

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

The Official Newsletter for Powerline Direct and all the latest news concerning Powerline Models Pty Ltd
www.powerline.com.au

Published Quarterly

Vol 6 Issue 1

2004

This is the first issue for 2004, a year that marks 17 years of Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Setting the standard for ready to run HO Australian models since 1987.

2004 and beyond.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is looking to new productions and production re-runs in 2004.

New productions in 2004 are being planned and by this we do not just mean new liveries and paint jobs. New models or ready to run products are being examined. This includes locomotives, rolling stock, containers, liveries, details and detailing kits as well as the future possibility of entering into different scales. One of the Directors at Powerline Models Pty Ltd is an O scale, ¼ inch to the foot, enthusiast. So there are possibilities out there and some pre production samples have been made and are under going testing and evaluation.

As mentioned in previous issues of the Update some of these pre production samples can be seen at exhibitions attended by Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

What I can say is that Powerline Models Pty Ltd is very much alive and operating. Powerline Models Pty Ltd has not been sold or closed down and is actively looking at other production options. Further to this I will add that Powerline product is still available in over 100 model and hobby stores across Australia.

Many of our delays in recent times have been caused by artwork and planning delays due to a desire to get it right both in accuracy, appearance and colour. As well as looking into Australian content and Australian production, which has seen a different set of delays. None the less we will continue to operate and produce ready to roll Australian HO model trains.

Some have called this approach of not stating what we will make a bit wishy washy but the bottom line is Powerline is reluctant to state an item is being produced or a set date for that item until it is here in Australia because too often production dates and shipping dates can and have changed. The 48 Class has been announced for example but production and delivery has been set back because of issues and details that arose. See further down for details.

Also with increasing competition and new or re-birthed manufacturers and producers entering the market place it has proved unwise to make premature announcements. The 48 Class was announced when production had been set down but issues out of Powerlines control caused delays. Also the

past has shown it is unwise to announce any future plans or models as other manufacturers/producers can, and have, managed to get in on the act.

Locomotives

The 48 Class is still available in Freight Corp and Austrac liveries with two locomotive numbers available in each. The 81 Class in STEALTH and Freight Rail liveries is also still currently available. For those wanting a Freight Corp 81 Class the Freight Corp decal is available to convert the Freight Rail 81 Class.

P204S Stealth (8167 & 8175)
P206 Freight Rail (8108, 8181, 8184)
P207 Freight Rail (8177) dual motor
P235B Freight Corp (4806 & 4862)
P239 AUSTRAC (4814 & 4836)
PDN001 Freight Corp logo for 81

In 2004 the NSW Candy and NSW Red Terror 48 Class mark 3 locomotives are expected to be available. Production samples were not quite ready for the Box Hill Model Railway Exhibition. These locomotives will go ahead and the production run of these will be small and short with just enough to meet orders, plus a few extras being produced. Orders for the Candy and Red Terror 48 Class locomotives are still being accepted. Delivery is expected to be mid 2004.

At this time we can confirm that it has been proposed to do the Tuscan 48 Class and the Silverton 48 Class as well, to make up the numbers. Supply of these will also be limited as the production run will also only be small and short. The Tuscan livery will be an improvement on previous productions and the Silverton livery will be the latest livery as seen currently across NSW.

P230B Mk3 Tuscan (TBA)
P232A Mk3 Candy (4894, 4895 & 48102)
P233A Mk3 Red Terror (48107 & 48121)
P234Y Mk3 Silverton (TBA)

Supply of all locomotives will be by order only and we expect supplies to be sold out before or just after release in Australia. Stores have known about the availability of the 48 Class Freight Corp and Austrac as well as the 81 Class in

Stealth and Freight Rail for quite some time now and are also aware of the need to order the new production of 48 class mark 3 locomotives. The initial release of Information was regarding the Candy and Red Terror 48 Class and Powerline has recently followed this up with information regarding the possibility of the Tuscan and Silverton being produced as well. The need to order has been stressed. Those stores that have ordered the Red Terror and Candy locomotives will have priority on the Tuscan and Silverton orders.

Order your NSW Candy, NSW Red Terror, NSW Tuscan and Silverton 48 class locomotives now because when you actually see them it could already be too late.

For 2004 some new locomotives have been planned as well as some new projects. Yes more than one locomotive and more than one project are under way with releases to be announced, hopefully, in 2004. Due to the fact that at the time of going to press these locomotives and new projects were not quite ready, specific details are not being released.

For news on what the future holds, well Powerline Models Pty Ltd has plans and you will need to read the Powerline Update, keep an eye on exhibition displays and keep an eye on the web site to find out. Only from these three sources will you be up to date and one of the first to be informed.

RTR N Scale X Class

Yes you have read this correctly. Powerline Models Pty Ltd in conjunction with some prominent Australian modellers has set the wheels in motion to produce an Australian made ready to roll N Scale locomotive. This is our first attempt at breaking into this market, and with other evolutions, and ideas, in the pipeline we hope it is not the last.

The Victorian X Class will feature a resin body, an Atlas SD-9 N Scale mechanism and MicroTrains® couplers. We expect it to become available as a ready to roll locomotive, painted and liveried ready to go. As we go to press the models are not quite ready and the price has not been set. Again only a limited number will be produced and will be available in various liveries.

This is a whole new venture which we hope is successful and one on which we hope to build.

The Expected release of these models is late April, early May 2004 and we hope to have samples on display at Canberra and ready to roll locomotives on sale at Brisbane. This is the proposed release schedule at this stage.

The first release X Class is expected to be either Freight Australia or Freight Victoria.

Details available soon or visit your local hobby store for a closer look, expected release is early May 2004.

OCX/OCY Style Flat cars.

The current production of these has been completed and more is being planned. Some supplies are still available but the styles and quantities are very limited. Many stores have stock and if they do not have what you require please do not hesitate to place an order. The Flat cars come in Indian red, Green, grey and blue with a choice of containers in pairs on

them. The containers available were TNT, K&S, FCL, CSR, TrackFast and Allied Pickford.

With the next production run we also hope to make available 40, 45 and 48-foot containers.

Containers

As previously mentioned Powerline Models Pty Ltd is to make available containers. These will be BN in 40 and 48 foot, Hapag Lloyd in 40 foot and K Line in 45 foot. These will be available for a short time individually and after that only on our flat cars.

These containers go well with the soon to be released RQZY 5 pack container well wagon set by BGM.

They will be available in stores in mid April 2004 under the Linkline banner in individual packets.

LLC40BN	40' BNA Container
LLC40HL	40' Hapag Lloyd Container
LLC45KL	45' K Line Container
LLC48BN	48' BNA Container

IN STORES IN APRIL 2004.

Train Sets.

Yes Powerline Models Pty Ltd still produces a basic range of quality train sets. These are available in various combinations in good hobby stores right now. These train sets set themselves apart from the other toy train sets due to their QUALITY and AUSTRALIAN content. These are not just throw away or disposable train sets, these are the start of your own railway and prices start from just \$99.00.

Features include the L series locomotive in AN Green and yellow, V/Line tangerine and Grey and NSW candy liveries.

L201	A.N F3A Bo-Bo Australianised
L202	V/Line F3A (Australianised)
L203	Candy F3A (Australianised)

These locomotive feature a metal chassis, centre can motor, flexible drive, all wheel drive and all wheel electrical pick up.

As well as quality code 100 Atlas HO nickel silver track. The only cheap or short term item in these sets are the transformer/controller as good units will set you back \$95.00 plus each and our train sets start at just \$99.00 in the Linkline range.

LB000	Basic Set
LB001	South Australian
LB004	The West Australian
LB005	Basic Passenger Set
LB006	Basic Mixed Set
LV001	Victorian Freight Set
LV002	Victorian Passenger Set
LN001	NSW Freight Set
LN002	NSW Passenger Set

After the Linkline range comes Freightline and then Powerline. The Freightline sets feature the same contents as the Linkline range except they have a 48 Class locomotive and the Powerline range feature the 81 Class. These sets are assembled, packed and finished here in Australia with local and overseas content

FB002	Southern Freight
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FB003	Freight Corp
PB001P	NSW Pass Tuscan or Candy
PB001F	NSW Freight
PB001S	NSW Super Freighter
PB001D	NSW Mixed Daily

All sets come with a basic 18-inch radius or 3 foot diameter circle of code 100 HO Atlas nickel silver track. In side each train set is instruction plus some plans. These plans show you how to expand your train set using track packs designed and packed by Powerline to make expansion easier. There are three track packs available that in combinations make interesting layouts.

TP-A Track Pack A.

15 x 9" st, 1x 18" curve, 1x Lt & 1x Rt point

TP-B Track Pack B.

5x 9" st, 1x Lt point, 1x Rt point

TP-C Track Pack C.

This adds a 22" rad outside oval to the train set.

FORGET TOY STORES, FORGET DEPARTMENT STORES, as they sell you what they want. These stores do not sell you quality train sets but disposable toys that often do not last 12 months. Sets sold cheaply in toy and department stores usually feature product the manufacturer can not sell separately out side the set or items that are packaged in sets because they do not meet the standard required to sell individually, i.e. seconds. On top of this these sets are not Australian nor do they have any Australian content. It is these train sets that toy and department stores sell that are ruining the hobby as children and parents are not patient with unreliable, easy to damage and prone to break down train sets. In the end they give up and/or throw it away. Another loss to the hobby.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has at least got quality track and a quality locomotive with good rolling stock to provide a solid foundation. The controller/transformer is the weakest link as a good replacement is over \$90.00. But these last at least 12 month and after that time the set will still be in reasonable order. With a child that is still interested after 12 months, a good transformer is a good investment.

So when making your next train set purchase for your child, grandchild, nephew, niece, cousin, family member or friend shop at a hobby store and consider a Powerline train set.

Special 3 pack Carriages.

A very limited run of coach packet has been done. This features first and second-class, FS and BS, NSW Passenger carriages in a mid to dark brown with yellow lining and lettering. These carriages are only available in the 3 packs and the total number being available is less then one dozen packs. The price for these packs is \$165.00 each and once sold out that is it. Orders are being accepted now until sold out. Orders must be via the Internet or email.

TUSCAN MHO

A very limited number of NSW Tuscan MHO coaches has been located and are available at \$50.00 per coach. These are the last of the Tuscan MHO until a new production is put

in place. At this point in time there are no plans to run a production run of any passenger carriage. Orders must be via the Internet or email.

Wipers & Mirrors

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd has released wiper and mirror sets to suit many Australian locomotives in HO scale. These brass etched sets come in three different configurations. Single wiper blade with single arm, single wiper blade dual arm or the twin wiper blade set. All depending on what you want and all in brass. These are now all available from Associated Distributors Pty Ltd for stores to order.

W1 Twin Arm wipers, 2 wipers per window plus mirrors

W2 Twin Arm wipers, 1 wiper per window plus mirrors

W3 Single Arm wipers, 1 wiper per window plus mirrors

In September 2003 Associated Distributors Pty Ltd has added to this range of etched brass components with brass-etched scales. Yes scales, as in weighing scales, as seen at railways stations and on railway platforms. These come as a brass etching in HO Scale and N Scale with instructions. The retail price will be around \$6.00 each as well and will be available in good hobby stores across Australia. This fine little detail will be a welcome addition to any layout or station platform.

PSB HO HO brass etch scales

PSB N N brass etch scales

These sets are available for around \$6.00 from Powerline Retailers and Powerline Direct. We have been reliably informed that there are also plans to do more detailing kits to suit other products in range of Australian products available including many Powerline ready to run products. Look out for Associated Distributors products in your local hobby store.

These are all available NOW!

T Class Kits still available

Associated Distributors still has its series 2 and series 3 white metal VR T Class kits available. These are a great kit for the beginner to learn about white metal kit construction and are not overly expensive when you consider they are cheaper then many of there plastic competitors.

This white metal kit used an Athern SW1500 mechanism. It comes as a complete kit with body kit, steps, fuel tank sides and side frames. The finished product is only as good as the effort you put in and when finished the running product pulls a greater load then the real thing ever did.

The T Class white metal kit in series 2 or 3 is available in all good hobby stores now.

Also available from Associated Distributors Pty Ltd via your local hobby store.

T Class side frames

T Class steps and fuel tank sides

AL Class Resin Body Kits

CL, Bull dog, Flush glaze window sets

VR Decals to suit the T Class

Wiper and mirror brass etchings
(to suit most locomotives.)
Weighing Scales for Station Platforms
(Brass etchings in N & HO)

Out of stock.

The following items are no longer in stock and not available:

P216, P217, P216FA, P217FA, P218, P219, P237A, P438S, P420, P422, P423, P464, P485, P486, P604, P622A, P682, P684 and P1003t.

The only place to get these now is from stores who still have stock or via a second hand dealer. With some items Powerline Direct may be of assistance and should be contacted only via email, allow a few days for a reply.

There is no plan to re-produce any of the above listed items at this point in time.

Bogies

Currently the full range of bogies is available from Powerline but supplies of P1118 Commonwealth Bogies in Black are running low.

P1102	2AN (BS/FS)
P1103	2BC (MHO/KB)
P1104E	Freight bogie black
P1117	Argentine (Broad gauge)
P1118	Commonwealth black
P1118G	Commonwealth grey

These come as simple clip in bogies with the NEM/Euro style coupler fitted. This can be removed simply by cutting. Other modifications available to be made include a brass pocket for easy fitting and removal of Kadee 16-19 with the NEM362 clip fit. This allows for easy fitting and removal of Powerline or Kadee style couplers whilst also allowing for the ability to go round tight curves.

A Powerline catalogue

The new colour brochure is still under construction. We do plan to have the colour brochure available soon and when ready we will ship out to those with orders still being held and will invite other interested parties to order when available. Please do not send any more orders for these just yet.

The brochure is expected to be full colour with pictures and descriptions for all products likely to still be available in stores as of now. We also hope to include photographs and/or details of impending productions.

The Web Site

www.powerline.com.au

Further developments will occur in 2004. We have had a few issues and delays with this, which have created a lot of tension. Access and security, although very important, have caused a few problems to date and have caused numerous delays due to access issues by us. So you can rest assured your details are very safe.

Please note if you have placed an order with us and not received confirmation within 2-3 days by email, it is advised you contact us immediately as we most likely have not been able to receive your order. The system has improved and is improving but glitches and errors do occur.

Email orders

We apologise to all those who have placed Internet or email orders and who have not been replied to or who have not received their orders to date. An anti SPAM program plus Internet issues and security issues have caused us some grief, as has the availability of some products. We are now in a position where we can access 80% of the missing Internet orders but not the email orders. With regards to all known orders, these will be filled by the end of April 2004. If you have not received your order or a confirmation via email please contact us by email at sales@powerline.com.au or via fax on 03 9596-3917. We still have some G Class locomotives and BL Class locomotives for known orders, which requested Kadees and RP25 wheels, and these will be supplied shortly. Anyone still wanting a G or BL Class locomotive should EMAIL us at sales@powerline.com.au as soon as possible. Any G or BL lass locomotives not supplied by the end of April 2004 will be available to other internet or email orders on a first come, first served, basis.

Please note all Powerline Direct orders need to be via the Internet or Email and payment can be via Visa card, Master card, Bankcard or Money order. Cheques by arrangement only. We do not accept cash, Diners or AMEX.

BODIES

48 Class bodies in various liveries are still available at \$70.00 each. These bodies are in good condition but are listed as NQR (Not Quite Right) due to the fact that they have minor livery errors or are missing windows, horns or handrail. They are sold as is as bodies for kit bashing. Modifying or parts. They fit the Powerline mark one or mark three chassis and are available to order now over the Internet or via email.

DCC, Where are we going?

The issue of Digital Command Control is one that still fascinates, troubles and creates debates.

Why go DCC?

Should I go DCC?

Is there any advantage?

Is it all compatible?

Which should I look at?

How far do I go?

How much will it cost?

The list of common questions goes on and on but the common ground is about the advantages and disadvantages of operating with DCC. The question regarding Powerline Models Pty Ltd and DCC is that Powerline released a PCB with a DCC 8 pin plug in 1997 that conformed to NEM362 and the NRMA standard but to date I only know of 5 individuals that have actually fitted DCC to these locomotives. When this PCB was up graded the 8-pin plug was dropped because very few people wanted DCC compatibility and even fewer were familiar with the plug. 7 years later and the 8-pin plug are becoming more widely

known, although some manufacturers have failed to wire it to specification. So be ware.

Now before we go any further we will need to explain some basics.

DC or analogue operation is what most of us are familiar with. This involves a reostat or transistorised control of voltage, by means of resistance, to the track from 0 volts to a nominal 12 volts, this voltage can be either AC or DC. This enables us to stop, start, accelerate and slow down our trains. Control is further enhanced by use of on/off switches, which switch power on or off to designated sections of track, which we call blocks, or designate which controller is active in that section or block.

DCC or Digital Command Control has the track live with between 14 to 16 volts AC. Like the DC or analogue control set up a transformer feeds the power to the track via a controller or command module. With DCC this unit does not control the voltage but actually transmits a signal within the current. In each locomotive there is a decoder or chip, which is programmed with an address and commands, the address designates the locomotive, which can be a 2 or 4 digit number. The power from the track goes via the locomotive pick ups to the decoder which when commanded passes power, voltage, to the motors. The controller or commander, via the signal it sends through the track, designates which decoder it is addressing, the designated locomotives number, and then what action is to take place, go forward and what speed. Apart from the usual direction and speed, decoders can also be programmed with functions such as switching lights on or off, flashing lights as well as making sounds like bells, whistles, horns and particular locomotive sounds.

With DCC being seen as the latest gimmick by producers and manufacturers the range of what is available has changed, as has the labelling of locomotives. Be aware that DCC Ready can mean the locomotive is ready to accept the fitting of a decoder or that the locomotive has an 8 pin or 6 pin plug that takes the standard available plug in decoders. Yet before plugging in a decoder check the actual wiring of the locomotive first. As some manufacturers have got the actual wiring for the plugs wrong. DCC equipped or Decoder equipped means a locomotive already has a DCC decoder installed. Some brands have now come out with decoders fitted like Atlas, Roco, Fleischmann, Broadway Limited and others still to be released in Australian include LifeLike, Proto 1000 & 2000, Bachmann Branchline, Bachmann, Spectrum and maybe even Hornby.

I cannot tell you to go DCC, as I personally do not see it as the be all and end all because although it does have distinct advantages, it also has disadvantages. On a not too complicated layout DCC can reduce the amount of wiring and increase the utilisation of locomotives but is by far more expensive to set up. The problem for starters and beginners is the initial cost and the initialising, setting up and programming, of locomotives before you even get started.

DCC has its advantages. With the exception of reversing loops, very large layouts and points it does reduce the work involved in wiring a layout. Control of locomotives is via the decoder in the locomotive, which can only be operated when addressed and seen as akin to actually controlling the locomotive from within the locomotive. The decoders fitted to the locomotives also adds the easy use of additional functions like switching on, and off, lights regardless of the

locomotive operating or not, the ability to add sounds like bells, horns and whistles and utilise them separate to the operation of the locomotive. These sounds also include the actual locomotive sounds from sitting idle to notching up. So it is perceived that DCC adds to operation and realism. Many locomotives can be operated totally separately, and independently, on the same section of track, and head ons and accidents can happen easily. It is also very easy to add additional controllers.

DCC has its disadvantages including cost, the need to program the decoders, the complexities of programming required to run consists and multi unit trains and the added element of some thing to go wrong that can be costly. The reverse loop situation still causes issues as does non insulated points or points with live sections such as frogs, sliding rails and the scissor rails, tenshodo and shinohara points are a classic example. Also although adding additional controllers is relatively easy it is much more expensive then the conventional means. Note Shinohara has announced the impending release of its code 83 points becoming available as DCC friendly.

DCC is great, it is the latest easily accessible technology for model railways, it can make some areas of set up and operation easier but can also add complexities. Right now it is expensive to start out and maintain so if money is an issue this is not for you, well not now anyway. It is also wise to note here that the evolution of DCC is by no means even half way and the technology still has a lot for room for development that continues to occur. The future hold more potential in terms of development, interactivity, communication, functions and who knows artificial intelligence as the system developes to run itself whilst you concentrate on one side of the operations.

DCC RECOMMENDATIONS

I have received many emails and phone calls on many topics, many of which I refuse to go into, but one of the most common is about which DCC system is best and which one an individual should purchase. This really is a personal choice but for the record Powerline Models Pty Ltd at this point in time only recommends DCC systems by Uhlenbrock, NCE, Lentz and Atlas master.

For the beginner and the person who want to run up to a total of 99 locomotives, 5 hand sets and requires no more then 5 functions per locomotive, we recommend the Atlas Master DCC system. This is a good two-digit system that is NMRA compliant and most satisfactory for most people and is easy to set up and use.

For those who want the best then the answer is the Uhlenbrock. Simply put there is no better system and this one, the intellibox, has it all.

In between these two great systems you have the NCE and Lentz systems. Both are good, both are NMRA compliant and both are reliable.

We are yet to further study and operate the Bachmann and Life Like DCC systems but at this point in time we only recommend Atlas master, Lentz, NCE and Uhlenbrock. Please note that Fleischmann has adopted Uhlenbrock as its operating DCC system.

DCC Power.

A DCC commander, controller requires a transformer or source of power. The output being 14-17 volts, depending on the system, and from 2-5 Amps, again depending on the system.

Beware of purchasing overseas. The USA for examples works on mains power of 110Volts and 60Hz. Having any appliance not rated to Australian standards can invalidate your insurance if it is in house or found in the house after a fire, and it does not need to be proven that it was plugged in.

Always buy appliances rated to our mains, which is 240Volts 50Hz. Dick Smith and others do sell converters but we do not recommend these.

It has been brought to our attention that Jaycar have a very nice transformer whose out put is 14 volts and 5 Amps. An ideal transformer for DCC applications with good power.

Exhibitions

Warrnambool

The first exhibition for 2004 was Warrnambool. The Club members from the Warrnambool Model Railway Club always put on a diverse, friendly and family orientated exhibition. For the children there was the Legoland train, mini/micro layouts by Adrian Hoad and for the bigger kids memories would be released by the Triang TT layout, for the UK and European modellers there was Friedaburg-Badvieda and Purbeck Light Rail, for the US modellers there was High Splint, Jessyville, and Streaky Bay and for the Australian modellers there was the Corio Layout, BGB, Diesel Art and Cobden Miniature railway. For those interested in DCC crew from DECCA were in attendance with their DCC layout. The weather was good and the closure of the Melbourne to Geelong mainline did not deter visitors from Melbourne, although numbers would be much improved if some proactive railway companies actually did a rail promotion or a special trip.

Corio

This is one of the biggest model railway exhibitions in Victoria and an event that has consistently maintained a good standard. There were some very interesting layouts from the Ballarat, Morwell and Sunbury Model Railway Clubs and their members, like Steve Cullen and Laurie Green. As well as excellent how to and scratch building working display by Geelong and Sunbury Model Railway Club members and Bruce Ritchie, Murray Johnstone and Co. Yet the one display that stood out was an enclosed layout call White Eagle. This was an N Scale layout that outwardly looked like a big box on wheels and wooden beams, which required you to enter inside via a narrow passage. Once inside you were surrounded by a multi level canyon scene. A novel idea and very well built but frustrating for crowds. Corio is also one of the few exhibitions left that runs a modelling contest and some fine examples of what people are making and how well models and displays can be built was on display. For those budding new modellers there is always next year so get started.

Exhibitions in 2004

Boxhill

Friday 6th March 2004 to Monday 8th March 2004
Friday 6pm-10pm

Sat-Mon 10am-6pm
Whitehorse Aquatic & Leisure Centre
Surrey Drive Box Hill.

Canberra

Sat 3rd April-Sunday 4th April 2004
National Hockey Centre

Bendigo

Friday 9th April-Monday 12th April 2004
Friday 1pm-6pm
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sunday 12 noon -6pm
Monday 10am-5pm
St Andrews Church Hall
Myers Street
Bendigo

Hobsons Bay

Saturday 10th April-Monday 12th April
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sunday & Monday 10am-5pm
Albert Park College
Danks street
South Melbourne

Brisbane

Sat 1st May-Mon 3rd May 2004.
9am-5pm
RNA Show grounds
Sheep & Wool Pavilion plus Building 9
Fortitude Valley

Future Exhibitions

Powerline Models Pty Ltd attends many exhibitions each year in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. Should any club or group running an exhibition in any of these states wish to have Powerline Models Pty Ltd attend their exhibition please feel free to contact Ian Comport. The address is:

Ian Comport
Operations Manager
Powerline Models Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 2100
North Brighton 3186

We are always looking to attend new and different model railway exhibitions and may be able to assist organisers with additional displays, layouts and stalls.

Specialty Paint Jobs.

Individuals and groups have asked about the possibility of small productions of specialty paint jobs on existing Powerline products. Initially Powerline Models Pty Ltd turned down the opportunities and the requests but Powerline Direct is now exploring the possibilities.

Should you want a special paint job of an existing container, 81, G, BL or 48 Class locomotive we are interested in examining your request. Applications must be by Internet or email only. The price will vary depending on difficulty and detail and quotes will only be given from Internet or emailed requests. If acceptable production time will be a minimum of 2 weeks after quote is accepted and price will be set in quote.

Kadee and RP25 fitting

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have been unable to meet request for locomotives modified with Kadees and/or RP 25 wheels. This circumstance has now changed and we now find we are able to meet requests for this service.

Kadee adaptors for 81/BL/G

P1218A-1	P204S Stealth-short
P1218A-2	P204S Stealth-long
P1218A-3	P218/9NR.BL-short
P1218A-4	P218/9 NR. BL-long
P1218A-5	P206/7 81 Frt Rail-short
P1218A-6	P206/7 81 Frt Rail-long
P1218A-7	P216/7 G V/Line-short
P1218A-8	P216/7 G V/Line-long

Note long is for tight radius curves and short is for layouts that have large radius curves that can facilitate close coupling.

Kadee adaptors for the 48 Class are out of stock and expected to return with new production run. Powerline direct has the odd pair still available for Internet and email purchases only.

P1500 RP-25 Wheels blackened
P1501 RP-25 Wheels Nickel Plated

Note these suit all 48/81/BL and G Class locomotives manufactured after 1997.

Those people with outstanding orders will now be filled and further orders will be accepted. Costs are listed on the pricelist on our web site

Warranty, Repairs & Maintenance

Powerline has Warranty, repair and maintenance facilities in Melbourne and Sydney. Should you have a locomotive for warranty or repair please return the product to your place of purchase. All warranties must be returned to place of purchase before being forwarded to Powerline for attention. Otherwise it will not be treated as a warranty and all costs and onus will be the burden of the owner.

Servicing and repairs can be sent to the Powerline facilities directly at the owners own risk and the understanding that the all details, name-address-details-listing of problems, must be sent with the product and that the finished or repaired item will only be sent after a raised invoice is paid.

Powerline Update back issues

Back issues of the Powerline Update are available on the Internet at the Powerline web site www.powerline.com.au or from Powerline Direct at P.O. Box 2100 North Brighton 3187. The cost off the Internet site is free for back issues but mailing out of back issues is becoming costly and we request that a stamped self addressed envelope be sent as

well as an additional 50 cent stamp cover costs and speed up delivery.

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Articles and comments for submission.

The Powerline Update is accepting original submissions, articles and write-ups from its readers and those with a common interest.

All writings must be on topics concerning either; model trains, Australian model trains, HO scale model trains, Australian Railways, Powerline model trains, model train modifications, model train detailing, model train layouts, DCC, train and/or railway exhibitions, model train clubs, electrical issues within model trains, and issues of interest within the hobby.

Acceptance and publication of any submission will be solely at the discretion of the Powerline Update. All published submissions will have the author's name recognised. All submissions to be considered for publication must come with a name, address, phone number and contact details.

The Powerline Update will, where possible, check the accuracy or validity of any submission and will not publish any submissions that may be sensitive or questionable. The Powerline Update will also accept no responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, statements made or views and opinions expressed in any submission.

Articles should be at least 80 words and can be anything up to a page. Submissions should be in word or as a hard copy, long articles must be provided in word and as a hard copy.

Submissions can be sent as follows:

Powerline Update	E-Mail
The Editor	ian@powerline.com.au
P.O. Box 2100	Fax
East Brighton 3186	(03) 9596-3917

Please note that the Powerline Update does not pay for articles or submissions, especially considering that the Powerline Update is a free publication.

RQZY

BGM will be releasing their RQZY 5 pack wagon kit at the Boxhill Model Railway Exhibition. This is a much-anticipated kit and will be available at all good hobby stores we assume. This kit will make an excellent addition to all modern era Australian layouts. They will also go well with the P700 series of flat cars as produced by Powerline under the Freightline banner.

Powerline will be releasing 40, 45, and 48-foot containers to use in these new kits. As noted further inside this Update.

Adelaide-Darwin ago.

For those of you who have been asleep or away the great transcontinental north-south link from Adelaide to Darwin is open, and running. This will see Darwin becoming the deep-sea port link to Asia and could spell the death knell for ports in Melbourne and Adelaide. Now the politics begins, as does the corporate wrestle for power.

NEW PRODUCTS

Some of you will be aware that in this great hobby of ours there are many brands, products and items available. In the Australian market place for Australian models small operations, the cottage industry, individuals and a small band of producers have dominated the market. Over the years many have come, gone, reappeared or vanished. Yet the market is always richer for the participation and products involved, which are or have been available. In many ways it has made the market dynamic and competitive.

In 2003 many people speculated about what would occur with the loss of Tom Fisher and thought the take over by John Eassie was the answer. Not so as the Ghost of Tom arises in 2004 with a new product under a familiar name by Toms partner Lucy Thompson. The Trainorama name is to arise with new and competitive ready to run products. This is great for the hobby and we hope it injects renewed interest in the hobby with new releases and range of products.

The LIMA situation.

There has been a lot of speculation and rumour surrounding the name LIMA. Ever since it was reported that LIMA was in liquidation there has been a lot of gossip and rumour, and contrary to all comment LIMA has not disappeared or gone just yet.

We have received many emails and phone calls on this topic and heard a lot of stories, rumours and speculations. I do not know why this has all come our way but I can state that Powerline Models Pty Ltd has no involvement or interaction at a commercial level with LIMA. We have not purchased any LIMA products, tools or the like.

What we can say is that LIMA has had some financial difficulties and that it has been reported that it has gone into liquidation. Management at LIMA has used the terms financial difficulty and restructuring but has also stated

LIMA is not for sale. This is not the first time this has occurred at LIMA and we do not believe that this time is the final act.

Brands held by LIMA include JOEFF, ARNOLD, RIVEROSI and obviously LIMA, Riverossi is still currently available from Walthers in the USA and LIMA/RIVEROSI were at the World Toy Fair in Nuremberg in Germany recently. In 2004 the most recent speculation involves a bid by Hornby.

Our final word is believe nothing until you get confirmation from LIMA or a successful purchaser.

Another Closure

With stores closing their doors in recent times, including Box Car Hobbies, Martins, Turntable Hobbies, The Engine Shed, Bendigo Sports and Hobbies and Werribee Hobby Centre, it is sad to announce the loss of another, in Queensland, in Toowoomba Trains and toys, aka The Train Spot.

Super Exhibition.

Recently Powerline received emails and a few phone calls about a republished email concerning certain issues and in particular on an exhibition proposal. Firstly this email was not published as sent and was modified. On top of this the publisher had no permission from the author to circulate the email.

Well the facts to clear the waters are as follows. In about 1980 Mr Gordon Duncan and Mr Brian Comport discussed the possibilities of a large exhibition to be held at the Royal Exhibition building in Carlton. A large railway exhibition to show case layouts, shops, clubs and the hobby as whole to the public on a large scale. The death of Mt Gordon Duncan ended these talks.

In the mid 1990s Mr Ian Comport, Mr Brian Comport, Mr Bruce Ritchie, Mr Murray Johnstone and others began discussions along this line. This idea involved the Exhibition Buildings now opposite Crown Casino. Again the proposal involved all facets of the hobby including layouts, display, promotion of clubs, How To clinics, manufacturers displays and trade stands. The focus being to take the hobby to the public.

This proposal is still open and up in the air. It is still seen as a possibility for the future with all clubs within the hobby being involved.

81 Bicentennials

A few of these much sort after locomotives have appeared in stores for between \$450.00 and \$600.00. Anyone looking for one of these highly desirable collectable can contact us for details.

Please note it is our policy that models sold with out there certificates are not true limited editions and could be a fake or stolen. Please ensure you get or have the certificate for any Ltd Edition when you purchase it.
