

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

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

Vol 10 Issue 2

Published Quarterly

2008

Welcome to the second Powerline Update for 2008. The model railway industry in Australia continues to march on with new models and improved models still being made and planned. Powerline Models Pty Ltd for example has in HO has the 48 Class locomotive, ELX wagon and others to come and in N Scale it has the X Class series 3 and the N Class locomotives to come. Then there are the re-runs and new liveries to come on the T Class and the various Powerline carriages. Expect the range of Powerline carriages to increase again with re-run and new liveries to be announced shortly.

For the children and beginners Powerline Models will be releasing an economy basic train set onto the Australian market place before Christmas. This will be a very basic but complete train set with locomotive, 3 pieces of rolling stock, Atlas code 100 track and a transformer/controller.

A Brand New model of an OLD favourite. The DL-531 48/830 Class locomotive.

Yes Powerline Models Pty Ltd is going to produce an all new, up dated and detailed 48 Class model locomotive in HO scale. This will be as good if not a slight improvement on the all new T Class model locomotive but in all ways totally different and a vast improvement and greatly superior locomotive to the existing but highly regarded Powerline 48 Class.

This is an all new locomotive from the wheels upwards. It will utilise all the latest tooling and production techniques to bring you a very accurate model of a 48 Class. It will have similar features to the current T Class including metal chassis, brass grills, directional lighting, all wheel drive, all wheel pick up and flywheels. This will truly bring the 48 Class model into the 21st century and one of the best models produced for the Australian market place of an Australian locomotive. As a lot more planning, design, research, time and detail has gone into this model compared to the T Class. All 4 marks of the 48 Class have been drawn and planned.

An advanced introductory order will be out shortly. Expect an advanced order price of about \$220 with a deposit of \$75.

N-Scale X-Class.

The next production run of X Class series 2 locomotives is now available and in stock in Freight Australia and VR. After this the next planned production run will be the series 3 X Class locomotives with production currently underway on the Freight Australia locomotives, a delivery date is yet to be set. Order forms for the X Class series 2 and the X Class series 3 N Scale locomotives will be faxed out again to stores shortly.

These ready to run locomotives feature a resin body, brass handrails, brass horns, Atlas SD-9 mechanisms and Micro-Train couplers. Numbers are limited as these are produced, assembled and hand finished right here in Australia.

N-Scale Victorian N-Scale Locomotive

The Victorian N-Class locomotive produce ready to run in N-Scale should be released by Powerline Models Pty Ltd late in 2008. These will be very similar in features, running and operation as well as detail and finish to the X-Class locomotives.



HO V/Line Tangerine Passenger carriages (NQR).

A number of NQR P455 V/Line passenger carriages have been distributed to retail shops across Australia and are available now. These coaches are NQR (Not Quite Right) due to paint peeling on the roof and/or windows that have popped out and are

rattling around inside the carriage. Both are really minor issues that are quite easily fixed by most modellers. Powerline Models Pty Ltd has distributed all its P455NQR stocks and sold out, so all that now remains is in retail stores.

The Buffet car in V/Line, P458S, is now also available again with all NQR versions now being sold of as P458SNQR. Again these have a slight paint defect and/or windows that have popped out. These too are available in stores now and Powerline still has some stocks left with which to supply stores.

The Powerline T Class Locomotives.

The first production run of the T Class was:

PT2-1-357	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T357 (SOLD OUT)
PT2--3591	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T359 (Available)
PT2-2-364	V/Line T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T364 (Available)
PT2-2-366	V/Line T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T366 (Available)
PT2-4-363	West Coast Railways		Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T363 (Available)
PT3-1-367	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T367 (Available)
PT3-1-395	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T395 (Available)
PT3-2-375	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T375 (Available)
PT3-2-393	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T393 (Available)
PT3-6-388	Freight Australia T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T388 (Available)
PT3-6-400	Freight Australia T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	T400 (Available)

Most of the first production run is still available except for PT2-1-357 T357 in VR has this has sold out. T367, T359, T400 and T395 are not far behind with stock of these locomotives being very low. It is most likely these numbers will sell out before the new second production run arrives.

The 2nd production run is to be

PT2-1-360	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T360
PT2-1-358	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T358
PT3-1-403	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	T403
PT3-2-386	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T386
PT3-4-369	West Coast Railways T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T369
PT3-7-373	G.N T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T373
PT3-10-387	York Peninsula Rwy T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T387
PH1-6	Freight Australia H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H1
PH2-2	V/Line H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H2
PH3-1	VR H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H3

This production run will also feature some improvements over the 1st production run which will include a change to the packaging, handrail fixing and more memory capacity on the DCC decoder PIC. An official announcement will be made when the production schedule has been set and orders are now being invited. For now there is no release date but advanced orders with a special order price of \$220 are being invited with a \$75 deposit.

ELX Wagon

Yes Powerline Models has an HO scale ELX wagon. A release and production date is yet to be set. Tool and pre-production samples are on hand and have been on display at various exhibitions. Pictures have been placed in advertising by Powerline Models in the AMRM and Motive Power magazine. This model is coming up quite well and is nearing production.

Other wagons to come

There are numerous other wagons planned for production in the near future. Some other manufacturers have also announced similar or the same wagons they too intend to produce. Regardless Powerline Models Pty Ltd will press on and produce what it has been planning since 2000. These include the JX/VPAX, GJF/X-VHGF/Y/X, VLEX-VLNX-VLRX, GH and more.

MHG.

P504 L550 Lab test car and P509T Tuscan undecorated are both now in stock. These will be followed up with other liveries that will include the Tuscan with silver roof and the black with silver roof. These like the gondolas are produced, assembled and packaged in Australia, even the insert and box is made in Australia.

Gondola Re-run

The following Gondolas are now available again:

P510	Black Undecorated
P511U	Blue Undecorated
P671	V/Line (red)
P674	Australian National (green)
P675	BHP Steel (blue)
P676A	Yellow Undecorated (yellow)

Gondolas with containers

The following Gondolas with containers have been released and are currently available. The containers are 40 footers.

P671BN	V/Line with BN 40 foot container
P671HL	V/Line with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container
P674BN	Australian National with BN 40 foot container
P674HL	Australian National with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container

P678BN National Rail with BN 40 foot container
P678HL National Rail with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container

Coaches.

These are still some coaches available and in stock now. They include the following

P416A	AS 1 st Class VR Marron & Silver	P463	MHO Yellow
P424B	KB Parcels NSW Tuscan	P465	MHO Bicent
P443	MHO NSW Candy		
P444	KB NSW Candy		

The 48 Class and 81 Class still in stock.

There is still a stock of both the 48 Class and the 81 Class in the warehouse, although some lines are getting low in numbers, especially Tuscans. All are available now and should be in stores.

P230B-97	NSW Tuscan 48 Class Mk3 4897	P239-14	AUSTRAC 48 Class Mk1 4814	
P230B-116	NSW Tuscan 48 Class Mk3 48116	P239-36	AUSTRAC 48 Class Mk1 4836	
P232A-107	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48107	P204S-67	STEALTH 81 Class	8167
P232A-121	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48121	P204S-75	STEALTH 81 Class	8175
P232A-125	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48125	P206-08	Frnt Rail 81 Class	8108
P233A-94	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4894	P206-81	Frnt Rail 81 Class	8181
P233A-95	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4895	P206-84	Frnt Rail 81 Class	8184
P234Y-35	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s35	P207-77	Frnt Rail 81 Class	8177
P234Y-37	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s37			

LinkLine stainless steel coaches.

For over 3 years now LinkLine, a Powerline Models range, has sub-contracted to Frateschi the exclusive manufacturing of undecorated stainless steel/silver coaches as close matches to coaches used on the Indian Pacific and the Southern Aurora. Recently these featured in the June 2008 AMRM. These coaches come in the Frateschi box ready to roll and are readily available from Powerline and all Powerline retailers. They come with the standard Powerline/European type coupler and interiors.



Marker lights. How bright should they be?

This debate started in the first Powerline Update for 2008, Vol 10 No.1, and 95% of respondents agreed that marker lights were originally intended to mark out a train at night (like trucks do with their yellow and red lights at night). As long as they glow and can be seen in a darker environment they are ok.

2008 Colour Catalogue

The first printing and release of the small colour catalogue, pamphlet, has taken place with all copies gone within a week or so. All self-addressed envelopes sent in were dispatched with the colour pamphlet. Another updated catalogue/pamphlet should be available from Powerline Direct, Exhibitions or Powerline Retailers in August. The only way to reliably get a copy will be to send a self-addressed envelope with stamp attached to:

Powerline Models Pty Ltd
Catalogue Request
P.O Box 2100
Brighton 3186

If addressed incorrectly or if a stamped and self addressed envelope is not included, we will not be able to supply you with a catalogue. We already have a number of orders/requests for the catalogue and further orders will be accepted right up to the end of September 2008. After that we will not guarantee supply.

Repairs.

All Powerline repairs and warranties must be returned to the place of purchase before being sent onto a Powerline Models repair Centre. No warranty or repair can be sent directly to, or accepted by, a Powerline Repairer without prior authorisation

from Powerline Models. All warranty forms relating to locomotives should have been sent in just after the purchase of the locomotive and should therefore be logged with Powerline before any warranty related locomotive is sent in or considered.

For 48/81/BL/G1/G2 locomotives produced between 1988 and 2006 the Powerline Production Centre in NSW is the place for all warranties and repairs. For the T Class it is the Powerline Repair Centre in Melbourne. For general repairs to rolling stock either is acceptable.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has very few warranties and repairs. So little in fact that at times we wondered why we had repair facilities at all. Yet there has been a small trickle of locomotives requiring some attention. Therefore repairs are done on a very casual basis about once every month or two or when spares are available or time permits. Exhibitions, displays, new projects, work commitments, availability of spares, illness and family additions have interfered with the ability to act on or complete repairs stretching delays out across months. This is not intentional, nor desirable but all repairs will be completed as soon as is possible. Currently the delay is 6 weeks minimum from the time the product lands at a Powerline Repair facility. Warranties and guarantees take priority over all other repairs and any requested modifications are left to last.

The Powerline Web site

Like the Powerline Update, the Powerline web site is owned and operated by Powerline Direct not Powerline Models Pty Ltd. The new web site is complete except for about a dozen or so photographs and once these have been added the site will be up loaded. The new site will be simpler and easier to access, navigate and read. It will not have the cutting edge set up and activities it once had or be as comprehensive but it will be a more user-friendly site.

All correspondence for the Powerline Update and the Powerline Web site will be via info.powerline@powerline.com.au

It must be noted that Powerline Direct does not compete with retail outlets and encourages people to visit and buy from their local retailers. Powerline Direct is only intended to be a source of information and a supplier of last resort for hard to get items or for people who do not have a local Powerline retailer or are overseas.

Powerline product availability.

Product by Powerline Models Pty Ltd is available through all bona fides Model, Hobby and Train retail stores across Australia. This includes all registered business in shops in retail, business or shopping zones that are open regular trading hours. Powerline Models Pty Ltd is not responsible for what retailers stock or have on their shelves and does not set or enforce any retail pricing.

Model Railways in Australia, the magazine.

The new Australian published magazine "Model Railways in Australia" is finally nearing release. It is looking good and should be out in time for Caulfield, Newcastle and Hobart exhibitions in August 2008. It is a 44-page colour magazine focussed on beginners, starters, younger modellers and the general public.

As a general over view the magazine will have articles, adverts, plans, information, reviews and regular columns. It will also have club and exhibition listings.

For those wanting to advertise, the magazine accepts adverts from bona fides retail shops, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors. The guidelines state that all products advertised must be available for all retailers to order, access, stock and buy and that no prices be listed in adverts.

For shops wanting to advertise all product must be readily available from any store and no pricing.

For Clubs wanting to list, the listing is free with the understand that the club will order some magazines to distribute to beginners, young modellers and the general public at open days and exhibitions as well as provide the magazine to club members who want one.

For Exhibitions wishing to be listed the listing is free. When an Exhibition lists they inform the MRA how many magazines they require to hand out at the front door and the MRA will provide the Exhibition organisers with free magazines to hand out to people as they enter the exhibition.

Or those that want to get copies of the MRA magazine but who do not have a local hobby shop, do not belong or get to a club often or who are too far away for exhibition, there are subscriptions. The cost of a subscription is \$20 for 4 issues this includes delivery.

This is not a Powerline Direct or a Powerline Models magazine but Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be advertising in it. Model Railways in Australia can be contacted at mramagazine@yahoo.com.au or via PO Box 2109 Brighton 3186.

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. Address as attention to Ian comport and use the contact details at the bottom of the page.

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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