

POWERLINE UPDATE

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Update on Powerline Products and Production.

NEW FOR 2000

F3A Australianised locomotive

This unit features a central motor with metal chassis and all wheel pick up and all wheel drive. This unit is a Bo-Bo or 2 axle bogie locomotive. Extensive testing at Bendigo and Brisbane Train exhibitions has seen these units take a lot of punishment and both are still running faultlessly. Many members of the public at the Brisbane exhibition had the opportunity to test the new locomotive whilst also trying out our new Model Railway Remote Radio Control System. All walked away impressed with both items as they put them through their paces. These F3As will be painted in AN green and yellow and should retail for about \$45-\$50 each although most will be in the new set range.

A Radio Controlled transformer/controller.

Yes Powerline Models Pty Ltd has assisted in the development of an Australian researched, designed and manufactured Model Railway Remote Radio Control System for all 12 volt model railway systems. The system is all new but sources many components from overseas and comes in two parts.

The two parts are the remote control hand unit, transmitter, and the transformer/controller receiver. Installation is as easy as plugging the power cord into the wall, connecting the 12-volt out let to your track and putting 4 AAA batteries in the remote control unit. It is that simple and off you go.

No chips to put in locomotives, no complicated wiring and no wiring mess.

The unit is also very easy to use with an ON button, a speed control for fast or slow (fully variable), a direction switch for forward or reverse and an OFF button which is also an emergency stop button. Also as a safety feature so as not to burn out motors and to let you know the unit is on, as soon as you switch the unit on with the remote ON button the locomotive will start to move slowly in the forward direction and each time you switch the unit on, after switching it off, it will always go to this default setting.

A prototype unit was tested at Bendigo and Brisbane train exhibitions and became a very popular item with the general public attracting large crowds. The response at Brisbane was over whelming with people invited to try it out. Adult and child alike enjoyed the unit and it was difficult to get the remote back at times as people enjoyed using the unit. At one stage the remote disappeared at the end of the exhibition, fortunately reappearing before we left. The unit is

expected to be available in August 2000 with a retail price less then \$200. More on this later.

Train sets for 2000.

Powerline dealers have been sent details of the new range being released by Powerline Models Pty Ltd. There are three ranges to chose from; The Powerline range of sets featuring 81/G/BL Class locomotives, the Freightline range featuring the 48/830 Class locomotives, and the LinkLine range featuring the new Australianised F3A in AN green and yellow. These sets comprise an Australian standards transformer/controller and quality Atlas nickel silver track along with locomotive and three pieces of rolling stock. Retail prices start from approx \$100 for the basic LinkLine set up to just over \$350 for the most expensive Powerline set. The boxes, foam inserts and all assembly and packaging are Australian and we have aimed at producing a quality range of sets not a colourful montage. There are no gimmicks or tacky add ons this is a value for money quality range of train sets. Keep it simple to keep the cost down is the idea.

Genuine Parts

Those of you that watch television will be aware of car manufacturers, amongst others, who advertise the need to use only genuine parts in their products. If you do not use the right parts then the product, or car, will not work properly or perform as well as it was designed to.

Well after seeing the results of non-genuine parts used on Powerline locomotives we are now going to do the same. Examples include Kadee ® adaptors and conversions, traction tyres, motors and wheel sets. It really has been suprising to see the results of non-genuine parts. What you have to remember is that optional, add on, parts produced by Powerline are made to fit our product and to work. The parts are made to be simple and not to affect the function of the locomotive. Further more they are made to fit the existing product, be easy to install and not to complicate simple things like putting the locomotive back together.

Examples of problems we have encountered include:

Non Powerline Kadee ® adaptors fitted to a 48 Class made refitting the chassis very difficult resulting in body damage.
Another Adaptor required chassis modifications to make fitting possible.

Use of another brand of traction tyre gave an 81 Class a slight lean.

Fitting of a new motor close to that used by Powerline, with a badly fitted worm gear, resulted in poor running and a chopped out idler gear.

The list does go on but by now you get the idea and what the possible results will be. We stress that Powerline does not suppress or wish to stop the use of after market parts, such as detailing parts, but will void, invalidate, any warranty due to the use of any after market part that effects the running or performance of a model. We have assisted many people with correcting problems caused by the use of non-genuine parts but wish to make it clear that this is not a free service or a warranty issue.

Warranty Issues

Powerline warranties its locomotives from defects of components or workmanship for 12 months. With each model locomotive we include a warranty card, beige card with a red number on it, which we request be filled in and sent in to validate the warranty. Only send in the tear off part to the listed address and keep the other part for your own records.

When buying any model, and we stress any model, it is advised that you test and inspect the product before you make your purchase. Many good model train shops provide test tracks for this reason so that you can see the model running before you buy it. Inspection and try before you buy makes good clear sense and can save a lot of time.

Exhibitions

Bendigo, 21st April to 24th April

A regular Easter exhibition for as long as I can remember, over twenty years, this show has something for most and sometimes a few surprises. Missing this year were the massive Lego land railway, which is always popular with the children, and Thomas the Tank engine. Yet the surprise generated by a G scale layout by the La Trobe Valley Model Railway Club seems to have made up for this. Adults and Children alike were captivated by this larger scale model railway. For those interested in the smaller scales a double sided American N scale layout by Allan Rice was just the thing. There were various other layouts in attendance, like an Australian layout by Rod Roberts whose bridge scene I like, and 5 trade stands. For those members of the family not too interested in trains, they could be left at one of the various displays or art shows for the day at the Bendigo Festival.

Hobsons Bay, 22nd April to 24th April

This exhibition is always a popular one and caters purely for the Australian modeller. Featuring 7 excellent Australian layouts, plus trade stands, this is purely an Australian affair. This is unusual in terms of Model railway exhibitions in Australia but very successful.

Brisbane, 29th April to 1st May

This is one of the biggest Model Railway exhibitions you will see taking up two sheep pavilions with more layouts than I can remember, well there was over 100 stands, plus a live steam train ride outside for the children. The layouts and trade stands were well packed in and even though the aisle ways were wide enough to drive your car down, the crowds of people also packed in. At times it was most difficult to move such is the popularity of this show with so much to see.

A quick note on Exhibitions

From the ten plus exhibitions I have attended this year, the public is becoming more and more aware of Australian layouts. When looking at crowds at exhibitions the biggest crowds are either at Australian layouts/displays or at displays showing you how to model or do things. This observation does change when Thomas the Tank engine is in attendance as every child flocks to Thomas.

This we see as promising as younger generations get interested in this great hobby and those interested in the hobby are looking at Australian more and more and wanting to learn how to do it.

Where to next?

Adelaide, 10th-12th June ** Testing new remote
Ballarat, 10th-12th June **Testing new remote
Glen Waverley, 10th-12th June

We still have many exhibitions to get through this year across Australia so you are sure to see us at one somewhere near you.

Notes from Brisbane

One of the most interesting things to come out of the Brisbane Exhibition for us was the interest and demand for Powerline products. The most common comments were "Where can we get Powerline in Queensland", "All I seem to be able to get is American", "I thought I could only get Australian in kit form", "I get down to Melbourne occasionally so I will get it then" and "Is Powerline available in Brisbane?".

The Australian layout Rippon Lea, which many people are now familiar with, showed those in Brisbane what Australian product is available, how easy it is to build a great layout and generated a lot of interest. Many members of the public were

unaware of what is available and what really could be achieved in the way of Australian.

In answer to all those queries, YES, Powerline product is available in Queensland, YES, Powerline products are available in Brisbane and we strongly suggest that those modelling Australian support those stores that support the Australian product. Why model something overseas when you can model and support Australia.

If you can not find the Powerline product you want ring us to see if and where it is available. If the product is available we can suggest a store from which you can attain or order the desired Powerline product.

Tech Tips

Oils

Not much has been written about anywhere that I can see about the use of oils on models especially concerning plastic gears. I am no chemical engineer or industrial chemist but I have noted the effect lubricants can have on models with plastic gears. I have also noted that some brands of oil have written on them plastic compatible and others have not plastic compatible.

Using the wrong oil can damage your model and cause gears to become brittle, soft or to strip. Some of the modern plastics like delrin require minimal lubrication as they have self-lubricating properties.

We at Powerline use Labelle or Atlas lubrication products which have plastic compatible written on them. It is important that the oil or lubricant you use is best suited to your model.

Another quick tip is never allow oils or lubricants to come in contact with the wheel surfaces especially if they have traction tyres.

Powerline Coach windows

After miss handling, like pressing on windows when picking them up, or gripping them too tightly, causing the body to flex, or due to drops and age windows in Powerline passenger carriages can pop out.

Firstly this is not a big problem and secondly never glue them back in with super glue.

The simple solution is to use a mild plastic glue, like Testors red in a tube, between the windows and then to press the windows back into place, the windows just push into place and can stay there without glue. Super glue and other solvent-based glues are not advised as they cause the windows to go cloudy or white.

To get to the coach interior it is as simple as unscrewing the two screws in the floor, simply turn the coach up side down undo the screws and remove the body.

After pressing the windows into place a bit of glue along the edge is always a good idea, use gloves or wipe figure prints off after handling. It is a good idea to wait for the glue to dry before reassembly so you can correct any errors and clean off any excess glue or fingerprints.

Converting current Freight Line freight wagons to Kadee ® couplers

Simply replace the clip in Powerline coupler with Kadee ® numbers 17or18. Simply wiggle and pull out the existing coupler and push in, clip in, the new Kadee ® coupler.

Painting Tip from a young modeller

Powerline Locomotive bodies do not like being baked. After painting or touching up any Powerline model it is strongly advised that no low temperature bake or any sort of heat be applied. One young modeller proud of his paintwork heard about baking a paint job for a smoother brighter finish but ended up with a disfigured and disappointing mess.

POWERLINE MODELS PTY LTD

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is an Australian company owned and operated from Melbourne, Victoria. Powerlines aim is to foster interest, encourage modelling, promote and produce Australian HO model trains, combining detail and accuracy at an affordable price tag. Powerline Models Pty Ltd is 100% Australian owned and operated, producing everything from Train sets to collectable Limited Editions.

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