

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 7

July 2000.

Update on Powerline Products and Production.

The Model Railway Remote Radio Control System

This simple and functional unit has created a lot of interest at exhibitions across Australia as well as amongst those who have heard or read about it. Having been tested at Bendigo, Brisbane, Adelaide and Ballarat Model Railway Exhibitions, under gone testing and currently getting final authority approvals, it is well on the way to being released. We expect these units to now become available in late August or early September at the latest. September 2nd being the official release date.

For those unfamiliar with the unit it comes in two parts. The first part is the black box, which has a power cord, 12volts DC Controlled and 15volts AC uncontrolled terminals. This unit contains the transformer and the control receiver. The 12 volts DC goes to the track and the power cord plugs into 240v mains. It really is as simple as wire your track to the 12-volt terminals and plug it into the wall. The second part of the unit is the remote unit, which controls OFF/ON, DIRECTION and SPEED. This unit requires 4 AAA batteries to operate. Once the black unit has been wired and plugged in and the remote has its batteries you are ready to go.

You do not need to be in line of sight and you do not have to point the remote, as long as all is connected and you are with about 20 meters you are in control. This is radio controlled not infrared and it is wired to your track, there is no DCC. With 12 volts you have nominal 2 Amps and a system that is wireless and easy to use. At around or just under \$200 retail this unit is in line with other good quality transformer/controllers and cheaper than other remote control systems and a lot cheaper than DCC. Note this unit comes complete as transformer and controller, radio controlled, no more to add and no tricky wiring.

These units will be available late August or early September 2000 and only through Powerline stockists. These are made in Australia using local and overseas components and will sell very quickly.

The Australianised F3A Locomotive

Along with the Model Railway Remote Radio Control System, this locomotive has been heavily tested at exhibitions across Australia on the Rippon Lea exhibition layout of Bruce Ritchie, and friends.

Since first assessed some modifications have been carried out on the unit and a lot of testing done. This issue was held up to await the results of the last

modification which has just now been approved. The last remaining hurdle was the coupler arrangement, which has now been approved as we go to press.

Expected delivery of this unit is now late September to early October 2000, production permitting. This unit is predominantly our basic set locomotive, but due to demand will be available as an individual locomotive. Price is yet to be confirmed but expect around \$50 retail.

Freightline Train sets now available.

Looking for that first train set for a Birthday or Christmas present but you do not like the bright gimmicky sets in the Toyshops. Powerline Models Pty Ltd now has the answer with its new range of train sets.

The first set range to be released is the Freightline range of sets, which are available now. These feature a 48/830 Class locomotive, 3 pieces of rolling stock, an 18 inch radius, 36 inch diameter circle, of top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver track, a transformer/controller and track feed wires to make it go. Everything you need to start and all are quality items. Expected retail on this range of sets is between \$230 and \$265 retail. This range of sets is now available from Powerline stockists across Australia.

The Freightline range of sets does not feature bright colours, flashy pictures, large boxes or gimmicks. These are good quality down to earth sets for the buyer who wants to give a train set not a gimmick and who wants quality not a disposable present.

The next range of sets, which will follow on from the Freightline range, will be the LinkLine range of sets. These feature the Australianised F3A with three pieces of rolling stock, 18-inch radius of top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver track, a transformer/controller and all wiring. Expected retail for this range of sets is between \$100 and \$155. Expected release for these looks like being delayed to October 2000.

The last range is the Powerline range and this will be announced later.

Freightline sets available now:

FB001 Australian National
830 Class AN locomotive
AN Hopper, Gondola and Container wagon

FB002 Southern Freight
48 Class Freight Corp locomotive
V/Line hopper, Gondola and Container wagon

FB003 Freight Corp
48 Class Freight Corp locomotive
Caltex tanker, BDX Gondola and SuperFast
Container wagon

FB004 Western Line
830 Class AN locomotive
AN Hopper, Yellow Gondola and Golden Fleece
tanker

FB005 Australia Wide
830 Class AN Locomotive
Ampol tanker, AN container wagon and AN Hopper

Expansion Track Packs

To compliment and enhance the new range of basic train sets Powerline is releasing track packs to create more interesting and challenging train sets. There are 3 different track packs in the range. These start off as basic add ons and grow to dual track layouts with sidings. Used in combinations these packs offer new and exciting possibilities. As per the basic train sets these track packs contain one of the best quality brand of track available in the world today, Atlas HO code 100 nickel silver track, which is way beyond the quality offered in most train sets. See your local dealer for details.

These track packs will be available in August 2000 under the Link-Line banner in good hobby shops across Australia. If your local hobby shop does not stock the Powerline range call us and we will recommend a hobby shop that does.

GST Implementation

With the new tax system many model items, which incurred a 22 per cent wholesales tax, will now drop in price. Sadly with the poor value of the Australian Dollar compared to the American Dollar this price reduction could be lost. On existing items currently in store the average drop in price of Powerline product will be between 4 and 5 percent. Due to fluctuations in the Australian Dollar, new or re run product prices will be very close to what they were. All retail prices quoted in this publication will include GST.

For those not familiar with the GST implications in their hobby shops a simple guide is as follows. All models, which previously had 22 percent tax, such as Powerline, will drop in price as long as the Australian Dollar is at a reasonable value compared to the American Dollar, eg above 68 cents US. Books, magazines and other items not previously taxed will go up 10 percent.

From what we have seen there will be a change over period for shops. The changing of ticketing and prices does not happen over night and running a shop, doing a stock take and adjusting prices takes time.

Back in stock

P235B 48 Class	Frts Corp 4806
P235B 48 Class	Frts Corp 4862
P239 48 Class	Austrac 4814
P239 48 Class	Austrac 4836
P237A 830 Class	AN 846
P423 NSW MHO	Tuscan
L710 Wire	Red
L711 Wire	Black
L702 Switch	Push Button
L703 Switch	SPDT
L704 Switch	DPDT
L705 Switch	DPDT C/O
L401 Cork roll	HO
L403 Cork roll	N

Currently in stock

Passenger Carriages

P420 NSW	FS	TUSCAN
P421 NSW	BS	TUSCAN
P422 NSW	BSR	TUSCAN
P423 NSW	MHO	TUSCAN
P424B NSW	KB	TUSCAN
P434A VR	1 ST /2 ND	AS/BS BLUE
P435A VR	2 ND	BS BLUE
P436A VR	1 ST	AS BLUE
P438S VR	BUFFET VRS	BLUE
P440 NSW	FS	CANDY
P441 NSW	BS	CANDY
P443 NSW	MHO	CANDY
P444 NSW	KB	CANDY
P455 V/LINE	BS	ECO
		TANGERINE
P456 V/LINE	BRS	SNACK
		TANGERINE
P458S V/LINE	VRS	BUF TANGERINE
P462 NSW	RED CROSS	
P463 NSW	MHO	BREAKDOWN
P464 NSW	FS	3801 LTD
P465 NSW	MHO	BICENTENNIAL
P475 V/L PASS	BS	RED/WHITE/ BLUE
		BLUE/WHITE
P495 WCR	BS	BLUE/WHITE
P496 WCR	BRS	BLUE/WHITE

Scale Freight

P500 NSW	MHG	BLACK
P504 NSW	L550	LAB CAR
P509 NSW	MHG	UNDEC
P510 NSW	BDX	BLACK
P511U NSW	NOBX	BLUE, UNDEC
P512U NSW	NOBX	INDIAN RED, UNDEC

FREIGHTLINE

Hoppers

P603	AN GRAIN	GREEN
P604		

Tankers

P641A	CALTEX	BLACK
P642	GOLDEN FLEECE	YELLOW
P651A	AMPOL	BLACK

Gondolas

P671	V/LINE	INDIAN RED
P672	SAR	LIGHT GREY
P674	AN	GREEN
P675	BHP	STEEL BLUE
P676A	NOBX	YELLOW UNDEC
P678	NAT RAIL	DARK GREY

Container wagons

P681	V/Line	CSR
P683	A.N	Allied Pickfords
P683V	V/Line	Allied Pickfords
P683N	Nat Rail	Allied Pickfords

Flat Cars

P620U	NSW	
P689NR	National Rail	

Tech Talk

Coach Windows

In the Victorian S-Class passenger coach range there has been a very small incidence of windows popping out. Although rare it does occur due to; bad handling, pressing fingers on windows, dropping, rough treatment and insufficient glue.

The solution to this annoying problem is very easy. Firstly you remove the coach base by removing the two screws underneath the base. Then you carefully remove the base from the coach body. Be careful not to lose the screws or the loose windows.

Once you have removed the base and found the missing windows you are ready to fix the problem. First ensure you have the windows and test how they fit so you know where they go and which way round they fit best. Lay the coach body down on its side with the missing window side down.

Using a poly cement, preferably Testors hobby cement in the red tube, you are ready to apply the glue to the body areas between the window holes where the windows are missing. **DO NOT USE SUPER GLUE, ANY ACETATE BASED GLUE, MEK, MIK OR ANY HEAVILY SOLVENT BASED GLUES AS THEY WILL CLOUD OR WHITEN THE WINDOWS AND IF IN DOUBT ALWAYS TEST**

GLUE ON A SMALL AREA FIRST. (Contact type glues may be used)

After applying an even amount between the window holes on the inside coach body, apply a small amount between the windows on the window sprue. When the glue becomes tacky refit the windows carefully. If you refit the windows too soon the glue will run and make a mess and if too late it will not adhere properly. Leave for the required glue drying time or if in doubt leave over night. When glue is set and dry refit base and screw back together.

----//---//----

Fitting knuckle couplers to your 48/830 Class.

Many hobbyists in the train hobby like to use knuckle style couplers. The most popular and recommended brand is Kadee ®. These do require a good running layout and well adjusted rolling stock as they have a very low tolerance for average track work or poor fitting to rolling stock. To make the job easier on the 48/830 Class, Powerline produce an adaptor kit to suit the fitting of Kadee ® couplers.

To fit the couplers to your 48/830 Class locomotive is quite easy and is as follows.

Turn the locomotive upside down and cradle it in its casing. Unscrew and remove the existing Powerline coupler from the bogie at each end, then unscrew the body screws located in the fuel tanks. Carefully remove the body taking care not to lose the screws or damage the body or wiring. With a fine razor saw carefully remove the existing coupler tongues from the bogies, cutting it flush File if necessary to ensure a flush clean finish.

Now we turn to the body and the rectangular holes in the pilot.

First, carefully file the hole so it is all even and smooth, rounding the inside edge to get rid of the hard square edge. Do not file the outside or visible square edge just ensure it is clean and smooth.

After this is done you can fit the adaptor. This is fitted from the inside so the raised section gives a flush appearance out front, ensuring that the mounting platform is up or backed up against where the chassis will be. Once firmly pressed into place and flush apply a little MIK, MEK or poly cement around the inside edge and leave to dry. Once dry refit the body to the chassis, tighten the screws firmly, and place up side down in the packing.

Now assemble your Kadee ® coupler in its draft box and place correctly into the adaptor, so the tail faces you when locomotive is up side down. Position the coupler for best fit, usually as far back as it will go ensuring the bogies can still move easily with no interference from the draft box. Then drill a 1.5mm hole into the adaptor and using a self-tapping screw secure the Kadee ® into place and you are finished.

QUEENSLAND

Most of the inquiries and questions we receive today focus on availability of product and which shops stock it. Most of these inquiries come from Queensland and centre on Brisbane. This was most disappointing and was a cause for some concern especially when considering the responses we had at the AMRA Model Railway Exhibition at the RNA in May 2000. So Ian Comport from Powerline Models Pty Ltd travelled north to sort out the situation and to seek outlets for Powerline products.

Well after a visit this month, in July, the following shops have been added to our list and stock the new Powerline train sets, as well as other products.

HOBBY ONE

**Shop 3, 489 Creek Road, Mount Gravatt East
07 3343-8655**

HOBBYRAMA

**4A Christies HomeMaker Centre
Cnr Gympie & Zillmere Roads, Aspley
07 3263 8122**

TOOWOOMBA TRAINS & toys

**554 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba
07 4659 7772**

These shops, along with other Powerline dealers across Australia, will be only too happy to supply you with Powerline product, take orders for products they do not currently have in stock, and provide you with the service that you can only get from visiting a hobby shop.

Powerline Dealers

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is a strong believer in the need for hobby shops. Where else can you see the product first hand, buy the accessories you require, get the right product and advice and all with personal service.

Mail order is often necessary and convenient but can be full of pitfalls and problems. Especially when you buy without knowing the product or inspecting the individual item.

Hobby shops are a requirement for the survival of this and other hobbies. Without them many hobbies would disappear. Supporting your local hobby shop is ensuring the survival of the hobby. Where else can you get face to face service and advice and buy the items you need off the shelf.

UPDATE DELAY

We apologise for the delay in getting the Powerline Update to you this month. The August issue will be out very shortly after this issue.

The 48 Class Reservoir

When the 48/830 Class was released it was noted that the air reservoir on the catwalk outside the cab could come lose.

This problem was solved with a 100% check on all locomotives sent out to dealers. Yes every single locomotive sent out has been fixed and checked.

Current 48/830 Classes

The only 48/830 Classes produced by Powerline in the last 5 years and currently available are stock # P235B, P237A and P239,

These are Freight Corp locomotive 4806 & 4862, Australian National locomotive 846 and Austrac locomotive 4814 & 4836,.

These are the only current 48/830 class and can be easily identified as they do not have buffers and buffer beams. They have a flat pilot and come fitted with a Flettner vent.

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.

All Correspondence to:

Powerline Models Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 2100
North Brighton, 3186

Registered Office:

Suite 1, 614 Hawthorn Road
East Brighton, 3187

Phone (03) 9596-8123
Fax (03) 9596-3917
E-mail platform@powerline.com.au

All materials published in this Update were correct at time of publication and any opinions expressed are those of the author and not Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Materials from this Update may be copied in part without fee or written permission as long as the source and origin are acknowledge, that it is not used for commercial advantage, and that any copy right rests with Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Copying of two pages or more of content requires written permission.

TO GET THE POWERLINE UPDATE MAILED TO YOU FREE, JUST SEND YOUR DETAILS TO THE ABOVE POST OFFICE BOX.