

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

The Official Newsletter for Powerline Direct and all the latest news concerning Powerline Models Pty Ltd

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Welcome to issue 3 of the Powerline Update. A lot still continues to take place in the hobby of model trains, both locally and overseas. New models, new liveries and whole new ranges with incredible detail and finish continue to pour onto the market place with modellers finding it difficult at times to keep up with what is new. Then there is the choice of where to spend those hard earned dollars when there is so much available but not enough cash to buy it all.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has also been pushing along its own projects and production runs. The contractor for the much awaited T Class has stipulated a 2006 delivery date and an announcement is now imminent with pre-production models done and signed off. The FQX/VQCX flat car is also imminent at the time we went to press with the first batch sitting at the overseas shippers ready for dispatch. Added to the VQCX delivery is the first batch of NSW D-Wagons, 4 hwheel-2 axle freight wagons. The GJF/VHGF is virtually ready now with production and delivery yet to be finalised. After this will come other new wagons that include the JX/VPAX, VLEX, VLRX, GY, GH and BCH to name a few and more to follow.

Paint Liveries.

A large number of Emails have been sent or forwarded onto us about the issue of paint colours and liveries. The VR livery in particular has been singled out for attention with so called experts and ex-railway men weighing into the debate. The biggest problems with this debate are numerous as issues such as slight colour changes between batch lots, slight changes in paint formulas; sun fade that also affected different batches differently and poor colour reproduction in photographs complicate debates. The original VR paint colours for blue and gold were Dulux 041 Blue, commonly called Royal Blue, and Dulux 16078 Gold. Yet it has been found that Salvador blue and Malachite yellow have also been used. Powerline Models Pty Ltd has the original paint designations and samples to match with Dulux 041 blue and Dulux 16078 Gold being used on the T Class. Colours for other models by Powerline Models Pty Ltd are colour matched using Australian AS2700 colour standards where possible and sample colour match with real samples in other instances. Other colour standards used for matching include BS 381C, BS 5252, Pantone and Munsel Notation. One other note is that colour and colour matching can be in the eye of the beholder.

Locomotives, coaches and other productions.

Lately there has been a lot of speculation, rumour and gossip surrounding former and current productions by Powerline Models Pty Ltd. The main items in question are the locomotives and carriages to which I can answer nothing has been discontinued or written off.

The G Class mark one and the G Class mark two will continue to be produced into the future. Yes the mark one and mark two are in future plans that include changes and new liveries.

The 81 Class will also be produced in the future with new liveries planned.

The 48 Class will also be upgraded and improved in the near future as well be produced in a variety of liveries.

The BL Class locomotive like the G Class continues in our plans for the future.

The NSW FS, BS, MHO, BSR and KB carriages as well as the Victorian AS, BS, BRS and VRS will all be a part of future Powerline plans. There are new liveries to do and former liveries to re-run and changes planned into the future.

So hopefully all those speculations and rumours regarding locomotives and carriages produced by Powerline Models Pty Ltd can now be put to rest.

The First T Class production Run.

The anticipation and frustration surrounding the imminent release of the Powerline T Class continues to grow. The model is at the last hurdle before it crosses the finishing line, a production date.

The 11 different liveries and locomotives look great, the finish is up to the usual Powerline standard and these locomotives really look the business. VR blue and gold came under close scrutiny due to a debate about the correct colours and the result we believe is a very

good representation. The V/Line livery has proved the least difficult and has also come up very well. The West Coast Railway livery also looks the part and there have been many favourable comments on the blue and the final finish. The Freight Australia livery has surprised many in that they prefer it to all the others. Yet it has been the little added attention to detail that has grabbed those who have looked closely and surprised those who have been made aware of it. The builders plate, the radio equipped label, the water sign, the fuel sign and the locomotive numbers.

The new mechanism sets the trend and the bench mark for what is yet to come with a smooth 5 pole skew wound can motor, twin brass flywheels, a factory fitted decoder, directional constant lighting and a full metal chassis. Testing has been vigorous, extensive and on going with the Powerline T Class locomotives running on various exhibition and private layouts in DCC or DC mode successfully. Giving the mechanism a big tick from all who have seen and run them.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been very reluctant to release any delivery dates due to on going and sometimes unexpected delays.

Container Wagons

Since August 2006 Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been producing new batches of container wagons each month as limited run specials. This new range of container wagons is locally produced, locally painted and printed and locally assembled and finished. These have sold quite well with many now only available in stores as Powerline Models no longer has stock of many some and is unlikely to repeat any productions in the near future, as there as still so many new lines and coloured containers to do. Some container lines have been repeated but with different coloured containers or modified liveries. What follows is a list of what has been produced to date since August 2006. If you want any of these we recommend you act quickly and contact a Powerline Retailer.

P701UG Green, 2 Uniglory containers
P700EG Indian Red, 2 Evergreen containers
P701EG Green Flat, 2 Evergreen containers
P702EG Grey, 2 Evergreen containers
P704UG W/Red Flat w/2 Uniglory Cont
P701UG Green Flat w/2 Uniglory Containers
P700EG Indian Red, 2 Evergreen containers
P702EG Grey, 2 Evergreen containers
P704UG W/Red Flat w/2 Uniglory Containers
P701PS Green flat car & 2 Price & Speed containers
P702PS Grey flat car & 2 Price & Speed containers
P703PS Blue flat car & 2 Price & Speed containers
P704PS W/Red flat car & 2 Price & Speed containers
P701tex Green flat car & 2 TEX containers
P702tex Grey flat car & 2 TEX containers
P703tex Blue flat car & 2 TEX containers
P704tex W/Red flat car & 2 TEX containers
P701tri Green flat car & 2 TRITON containers
P702tri Grey flat car & 2 TRITON containers
P703tri Blue flat car & 2 TRITON containers
P704tri W/Red flat car & 2 TRITON containers
P701ttp Green flat car & 3 (P&S, TEX, TRI) containers
P702ttp Grey flat car & 3 (P&S, TEX, TRI) containers
P703ttp Blue flat car & 3 (P&S, TEX, TRI) containers
P704ttp W/Red flat car & 3 (P&S, TEX, TRI) containers
P701EGG Green flat car & 2 Evergreen, green, containers
P702EGG Grey flat car & 2 Evergreen, green, containers
P703EGG Blue flat car & 2 Evergreen, green, containers
P704EGG W/Red flat car & 2 Evergreen, green, containers
P701UR Green flat car & 2 Uniglory, red, containers
P702UR Grey flat car & 2 Uniglory, red, containers
P703UR Blue flat car & 2 Uniglory, red, containers
P704UR Red flat car & 2 Uniglory, red, containers
P701EGUR Green flat car, 1 Evergreen & 1 Uniglory container
P702EGUR Grey flat car, 1 Evergreen & 1 Uniglory container
P703EGUR Blue flat car, 1 Evergreen & 1 Uniglory container
P704EGUR W/Red flat car, 1 Evergreen & 1 Uniglory container
P701BCAI Green flat car & 2 Blue CAI, containers

P702BCAI Grey flat car & 2 Blue CAI, containers
 P703BCAI Blue flat car & 2 Blue CAI, containers
 P704BCAI Red flat car & Blue CAI, containers
 P701BPFL Green flat car & 2 Blue PFL containers
 P702BPFL Grey flat car & 2 Blue PFL containers
 P703BPFL Blue flat car & 2 Blue PFL containers
 P704BPFL Red flat car & 2 Blue PFL containers
 P701BCAPF Green flat car, Blue 1 CAI & 1 PFL cont
 P702 BCAPF Grey flat car, 1 Blue 1 CAI & 1 PFL cont
 P703 BCAPF Blue flat car, 1 Blue 1 CAI & 1 PFL cont
 P704 BCAPF W/Red flat car, 1 Blue 1 CAI & 1 PFL cont
 P701MSW Green Flat car, 2 white MAERSK cont
 P702MSW Grey Flat car, 2 white MAERSK cont
 P703MSW Blue Flat car, 2 white MAERSK cont
 P704MSW Red Flat car, 2 white MAERSK cont
 P701MSS Green Flat car, 2 silver MAERSK cont
 P702MSS Grey Flat car, 2 silver MAERSK cont
 P703MSS Blue Flat car, 2 silver MAERSK cont
 P704MSS Red Flat car, 2 silver MAERSK cont
 P701MSSW Green Flat car, 1silv&1w MAERSK cont
 P702MSSW Grey Flat car, 1silv&1w MAERSK cont
 P703MSSW Blue Flat car, 1silv&1w MAERSK cont
 P704MSSW Red Flat car, 1silv&1w MAERSK cont
 P701RCAI Green Flat car, 2 red CAI containers
 P702RCAI Grey Flat car, 2 red CAI containers
 P703RCAI Blue Flat car, 2 red CAI containers
 P704RCAI Red Flat car, 2 red CAI containers
 P701RCAIP Green Flat car, 2 red CAI-IP containers
 P702RCAIP Grey Flat car, 2 red CAI-IP containers
 P703RCAIP Blue Flat car, 2 red CAI-IP containers
 P704RCAIP Red Flat car, 2 red CAI-IP containers
 P701RHY Green Flat car, 2 red HYUNDAI containers
 P702RHY Grey Flat car, 2 red HYUNDAI containers
 P703RHY Blue Flat car, 2 red HYUNDAI containers
 P704RHY Red Flat car, 2 red HYUNDAI containers
 P701RGEN Green Flat car, 2 red GENSTAR containers
 P702RGEN Grey Flat car, 2 red GENSTAR containers
 P703RGEN Blue Flat car, 2 red GENSTAR containers
 P704RGEN Red Flat car, 2 red GENSTAR containers
 P701RTEX Green Flat car, 2 red TEX containers
 P702RTEX Grey Flat car, 2 red TEX containers
 P703RTEX Blue Flat car, 2 red TEX containers
 P704RTEX Red Flat car, 2 red TEX containers

Fitting Kadees to rolling stock

Powerline MHG van and gondola as well as Freightline gondola and flat car utilise the NEM362 Clip in coupler arrangement. As such the MHG van, gondola and flat car can be easily changed from the Powerline NEM or European coupler to the Kadee coupler in a matter of seconds. Yes seconds.

The conversion to Kadee is as simple as pulling one coupler out and pushing a Kadee replacement in its place. The Kadee couplers required are Kadee numbers 17-18-19 that will be clearly marked NEM362 on the packaging. These are available now in any good hobby shop. Each packet will convert two wagons and the difference between the numbers is the length of the shank and the choice of shank will depend on how close you wish to couple your wagons or how far apart you need them to operate on your particular layout. Our suggestion is the number 17 or 18.

Removing the Powerline coupler is simply a matter of moving the coupler from side to side whilst applying a constant pull to the coupler. Once pulled out you simply push the Kadee coupler into place and you are finished.

Some modellers and individuals prefer body mounted couplers and this requires the removal of the coupler tongue from the bogie and the correct fitting of the coupler to the body. This will require a coupler height gauge to ensure correct settings and fit.

More on the second run

Yes to confirm all those comments from the last Powerline Update, SSR (Southern Shorthaul Railroad) and CFCLA have declined a request by Powerline Models Pty Ltd to use their logos on the HO model T Class. This is most unusual and we hope the decision is reversed sometime soon.

Other locomotives planned for the production run will include West Coast Railways T 369 and some other new liveries as well as the H Class locomotives and possibly the CK-Class from South Australia.

Our first moto for the T Class was:

**.DO NOT BUY ANY OTHER T CLASS UNTIL YOU SEE OUR T CLASS
You will be glad you did.**

Our second moto is:

DARE TO COMPARE

Do not buy a T Class until you have the chance to compare

The FQX, FQF, VQCX Victorian Flat Car

Utilising the services of a brand new company and contractor in the model business, run by Australians in India, Powerline Models Pty Ltd saw an opportunity to hopefully bring on some planned productions. The first of which is the FQX/VQCX. The process of using a new contractor, developing a new model and getting production of the new model has been a learning curve for both sides.

This is to be a regularly produced flat car that will be produced in VR, V/Line, Freight Australia and Pacific National liveries. The Flat cars come complete, detailed and ready to run minus couplers and loads. The current batch are designed to take the 20 foot Powerline containers presently available.

These models are all hand made and finished in India. The type and level of finish is different to what we have produced before and is seen as more fragile or delicate. These models are not recommended for beginners or younger modellers as more of a precaution than a guideline.

The couplers recommended for this model are the Kadee No. 148. To attain correct coupler height on some models the upper outside lip of the coupler box will need to be filed level with the inside frame, reinforcing square rod section, inside the coupler box. Then to ensure a firm fit, and to reduce coupler movement, the centre sprig should be filed down thus reducing coupler up and down movement. Powerline couplers P1007A or P1007 can be made to fit as well if an NEM type coupler is desired.

These new flat cars will be produced in small regular runs and will be available at all good hobby shops and Powerline Retailers.

The NSW D-Wagon

Whilst actively involved with our new contractor the opportunity arose to do the NSW D-Wagon. This is a 4 wheel, 2 axles, NSW freight wagon complete with brake gear and ready to run minus couplers and load. Again this a hand made and detailed model that is seen as fragile or delicate. It comes fitted with RP-25 type disc wheels with 10.5mm wheels and 25mm axles, and with the brake gear in place changing to spoked wheels will involve a little work.

Like the VQCX, the coupler box takes a Kadee No. 148 and requires a little modification to get it just right. That modification once again is the filing down of the upper outside lip of the coupler box and the centre sprig. The Powerline couplers P1007A or P1007 can also be fitted.

Exhibitions

Newcastle

The fourth venue in four years can sure put a strain on an exhibition but once again the Our Town Team that run this exhibition once again got a good show together.

Sunshine.

The Braybrook Exhibition has become a regular on the Victorian show circuit for some years now.

Hobart

Across the Strait to the Apple Isles and onto the capital of Hobart we headed for the second annual exhibition at the Hobart Showgrounds in Glenorchy.

Hurstville

This was the second Sydney Model Railway Exhibition to be held at the Hurstville Aquatic centre by the AMRA NSW Division.

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:

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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.

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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:

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