

# POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 11

November 2000.

## Update on Powerline Products and Production.

### F3A Australianised Locomotive

These locomotives arrived at our warehouse late on Wednesday 1st November 2000. It took over a week to get them off the wharves. By 1pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November all advance orders for these locomotives had been despatched. It would be expected that retailers would have received the L201 F3A in A.N green and yellow and put them on their shelves by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The suggested retail price is around \$50, not bad for a locomotive with a centre can motor, all metal wheels, all wheel drive, all wheel pick up and a metal chassis. This sort of set up is great for beginners and younger modellers as it will tolerate fairly poor track work, will go too fast and is a good price. Scratch builders and kit bashers will also like this locomotive as the mechanism offers many opportunities.

This is an excellent beginners locomotive as it is virtually indestructible and very robust. A new range of train sets under the LinkLine banner have been released featuring this locomotive which is an ideal set with top quality product at a very good price.

AVAILABLE NOW

### LINKLINE train sets

With the release of the L201 F3A locomotive comes a new range of sets featuring this locomotive. All sets feature the L201 Australianised F3A, a circle of top quality Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver track 18" radius, 3 quality Freightline pieces of rolling stock, a power connector for the track and an Australian standards transformer/controller. These top quality train sets do not need gimmicks, bright colours and flashy drawings because they represent value and quality. These quality train sets are excellent value at a retail price well under \$150. There are 5 sets in the range:

LB000 Basic set  
With three Gondolas

LB001 South Australian  
With AN Hopper, container wagon & gondola

LB002 The Victorian  
With V/Line Hopper, container wagon & gondola

LB003 The New South Welshman

With SF container wagon, Caltex tanker & gondola

LB004 The West Australian  
With Golden Fleece tanker, container wagon & gondola

These are excellent starters and beginners sets and represent value for money. By the time you read this, these sets will be available in all good hobby stores across Australia. A great Christmas gift.

AVAILABLE NOW

### Mechanisms Now available

Available as separate items are the 81 Class mechanism, BL Class mechanism and the 48 Class mechanism. The 81 and BL Class mechanisms come as dual motored units in the SM/2 configuration and the 48 Class mechanism comes in the up graded single motor configuration.

The new SM/2 81 and BL Class mechanisms feature the new PCB; upgraded wheels and wiring along with build improvements. These come ready to go and all you need do is fit your BL or 81 body. Please note that for pre 1997 built locomotives, the lighting and light fittings will need to be removed and the new light guides fitted. The new 81 Class light guides are expected to be available soon but G/BL light guides will not be available till 2001. The SM/2 is a great improvement in many ways over the SM/1.

The 48 Class mechanism is an improvement over previous 48 Class mechanisms as can be seen in running quality and hauling capacity. Improvements include; the mark 3 motor, changes to motor housing for improved airflow, improved lighting position and power connection tweaks. The result is a mechanism, which has proven itself capable of hauling 23 coaches up an incline. This unit is interchangeable with most post 1993 48/830 Class locomotives.

It is interesting to note that the current range of Powerline mechanisms are the only Australian researched, designed and owned mechanism mass produced and used under a mass produced Australian prototype HO locomotive. Yes there are other Australian owned mechanisms but these

are not mass produced or used in ready to run mass produced Australian prototype HO locomotives.

AVAILABLE NOW

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### The RC-1 (M.R.R.C.S)

Running over one month late due to a manufacturing delay here in Australia these will now be available late November/ early December 2000. Unfortunately delays do occur which are beyond our control but these much sort after units will be available soon. The major reason for the current delay was due to a shortage of transformers; this has now been rectified, which has resulted in production being held up until they arrive. All other authorisations, certifications and components are ready for production to be completed.

These units are researched, designed and built in Australia and have been tested and approved to meet Australian standards. We feel that from concept to on the shelf within 12 months is a pretty good effort and for all this to be done right here in Australia makes it all the better. We do apologise to all those waiting for the RC-1 for the delay and ask that you make sure you have yours on order now.

When buying any transformers, controller or electronic equipment always check that it suits the purpose for which you have bought it and that it meets and complies with all the relevant Australian standards. Items to look for include the C Tick mark, an SAA Approval number and that the unit specifies that it suits Australian conditions, ie our power supply.

Expected official release date now is Monday 4th December 2000 although supply could be as early as 29/30<sup>th</sup> November 2000.

AVAILABLE SOON.

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### The G and BL Class locomotives

With the success of the 48/830 Class locomotives and the 81 Class locomotives with the SM/2, questions are being asked about the release of the G and BL Class locomotives. Obviously with the release of the BL Class dual motored SM/2 mechanism Powerline has upgraded and reworked the BL and G Class mechanism to SM/2 specifications.

The 1997 release of the G and BL Classes has sold out but the planned production run has not been completed. The completion of production, fitted with SM/2 mechanisms, will result in a few hundred more G and BL Class locomotives being made available in the near future.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has proposed a short production run of the existing BL and G mark one

locomotives, as produced in 1997, with the new SM/2 mechanism.

P216	G511	V/Line	single motor
P217	G512	V/Line	single motor
P216	G513	V/Line	single motor
P218	BL27	National Rail	single motor
P218	BL29	National Rail	single motor
P219	BL35	National Rail	dual motor

Note this is not a new production run or a re-run but the completion of an existing order, so quantities will be limited to outstanding production. If you want to purchase one of these models we strongly suggest you check or place your order with your nearest Powerline retailer. There are less being released than in 1997, and the 1997 release sold out in a few months.

A mirror arrangement to the 81 class, Kadee ® conversion kits and RP25 wheel conversions in blackened or Nickel Silver will be available. For those interested shops will be taking orders now, delivery will be on a first in first served basis. All going well, orders permitting, delivery will occur in the first half of 2001. Do not miss out order from your local hobby shop now.

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### The 81 Class SM/2 release.

The release of P206 and P207 with the SM/2 has been successful and the response and feed back has been excellent. The only query we have had concerns the locomotive numbers. Powerline has had, and still does have, a policy of not using the same engine number twice. The exception to this has been 8175, which has been in both Candy and Stealth liveries. Some individuals have questioned us on the SM/1 and SM/2 production runs both having the same engine numbers.

When Powerline planned the P206 and P207 productions in 1995, quantities for production were put in place of so many units of each engine number, so that Powerline would have stock to last 12 plus months. In 1997 when production was first run with the SM/1, the full run was not utilised. The first run therefore sold out very quickly and in the mean time the SM/1 mechanism was upgraded and modified to what we now call the SM/2. With the completion of the SM/2 for the 81 Class mechanism and the demand for 81 Classes growing, Powerline completed its P206 and P207 production runs using the SM/2 mechanism.

The same process was implemented with the P204S Stealth 81 Class with all outstanding bodies fitted with SM/2 mechanisms and any remaining stock with SM/1 being replaced with SM/2 mechanisms.

Therefore the P204S, P206 and P207 fitted with the SM/2 mechanisms were not a new production run but the completion of an existing production run with upgraded mechanisms.

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## SPARE PARTS

Most of the listed spare parts are now available although there has been a delay in releasing G/BL, 81 and 48 Class power bogies as well as 1.5 volt globes, port hole windows and complete chassis. Powerline apologises for the delay with these items and the late release of P1249A Flettner vents in early November. All these unfortunate delays, set backs and altered priorities do occur with the production and manufacture of any goods. Powerline Models Pty Ltd since 1998 has attempted to provide reliable release dates and on the whole we have been on time, plus or minus 7 days and we have been early a few times. Unfortunately set backs and delays due to component delays, missed ship sailing dates and production relegation problems do occur and are out of our control.

Popular Spare parts now available include

P1007 Compact coupler  
P1007ADraft box coupler  
P1102 2AN (FS/BS) bogies  
P1103 2BC (MHO/KB) bogies  
P1117 Argentine bogies  
P1118 Commonwealth bogies  
P1207 81 steps/brk wheel & M/UC  
P1211 Triple fan  
P1402 81 Class horns  
P1206 Traction tyres  
P1500 RP-25 wheel set blackened  
P1232AMotor Mk3  
P1240A48 Buffers & buffer plates  
P1241 48 plastic front/rear handrails  
P1239 48 metal handrails  
P1249AFlettner vent

This plus much more is now available, including all Kadee® adaptor kits, from hobby stores across Australia. If your local Powerline retailer has not got what you want get them to order it for you and as long as it is available you should have it within 2 weeks.

From now and into the future Powerline Models Pty Ltd will provide release dates that will be realistic and calculated as best we can. We would expect all releases to be within 7-14 days of the quoted date and never more than one-month. Gremlins do get into the best made plans but this is what we will attempt to maintain to the best of our ability.

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### Products out of stock

As of October 2000 Powerline Models Pty Ltd is out of the following items.

P216 G Class V/Line  
P217 G Class V/Line  
P218 BL Class NR  
P219 BL Class NR

P601 Westrail Hopper  
P602 Freight Rail Hopper  
P612 BHP Open Hopper  
P682 K&S Container wagon  
P684 FCL Container wagon  
P501 MHG VAN NSW Indian Red

Items out of stock for quite sometime are:

P520 S-Trucks  
P400 FS Coach Tuscan & Russet  
P401 BS Coach Tuscan & Russet  
P403 MHO Tuscan & Russet  
P460 FS AN red livery  
P461 BS AN red livery  
P439 AS/BS Blue uncoded  
P459 AS/BS Tangerine/Silver uncoded

All train sets in orange boxes have been out of stock for at least three years and all sets with a P prefix, ie P013, have been out of stock for over a year. All our current train sets start with LB, FB or PB and a number.

Locomotives that have been out of stock for many years include:

P230 48 Class Mk1 Tuscan  
P230A 48 Class Mk3 Tuscan  
P231 48 Class Reverse livery  
P232 48 Class Candy  
P233 48 Class Red terror  
P235 48 Class Frt Rail  
P235A 48 Class Mk3 Frt Rail  
P236 830 Class TASRAIL  
P237 830 Class AN green (early)  
P238 830 Class Mustard Pot

Note all of these locomotives are outside warranty terms and are pre 1994 productions.

Locomotives beyond recall, never to be produced again:

P204 81 Class Bicentennial  
P214 BL Class BOB HAWKE  
P234 48 Class "125 Years of rail service"  
P234B 48 Class Bicentennial  
P234R 48 Class Silverton red  
P234S 48 Class Silverton yellow

There is also a large quantity of items produced between 1989 and 1991 not listed here, as the list is significant, that are now becoming collectable and have not been in stock since at least 1993/94.

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### Looking for those hard to get items?

Quite often we receive requests for items that have either been long out of production or sold out. People always seem to want those items that are hard to get and they want it now. Without going into listing second hand dealers and where second hand items might be found we always try to help customers source hard to get or sold out items. Primarily we seek out those shops that may still have new items in stock.

If you are looking for a G Class mark one in V/Line the Railway Shop at South Brisbane

Station in Grey Street in Brisbane Queensland still has two or three in stock brand new. This little train shop has a good range and is the only Powerline retailer close to the Brisbane CBD. This shop is a must when looking for QR souvenirs and paraphernalia.

If you are looking for the National Rail BL Class then try the Train Place in Beenleigh Queensland. This is the southern most Powerline dealer in Queensland and always worth a call by if you are in the area. The Train Place in Queensland is known for its large O scale layout and displays as well as its ride on trains for the younger generations.

If you are looking for the S type coaches in the marron and silver Victorian livery, Train World in East Brighton in Victoria have many in stock plus the coach packs featuring a Wimmera or Mitta Mitta buffet coach. Train World is the largest Powerline dealer and one of only a very few shops to carry Powerlines entire range .

If you are a collector and looking for one of the original Powerline train sets in the orange box then try Port World of Models in Port Macquarie in NSW. They still have some of the original sets as new and unopened stashed away.

It pays to always look around, as you will be surprised at what you will find. These Powerline retailers like most will be only too willing to help you out where they can and most can and will do mail orders.

As for second hand items we say buyer beware. Limited Edition items are sharply discounted if they are sold without their certificates and we do not have spare certificates. Items that are old stock, have been out of production for a long time and are supposedly new require very close attention, inspect and try before you buy.

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### The Year 2000.

This year has seen the up grading, modification and release of the 48/830 Class locomotives with new liveries.

This year also saw the release of the SM/2 mechanism under the completed production run of Freight Rail 81 Class and the up grade of remaining Stealth 81 Classes.

With the success of the locomotives and everything coming together well Powerline released two of its three ranges of sets. The first two ranges were the Freightline range, featuring the 48/830 Class locomotives, were released first followed by the first half of the Powerline range of sets featuring the 81 Class.

Slight delays were experienced in the 2000 release of our AN liveried F3A which also saw delays in our cheaper set release, LINKLINE. fortunately only by a few weeks.

LINKLINE train sets featuring the L201 AN F3A hit the shops by the middle of November and by the end of November some shops were ordering more.

Production for 2000 will be completed with the release of the RC-1 Model Railway Remote Radio Controlled System.

Remember Powerline has been setting the standard and benchmark since 1989 and others have only been following. Powerline Models Pty Ltd is the only Australian owned company producing quality mass produced ready to run HO Australian locomotives using its own body and mechanism which it owns in total (the exception to this is the LINKLINE L201).

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### NEWS

Micro Soft Corp, yes Micro Soft, is releasing a Train Simulator in 2001. The windows based software is taken from Flight Simulator the firm's best selling PC game. More than a game, Micro Soft also tells us it is an education item with a safety message. Factors such as weather, acceleration, deceleration, stopping distance and train size making the game interesting and educational.

The National Trade Show held at the McEnergy Convention Centre in San Jose was also the NMRA annual national convention Finale. It was interesting to note from Zana Ireland of Digitrax, Bernd Lenz of Lenz GmbH and Thomas Haedrich of Atlas comment on the consumers' resistance to DCC. The resistance was put down to a lack of understanding or fear of technology. The argument in the USA at present is that people who want analog operation should not have to pay for DCC decoders in locomotives. Some manufacturers like Atlas are selling their locomotives with DCC decoders already installed and many people do not like it and do not want it, nor do they want to pay for it. DCC in the USA is not as big as we are led to believe with some manufacturers pushing ahead with work shops to re-educate customers in the belief the 80% will be open enough to move over to DCC in the next 2-5 years. This is interesting as research in Australia shows only 1% of modellers are interested in DCC. Should manufacturers and dealers pressure beginners and modellers to use DCC ??

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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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