



Rh2095 in HOe upgraded



It would almost be easier to describe what that has remained the same than to list all the innovations that Halling have now packed into their familiar models of the Austrian Rh2095 B-B diesel locomotives.

The 2095 has been made for many years and in many versions under the Stängl label but has received a comprehensive update. It now comes with a new drive that offers smooth running characteristics while the increased weight provided greater traction without the use of tyres.

The chassis has also undergone some visual changes. In addition to the elaborately printed flycranks, the fuel tank, battery box, and sand pipes have also been completely redesigned and are much more detailed. The free-standing pipes and applied metal details are highlights.

The new printed circuit boards offer a range of features. They are thinner and flatter, with a recess for the decoder, and can be retro-fitted to older models. They are available with either warm or cold white LED versions to replicate both the bulbs of the classic loco and the modern lights of the refurbished units.

For the first time, the 2095 models are equipped with working red tail lights. V9

has them in the characteristic fairing on the roof while V15 has them just above the headlights.

Complete retrofit sets with light guides and red lights for older models are also available.

The front has been enhanced with multicolour printed metal parts that are only a few tenths of a millimetre thick, and very fine windscreen wipers.

As if this exterior detail were not enough, the interiors have also been completely revised. New technology allows individual matching of the accessories to the prototype, which was unthinkable before. From the design of the rear interior wall to the typical sun visors and the fire extinguisher in the corner, everything is reproduced according to the prototype.

The result is in effect a new model.

Halling Modelle,
Leopoldgasse 15-17,
A-1230 Wien, Austria.
www.halling.at

Variable wheelbase drive unit

The Vario Drive from Halling is an institution! Robust, reliable, compact, and competitively priced, its biggest plus point is the variable wheelbase. The axles can be easily moved without specialist tools with spacings of 23mm, 26mm, and 30.5mm. Its main limitation is that 30.5mm is maximum wheelbase.

The new ANT-MAX solves this: it can be steplessly adjusted from 35mm to 60mm. In its centre is a small 8mm diameter coreless motor, already used in several other drive units and notable for its smooth running and incredible power.

The ANT-MAX comes ready assembled. By simply moving the two gearboxes, the desired axle position is set and fixed with two drops of superglue. The base plate, made of heavy bronze-reinforced plastic, can be shortened if necessary.

The unit can be mounted using the two screw holes at the outer ends.



The heavier the model, the better the current collection and smooth running, so slim blackened weight blocks are included with all drives with coreless motors; they can be accommodated in virtually any model without great effort.

The unit can be obtained in 16.5mm, 12mm, and 9mm gauges.

Outline diagrams and a chart of dimensions to aid planning can be found on the website.

www.halling.at

New French structures by Cités Miniatures



Cités ouvrières (workers' houses) are now in stock in both HO and N (refs.BV-014-1+C-HO / BV-014-1+C-N). They are faithful reproductions of existing buildings in the Parisian suburbs (Cachan to be precise).

This item was requested several months ago but it took a fairly long period to develop first the HO then the N version.

In HO, the kit makes one unit, but a double version is also available for less than two single kits.

In N, the kit includes as standard enough to make two structures.

The development of these houses involved the creation of some specific details which are also available separately: ridge tiles in 1:160 (coloured paper) and a small porch awning in both HO and N.

The public building (below) was inspired by a real building in a small town in Haute Saône. It was first produced in 1:43 at the request of a customer, then repeated in 1:87 (refs.BV-0141-FP-O / BV-041-FP-HO).

Two engraved signs are included 'Gendarmerie National' and 'Elementary School', but the building could easily be a town hall or a sub-prefecture.

It is produced in half relief (6cm deep plus the stairs to the door).

The fence is sold separately.

Cités Miniatures
145 Avenue Henri GINOUX
F-92120 Montrouge, France.
www.cites-miniatures.com



American Z Line new releases



The EMD SW1500 is offered as Louisville & Nashville, with a choice of two road numbers, 5016 and 5019, and Canadian National, again with two numbers, 1569 and 1570.

The models feature numerous prototype specific details, innovative drive train and truck design, blacken metal wheels, traction tyres, directionally controlled LED lights and AZL AutoLatch™ couplers. As a bonus, two adaptors are included that allow the model to be retrofitted with Micro-Trains® 905 couplers.

Customers are advised not to attempt to remove the body shells as doing so may result in damage.

The Alco PA1 is available in the Freedom Train "Spirit of 1776" colour scheme.

The Freedom Train toured the country between 1947 and 1949. The concept (which came from President Truman) was to help re-educate and share the principles on which the United States was founded.

To learn more about the Freedom Train, see: www.freedomtrain.org

The PA1 used was owned by Alco, and on completion of the tour it was sold to the Gulf Mobile & Ohio. Seven heavyweight cars made up the train, all painted to match the locomotive.

The PA1 is also available with two road numbers (600A and 600C) in Denver & Rio Grande Western black and yellow stripes livery.

The models feature prototype specific details, 7mm can motor, dual flywheels, directional controlled LED lighting, six-axle trucks with flangeless middle axle, blackened metal wheels, traction tyres, optional snowplow, optional front coupler cover.

<http://ztrackdistribution.com>



New sign decals by Matho Models

Now available from Belgian accessory specialists Matho Models are decals for 1:35 scale street name signs in German, French, Italian, Spanish, and English.

A sheet of international emergency signs has also been produced.

Each pack contains two sheets sized approximately 75mm x 54mm

The waterslide decals are on separated film (they come off one-by-one – there is no need to cut to the edges) with a semi-matte finish.

The ultra-thin decal film will adapt well to any surface.

High definition printing gives a crisp result, even in the smallest details. The colours are accurate and colourfast.



www.mathomodels.com



Smoke unit for large scale from Zimo

For a long time, all Zimo large scale decoders have been designed for the control of pulsed smoke generators and also for 'dual' types, i.e. with two heating elements and two fan motors. Direct connections are available on the decoder (currently the MS990 decoders for G and 1 and MS950 for O).

New smoke generators will be available soon from Zimo with just one heating element and one fan.

The special features include a temperature sensor to protect the heating element from overheating and damage when tank is empty, and there are no other electronics in the smoke unit (no SWSI interface or similar), only four wires for direct control by a ZIMO decoder which knows the smoke and blower output requirements from motor regulation and other specifications.

There will be several variants, with different shapes and dimensions or capacities, produced in small quantities by 3D-printing with SLA technology.



By eliminating extra electronics, the cost has been kept down. The prices will not differ much from the types sold up to now.

The example shown measures 49mm x 29mm x 23mm (without the chimney extension fitted).

www.zimo.at

Blunami new from SoundTraxx

The BLU-2200 is a universal digital sound decoder that operates in a novel way.

Download the Blunami app and use your iOS device (iOS version 8 or later) to wirelessly perform most of the operations you would do with a command station, through a pleasant graphical interface. You can easily switch to using your command station or power pack as desired.

The Blunami app is not currently available for Android devices.

The decoder includes a connector to easily add a CurrentKeeper (ref.810140 or 810160) to maintain performance over turnouts or dirty track.

Several sound options are offered (as separate devices): steam, EMD diesel

(two), GE diesel, ALCO diesel, Baldwin and other diesels, and electrics.

This decoder is compatible with NMRA DCC Standards and Recommended Practices.

Specifications:
Dimensions: 41.9 x 18.8 x 6.8mm
Max. motor stall current: 2A
Max. function current: 100mA (each output)
Function outputs: 6
Audio Amplifier: 2 Watt, 8 Ohm load
Sound Channels: 16
MSRP: US\$169.95

SoundTraxx
141, Burnett Drive,
Durango, Colorado 81301, U.S.A.
www.soundtraxx.com



Research into railways in Burma

Clare Hammond is writing a book about railways in Myanmar (formerly Burma), which is due to be published by Penguin Press in early 2024. She is particularly interested in anything relating to railway building by the British colonial administration.

She is already in touch with the British Overseas Railways Historical Trust and has been told about the *Railway Gazette* Special Indian Numbers of 1912 and 1922, and pointed towards the Empire and Commonwealth Museum and the Commonwealth Institute.

She would like to know whether there are any other collections in Britain, public or private, which may contain relevant material. She has already found material (survey documents, correspondence, etc.) held at the British Library and National Archives, but there are still some large gaps in her research.

This is a very worthy project as there are few countries that have had less written about their railways than Burma.

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