illawarra 2000.

On the weekend of the 18th/19th March we attended the Illawarra Hobby Expo. This exhibition took place in the BHP Sports Centre, which houses two full size indoor hockey pitches, which it filled with 57 displays. 28 of which were model railway layouts amongst the other hobbies present and trade stands. Layouts included; Fish River, Leonville Junction, Greetham, Konjerdupp, Wilkellton, DIRT, Twin Fals, Weelabarrabak, Zig Zag, Ustabe, Lostock, Swans Crossing, and Dunblurtin.

This years exhibition was a credit to those who made it happen and for all involved. There was something to please everyone in railways and other hobbies. Model railways dominated with American, British and European prototypes in HO & N scale on displays as well as operating model ships and planes and military models, stamps, quilts and cars.

Other Exhibitions

Canberra	1 st -2 nd April	National Hockey Centre
Bendigo	21 st -24 th April	BRIT College
Hobsons Bay	22 nd -24 th April	Albert Park College
Brisbane	29 th April-1 st May	RNA, South Brisbane
Adelaide	10 th -12 th June	Greyhound park
Ballarat	10 th -12 th June	St Patrick's Hall

Others to be advised as confirmed.

Fitting Kadee ® couplers to Freightline wagons

On the current range of Freightline products the fitting of Kadee ® couplers is very easy. You simply pull out the Powerline coupler and push into place, clip in, Kadee coupler number 17 or 18 depending on you coupler requirements. For close coupling and large curves its number 17 and for normal coupling its number 18. You can use number 19 but that's a matter of choice. It really is as easy as pull out, unclip, the Powerline coupler and push in, clip in, the Kadee ® coupler. No mess, no modification and very little time required.

Fitting Kadee ® couplers to the Powerline Victorian S type coaches.

For this job you require a sharp knife or fine saw, a 1.5mm drill bit, a small self tapping screw, Kadee number 5, and a screw driver.

First you carefully remove the bogies by twisting them slightly as you wiggle the clip to release the bogie. A little side to side motion help with a constant pulling pressure. One removed carefully cut the coupler bar with a knife or saw just back from the axle. That is cut the draw bar off level or just behind the axle. That removes the existing coupler.

At each end of the coach you will notice a platform section, which is centred, and level with the carriage body. This is where we mount the Kadee ® coupler.

The number 5 Kadee should first be assembled and tacked together with MEK, MIK or some liquid solvent type glue. This should be done by an adult and in a ventilated area as these glues have fumes and are not to be used by children.

The number 5 in its draft box should be put in place with the coupler knuckle protruding beyond the corridor/diaphragm. Fitting is a matter of choice as some may prefer close coupling and others may have to take into account the curves on their layout. The knuckle, coupler, beyond the corridor/diaphragm is just an easy recommendation. Once in place and in the required position Carefully drill a hole through the centre of the coupler and into the provided platform.

Once this is done screw your Kadee ® coupler firmly in to place but do not over tighten as this will restrict coupler movement, check your coupler always springs back to centre.

Once finished clip your bogies back into place and put your coach back into service.

Bosses Column

With the rumour mill at full tilt and going faster, it is time for us to advise that Powerline Models Pty Ltd is owned, directed, run and financed exclusively by Brian and Valerie Comport. We purchased the business from Roger and Beverley Jones.

Contrary to current rumours:

- Brian and Val have financed Powerline Models Pty Ltd solely by themselves
- Brian and Val provide all finance
- Powerline Models Pty Ltd does all development work
- NO special deals are done with any shop
- All our customers are treated equally
- Powerline Models Pty Ltd operates from Melbourne
- Brian & Val are the only shareholders in Powerline Models Pty Ltd

Having said all this please let it be known that any changes will be announced in the Powerline Update first. At the present time there is no intention of making any changes in the ownership, financing or the running of Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

On a further note, the 48/830 class locomotives are being well received by modellers. Unfortunately we have a small hold up with supply but we are attempting to make sure 100% (or as close as possible) score on all locomotives that are going out to the shops. We should be able to supply all orders in mid April.

ASSOCIATED DISTRIBUTORS

CL Class locomotives at Camberwell.

Yes ready to run CL Class locomotives were available at the Camberwell Model Railway Exhibition with either a Powerline mechanism or an Athern

mechanism. At least two layouts at the exhibition were seen running the CL Class locomotives and response going by sales was good.

It is expected that by now all outstanding orders will be close to finalised, but at this point in time no more orders will be accepted.

CL Class locomotives available

There are a very limited number of CL Class locomotives available now. A total of 12 have been made available in various configurations. The cost is \$285 for a Powerline mechanism and \$305 for an Athern mechanism, no choice of numbers and all come with RP-25 wheels and Kadee® couplers. For those interested please ring (03) 9596-8123 ASAP as numbers are limited and in some livery/configurations there are only two. It is first in first served and no back orders.

CL Class locomotives will be available at the Canberra Train Exhibition from Train World Pty Ltd in April.

CL Flush Glaze windows.

The CL Class flush glaze windows will be available as a separate part in April. These will be available from your local hobby store or through Powerline Direct. These will retail for \$4.70 a packet

Notice: Non Current 48 Class Locomotives.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd last produced the 48 Class locomotives in 1993/1994. Since then Powerline has modified the mechanism and body to produce the improved 48/830 Class locomotives which were released in February 2000. As such some parts have become obsolete and are in very short supply, if at all, so upgrading may be required if you need to fix or repair your old 48/830 Class. Previous productions are easily upgraded to the new specifications.

Note all old 48/830 Class locomotives are now out of warranty. Under the Trade Practices Act section 74F(3) notice is given and under section 74F(2) there is no promise in terms of obsolete productions. All current locomotives have a beige warranty card with a red number on it. This must be sent to the address provided, with date and proof of purchase, within two weeks of the purchase to validate your warranty. All product without the beige, numbered, warranty card are now void from warranty. No beige card no warranty available and if you do have beige, numbered, card you must send it in to validate your warranty.

P239 Austrac, P235B Freight Corp and P237A A.N (green roof) are our current production of 48/830 Class locomotives. Please ensure your purchase has a warranty card when purchasing a new locomotive. All other 48/830 Class locomotives, from production runs over 5 years ago, should be checked and test run before you purchase them.

Some people have all the breaks

On the 23rd March the boss, Brian Comport, goes overseas to England with his wife. Leaving the staff behind to hold everything together as he goes chasing trains, train books, model trains, and generally travelling across England enjoying himself.

Those that know Brian will probably see it more as his annual pilgrimage. He tells us it is business, all work and no play. Hopefully he will return with some gems, not just photos, and a renewed enthusiasm. A full size station clock for the office and a bottle of good scotch would be nice for starters.

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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