

# POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 6

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## Update on Powerline Products and Production.

### New Train sets

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has announced its latest range of sets for 2000 and beyond. The range is split into three separate levels. All sets are no nonsense, no gimmicks and no flashy colours, basic down to earth train sets with top quality product. The boxes are not designed to sell these train sets, it is what is in them which counts and makes them worth the purchase.

Linkline is the base set featuring the new Australianised F3A locomotive in Australian National green and yellow and three pieces of rolling stock. These come with a circle of 18 inch radius (36 inch diameter) top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver HO track, an Australian standards Transformer/Controller and track connection wire.

All you need to get started with top quality product at a value for money price.

The next level in the range is the Freightline train sets, which feature 48/830 Class locomotives with three pieces of Freightline rolling stock. These sets also have the 18-inch radius circle of top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver HO track, Australian standards Transformer/Controller and wire.

The top-level sets in the range contain the same accessories as those listed above but feature the Powerline Big Locomotives and Powerline rolling stock.

All sets feature the same Atlas track, Australian standards Transformer/Controller and wire. The difference lies in the locomotives and rolling stock. These are above average train sets at value for money prices. The boxes, packaging, labelling and gondolas in these sets are Australian made. The sets are assembled, packed and sealed in Australia. The track comes from the Atlas Model Railroad Company in the U.S.A and all locomotives and rolling stock (apart from the gondola) are produced in China.

To make these sets more interesting Powerline under the Linkline name will be releasing expansion packs.

### All new Linkline track expansion packs.

To make expansion easier and to maintain the use of top quality product Powerline will be releasing expansion packs to allow the basic train sets 18-inch radius circle to become more interesting. These packs come with suggested designs but you can do as you please to build your own model railway world.

There are three expansion packs to chose from, each containing the top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver HO track. These expansion packs will become available around July/August in all good hobby shops across Australia.

See the back page for details.

### The Model Railway Remote Radio Control System

Since its testing and introduction at the Bendigo model railway exhibition, on the layout Rippon Lea, this unit has attracted a lot of interest. At Brisbane, again on Rippon Lea, the public got to operate the unit and were amazed with many finding its simplicity hard to comprehend. So, due to over-whelming interest and demand, we will discuss this unit in more detail.

The system comes in two parts, the remote hand held transmitting device and the receiver/transformer. The remote looks like a TV remote control with an ON button, a SPEED switch, a DIRECTION switch and an OFF or EMERGENCY STOP button. It fits comfortably in your hand and requires 4 AAA batteries, which should last 6-12 months depending on amount of use. The receiver/Transformer is contained in a black box with a power cord and 4 screw terminals. The wires from the track just wire up to the 0-12 Volts DC terminals and to get started all you need to do is plug the power cord in and add batteries to the remote. Its like putting in a normal transformer/controller with the exception that you have a remote unit instead of dials or switches on the controller box.

Once connected you just press the ON button and the train will start to move. The unit has a default speed and direction, which are present when the unit is switched on. The reason for this is safety, so that you know the unit is on and working and so that when on, the motor in the locomotive is not damaged or burnt out by a small voltage in the track heating it up. The default direction is determined by the way you wire the unit to the track and the default is always forward, as in forward on the DIRECTION switch. The SPEED switch varies the speed from stop to top speed with the holding or pressing of the fast or slow end of the SPEED switch. There is no inertia on this unit but by holding down the fast or slow end of the SPEED switch, the pre-set ramp rate of the controller will imitate an inertia controller. The unit will operate at distances up to 20 meters and with ideal circumstance right up to 50 meters. No wires, no mess and no fuss, this is an easy to install and easy to use unit.

In total 4 channels will be offered, channels 1-4, so you can run 4 separate tracks at the same time. Note: To operate more than one track independently at the same time you need more than one unit, each unit being a remote and a black box, as there are 4 channels available, a maximum of 4 separate tracks can be operated independently. So always ensure you buy a different channel to the one you already have.

These units have been tested on the layout Rippon Lea and are currently under going approvals and Australian standards testing. The Model Railway Remote Radio Control System is expected to become available about August 2000 so order your's now from a local hobby shop or from Powerline Direct.

The Model Railway Remote Radio Control System is an Australian design, researched, developed, assembled and produced in Australia with some overseas components.

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## The Australianised F3A locomotive

This locomotive, under the Linkline banner, is currently under production and is expected to become available in July/August. This extremely robust unit features a centre motor, all wheel drive, all wheel power pick up, all metal wheels, a metal chassis and Powerline coupling. The locomotive is a Bo-Bo type, 2 axle 4-wheel bogie, locomotive that on the track, has proved itself virtually indestructible.

This locomotive was extensively tested at exhibitions across Australia on the layout Rippon Lea with many members of the public having a go at operating the locomotive via the Model Railway Remote Radio Control System.

These locomotives were developed for the new range of basic train sets but due to apparent demand, from the public and scratch builders, it will be available as an individual unit as well as in sets from good hobby shops across Australia.

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## Rippon Lea

For over 12 months Powerline, and other Australian model railway manufacturers, have been supporting and assisting an Australian layout called Rippon Lea. Co-ordinated, built and operated by Bruce Ritchie, and friends, this layout has toured Australia from Melbourne to Brisbane Showing the public how easy it is to build a good looking layout.

Rippon Lea is usually displayed near How-To-Solutions, where Bruce Ritchie and Murray Johnstone demonstrate the simple modelling techniques used to build the layout.

Based around BC Models kit of the Elsternwick mansion Rippon Lea this layout features Australian product and materials, which are readily available in any good hobby

shop. Brands include: Powerline, Freightline, Linkline, BC Models, LJ Models, G & E Rail Models, BGM, BGB, Sentinel, Kerroby and CDA to name a few. All these products represent the cream of Australian products and all are readily available from hobby shops across Australia. Powerline locomotives are the major motive force, which drives this Australian prototype layout.

This layout has created a lot of interest from the public wherever it goes and its popularity can be easily seen in the fact that in 12 months this layout attended about 14 exhibitions in three states. On top of that it has many bookings still to attend in 2000.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd uses Rippon Lea to test it's products, prototypes and pre-release samples. For example at Bendigo and Brisbane train exhibitions the Australianised F3A, Prototype SM/2 locomotives and the all new Model Railway Remote Radio Control System were tested with great success.

We strongly suggest you keep an eye out for this layout at an exhibition near you to see what is available and can be done easily in Australian prototype and who knows what other surprises may appear. If you have any questions on how to achieve the same great results as Rippon Lea, Bruce or Murray would be only too pleased to show you how easy it really is. This is one layout that supports Australian products and the hobby as a whole and its worth the time and effort to take a look or ask a few questions.

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## 48 Class Review.

Reviewing products these days is a tricky issue. If we reviewed our own product or other products in the Update we would be seen as biased. When others review your product you need to be aware of their allegiances, views, loyalties and their bias towards their advertisers. There always seems to be a twist.

So it is nice, once in a while to find your own product reviewed favourably by a publication which you have no connection to, whom you have no commercial or business dealings with and which does so on their own under taking. On page 277 of the June 2000 issue of Continental Modeller there is such a review on Powerline's 48 Class, and this is an overseas magazine.

The locomotive reviewed is P239 48 Class AUSTRAC and the reviewer comments on the excellent plastic moulded body, impressive Austrac finish, smoother starting and better slow speed operation of the improved mechanism, well defined paint finish and describes the Fletner vent as a commendable new addition. What more can we say but buy an issue and read it for yourself.

For those who want more than just the review there is an interesting article starting on page 264 by Peter Clarke on the 82 Class. A good read followed by an article on the Berg's Hobbies 82 Class model kit and how to build it with corrections. This issue is a good one for the Australian modeller.

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## Powerline product and where to get it

At various exhibitions across Australia people always ask us, "Where can we get Powerline around here?". The answer is, "Powerline product is available in good hobby shops across Australia, let me find one for you".

Powerline product is available and most of the range, apart from locomotives, is in stock and available right now. Powerline Models Pty Ltd supplies bona-fide hobby shops across Australia and if your local shop does not stock it we will find a shop close to you that does or you can deal with us direct. We prefer you deal with a shop and get the face to face service, assistance and advice to suit your requirements.

We have Powerline Dealers in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales. Many do not carry the full range but do have the ability to order and to get our product. We will be looking further at this issue when we start listing dealers here in the UPDATE and in future advertisements.

If you are having trouble finding a dealer or getting Powerline product, give us a call on 03 9596-8123 at our Melbourne Head Office and we will find a dealer for you or supply you through Powerline Direct. Calls during Office hours of 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday only please.

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### The Powerline Website

After a lot of delay, lack of time, too many other things getting in the way, changed circumstances of our contractor and some plain laziness, work has begun on a new larger site. The up load date is still some time off but we hope the wait will be worth while with this new site being our most comprehensive and possibly able to answer most of your questions.

The final details and content have been configured and up dated. Its now a matter of putting it all together with photos and details to complete the site. Expected up load is post GST so everything including the prices will be up to date. Powerline Dealer listing will be included but the criteria for who will be listed is yet to be fully thrashed out as we feel that if a shop is in our listing it must carry the entire current range.

More on this latter.

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### The GST.

Many people have approached us at Powerline Models Pty Ltd about the implications surrounding the GST and the prices of Powerline product in the shops. Many fear that prices will go up by ten percent and others think it could be more. Currently Powerline product incurs twenty two percent sales tax on the wholesale price but with GST there will be ten percent on the wholesale and then again ten

percent on the retail price with retailers getting a rebate for the GST paid on the wholesale price. The net result being that based on wholesale prices staying as they are the retail price of Powerline product will fall slightly. Yes based on all current products staying the same wholesale price, the retail price should drop slightly.

The problem we face at Powerline is that our contractors are paid in U.S. Dollars (USD). Our last shipment of product was when the Australian dollar was worth sixty three cents American (USD 0.63) and now at the time I was writing this article it is only worth fifty seven cents American (USD 0.57) which is a drop of six cents US or nine point five per cent (9.5%).

So the final result is that the GST will mean current product in shops should drop slightly in retail price but due to the current strength of the U.S. Dollar future product and re-productions may not change from current prices and could go up in the near future unless the Australian dollar improves.

This can be confusing to the general public but put simply, the GST will see current retail prices drop slightly although this may be short lived on re orders due to the drop in value of the Australian dollar against the American dollar. If the Australian dollar improves against the American dollar then prices will drop.

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## **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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