

**T**oronto's Yonge Subway will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2024, and we're joining in the fun by announcing the first ever model of a Toronto subway train! A must for modellers, transit enthusiasts, tourists, history buffs, and everyone who thinks subways are cool — don't miss out on this limited opportunity to own a little bit of classic Toronto in your home!

You can order your subway as a working model or as an unpowered display two-car set that comes with a slice of the original St. Clair station platform. How cool is that?

It all started in 1951, when the Toronto Transit Commission contracted the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company in the UK to build the cars for Canada's first subway. The original line ran under Yonge Street from Union Station in the south to Eglinton Avenue in the north, opening on March 30th, 1954. This line is still in service today as the southern half of TTC's Line 1.

These unique rapid transit cars featured bold red paint with yellow stripes both above and below the large picture windows.

### **AVAILABLE AS:**

Gorgeous display model of a two-car train in St. Clair Station, OR

Four-car, operating model (silent or equipped with SOUND), AND

Two-car, operating add-on model (silent or equipped with SOUND)

Our Toronto's First Subway project is a conditional announcement. Order by <u>APRIL 15, 2024</u>, through your preferred hobby shop or our website to help make this project a reality! In addition, all orders placed by this date will include a <u>5% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT</u>!





## TORONTO'S FIRST







### - TORONTO'S FIRST SUBWAY -

### Each Rapido Toronto Subway Car features:

- Design created from original factory drawings and field measurements
- Fully detailed interiors including seats, hand holds and lighting
- Working lights: headlights, rear marker lights, destination sign
- Fully detailed underbodies
- Wire grab irons
- DC/DCC ready or DCC/Sound (Display models are unpowered)
- Display models include lighting powered by an included 12V DC power supply
- Ages 14 and up. This is not a toy.

Our Toronto's First Subway project is a conditional announcement. Order by <u>APRIL 15,</u> <u>2024</u>, through your hobby shop or our website to help make this project a reality! In addition, all orders placed by this date will include a <u>5% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT</u>!



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### ORDER DEADLINE: <u>MAY 15<sup>™</sup>, 2024</u>



Early samples shown. Subject to revision.

**The H16-44** series was Fairbanks Morse's attempt to compete in the growing hood-unit market in the 1950s. Built between 1950 and 1963, the H16-44 offered 1600 HP from its 8-cylinder opposed piston diesel engine. 209 units were built for US railroads and 58 for Canadian roads.

In 1955, Fairbanks Morse updated the design for their H16-44 locomotives. These changes involved raising the walkway & simplifying the design of the short & long hood to make construction easier. From the outside the locomotives looked much like their bigger brother – the H24-66 "Trainmaster" but with 4 axles instead of 6. Under the hood the locomotives were nearly identical to the earlier phases of H16-44 except for replacing the Westinghouse Electrical System with a more reliable General Electric system. These "Phase III" units are the basis for Rapido's new model.

A total of 165 of the H16-44 Phase III Locomotives were built between 1955 and 1963. Locomotives for the Canadian Pacific Railway & Canadian National Railway were built by Fairbanks Morse subsidiary Canadian Locomotive Company. The last H16-44 was built for the Ferrorcarril de Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad in 1963. This was the last Fairbanks Morse Locomotive to roll off the assembly line as the company folded the same year.

Rapido is now offering the H16-44 Phase III Locomotive in HO Scale. Since we so much enjoy reducing our design engineers to tears, Rapido is, of course offering these locomotives with all the road-specific details we can fit to make these models as accurate as possible!

Our new HI6-44 model features:

· Loads of roadname-specific details, including hood doors and handrails

w/o Sound **\$225.00** USD w/Sound **\$335.00** USD w/o Sound **\$249.95** CAD w/Sound **\$359.95** CAD

- · Accurate dimensions measured from the real thing!
- Separate grab irons and handrails installed at the factory
- Prototypical Trucks: Dofasco or Fairbanks Morse
- Both Dynamic & Non-Dynamic carbodies
- Steam generators where appropriate
- Full underbody piping and conduits
- Different fuel tanks depending on road name
- Lit number boards, headlights and green and white class lights
- Rapido's proven drive system adapted from the FA-2
- DC/Silent (21-pin DCC Ready) or DC/DCC/Sound options
- · Macdonald Cartier magnetic couplers installed at the correct height





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Customer Name Phone Number



Penn Central

DC

44017

44018

44019

44020



### Baltimore & Ohio

DC	DCC	Roa	d #	
44001		44501		#9740
44002		44502		#9741
44003		44503		#9742
44004		44504		#9743



### Milwaukee Road

DC	DCC	Road #	
44005		44505	#429
44006		44506	#432
44007		44507	#435
44008		44508	#436



### **New Haven**

DC	DCC		Road #		
44009		44509		#1600	
44010		44510		#1605	
44011		44511		#1607	
44012		44512		#1612	

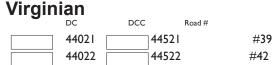


### Norfolk & Western (Blue)

DC	DCC		Road #	
44013		44513		#I <b>39</b>
 44014		44514		#141
 44015		44515		#143
 44016		44516		#144
44010		44510		#144

w/o Sound \$225.00 USD w/Sound \$335.00 USD

w/o Sound \$249.95 CAD w/Sound \$359.95 CAD



 44022	44522	#42
 44023	44523	#47
44024	44524	#48

PENN CENTRAL

44517

44518

44519

44520

Road #

DCC

5161

#5161

#5163

#5166 #5170



### **Canadian National (Green & Yellow)**

 DC	DCC	Ro	ad #		
44025		44525		#2203	
44026		44526		#2206	
44027		44527		#2210	
44028		44528		#2213	



### Canadian Pacific (Block)

44029	44529	#8710
44030	44530	#8713
4403 I	44531	#8721
44032	44532	#8724

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Customer Name





#### **New Haven (Alpert Scheme)** DC DCC Road #

44033

44533

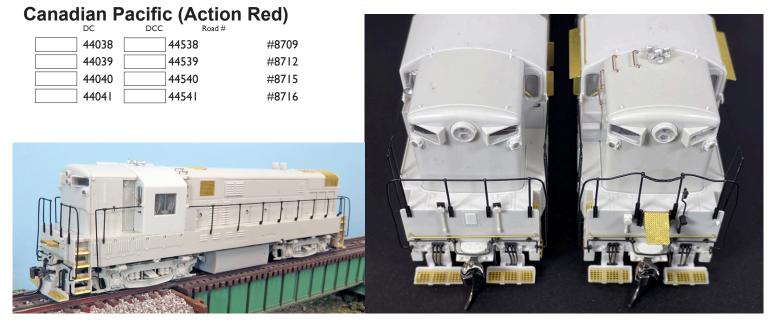
#1609



### **Canadian National (Noodle)**

DC	DCC		Road #	
44034		44534		#2202
44035		44535		#2205
44036		44536		#2214
44037		44537		#2217

2202





Early samples shown. Subject to revision.

w/o Sound \$225.00 USD w/Sound \$335.00 USD w/o Sound \$249.95 CAD w/Sound \$359.95 CAD

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### The Original Dual Mode EMD FL9 Locomotive



The FL9 was a critical locomotive for operations out of Grand Central Terminal in New York City. Originally operated on the former New Haven lines the fleet's operating area spread under Penn Central and Conrail/MTA to include the former New York Central lines north along the Hudson River.

With no direct replacements on the horizon, in the 1980s the decision was made to rebuild and upgrade many of the original FL9s. Rebuilding typically included the addition of HEP (Head End Power) to replace the older steam heat boilers, as well as upgraded braking systems and electronics. These rebuilds were done in several batches for Metro North and Amtrak.

Notable among these rebuilt units were those which were sold to the Connecticut Department of Transportation and were rebuilt by Morrison-Knudsen in 1984-85. Owned by ConnDot, they were operated by Metro North. The units re-entered service wearing their original "New Haven" black, white and red livery. These feature a different HEP fan arrangement and nearly flat rear-end.

### The FL9 HEP and Steam Generator Features

- All of the amazing detail found on our original FL9
- Morrison-Knudsen or Chrome Crankshaft body details
- HEP rooftop details: large 36" fan or dual fans
- Modernized underbody components
- Nose and rear HEP plugs\*
- Optional operating ditch lights\*
- Correct horn casting per road number
- Steam Generator versions feature as-built details
- Separately applied wire grabs
- Mo-Power capacitor
- DC/Silent (21-pin DCC Ready) or DC/DCC/Sound -ESU LokSound V5 Decoder \*Polybag part



No Sound

w/Sound

No Sound

5

5 USD

95

**\$289** 

w/Sound \$419.95 CAD

USD

CAD

**RAPIDO** 



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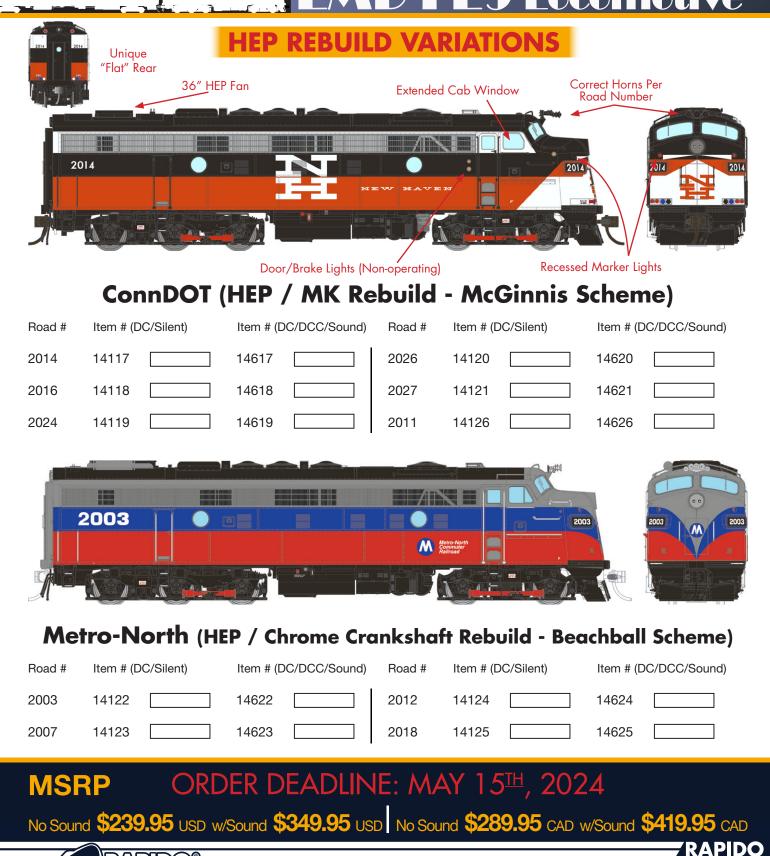
ORDER

**DEADLINE:** 

## ĪΦ DEALER NAME:



### The Original dealer NAME: Dual Mode FMD FL9 Locomo



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RADD



In 1979 Pacific Car & Foundry built 799 50' exterior post boxcars of either Rapido's all-new HO PC&F 5241 boxcar model features: 5241 or 5317 cubic foot capacity (depending on the interior configuration). Boston and Maine received 200, while shortline Berlin Mills Railway (BMS) in New Hampshire leased 399 and Olympic Railroad (OLYR) in Washington state leased 200.

These boxcars came at the end of the Incentive Pier Diem era, a time when shortlines (or investors using shortline reporting marks) bought large numbers of cars for favorable car hire rates. This car is known as the "Berlin Mills Boxcar" because of the iconic paint scheme on the largest batch of cars. It also has a distinct look amongst the sea of IPD boxcars from the late 70's, owing to it's uncommon flat roof and large end ribs.

All three original roadnames for this car have a common theme - their traffic was dominated by the pulp and paper industry, and the cars could been seen nationwide carrying products from New England or the Pacific Northwest. The B&M cars have worn many schemes, beginning with a bold blue body and black door scheme at delivery, followed by various Guilford and Pan-Am schemes. The original B&M scheme has been documented as late as 2020!

Even more widely known are the 399 light green Berlin Mills cars, painted for the Berlin Mills Railway, which served paper mills in Berlin and Cascade, NH. Throughout the 1980's and 90's, the cars traveled nationwide carrying paper products and other commodities. Gradually, the mills closed, the railway changed hands, and the cars were sold off. Since then, the Berlin Mills cars have gotten many patchout schemes and "dip" repaints, including AGR, EEC, GMRC, HS, LVRC, SLR, SRN through the early 2000s. Many cars continue in service today under BKTY and CAIX reporting marks. The BKTY (a Union Pacific reporting mark) cars are often seen in beer service from Mexico another commodity that has them travelling all over!

MSRP					
US	CAD				
\$54.95 - SINGLE	\$64.95 - SINGLE				
\$164.85 - 3-PACK	\$194.85 - 3-PACK				
\$329.70 - 6-PACK	\$389.70 - 6-PACK				

- Accurately scaled from prototype measurements and photos
- Three door styles
- Full underbody detail
- Separate wire grab irons
- Rapido semi-scale metal couplers
- Free-rolling trucks with turned metal wheels
- Accurate paint and decoration
- Multiple road numbers available for each paint scheme

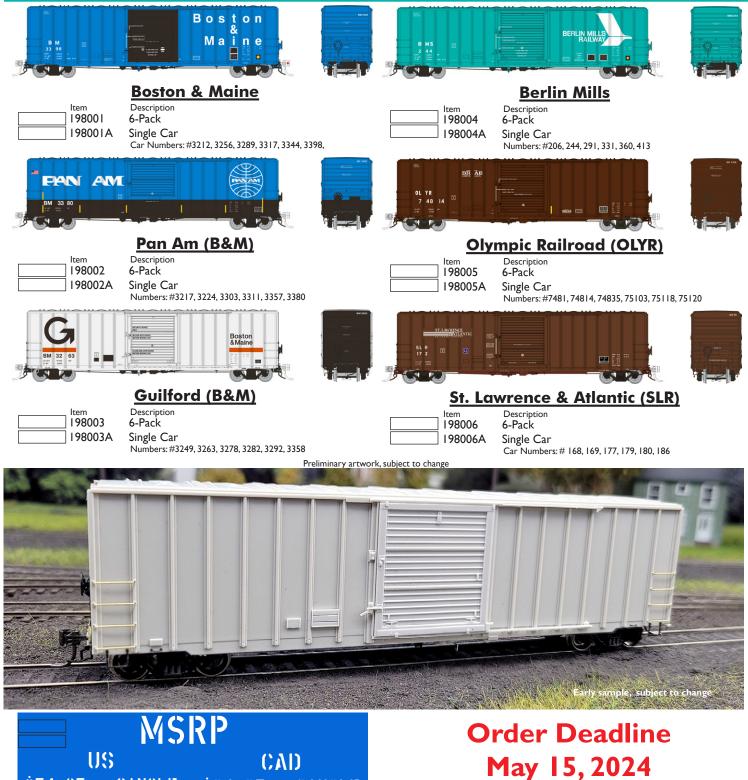
### **Order Deadline** May 15, 2024





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### PC&F 5241 BOXCAR THE "BERLIN MILLS" CAR SCALE



Decorated cars have multiple individual car numbers per paint scheme. These will be available as a pack (multiple individual cars packaged together and easily broken up for individual sale).

RAPIDO CANADA: UNIT 21 • 500 ALDEN ROAD • MARKHAM • ONTARIO • L3R 5H5 TRAINS INC USA: PO BOX 796 • HIGGANUM • CONNECTICUT • 06441 Tel. 1-855-LRC-6917 Fax. 1-905-474-3325 Website www.rapidotrains.com Phone Number

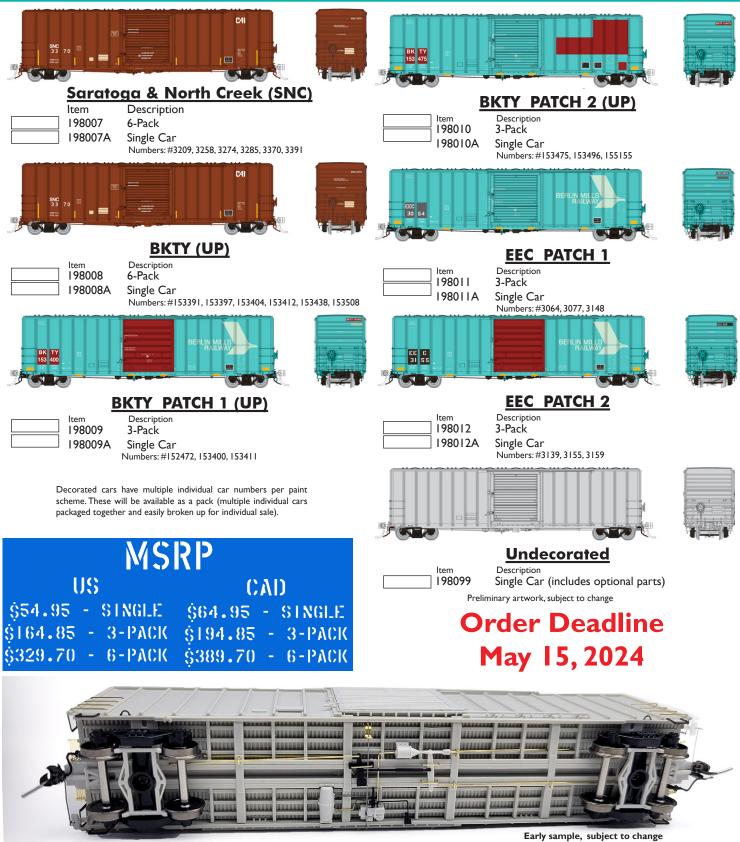
\$54.95 - SINGLE \$64.95 - SINGLE

164.85 - 3-PACK §194.85 - 3-PACK 329.70 - 6-PACK §389.70 - 6-PACK

Store Name

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### **PC&F 5241 BOXCAR** THE "BERLIN MILLS" CAR SCALE





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# R G22 46' STEEL GONDOLA



The Pennsylvania Railroad built more than 5,700 46 foot, 70 ton steel gondolas in class G22 and variants. These cars were built between 1915 and 1917. G22 gons remained in service throughout the PRR years, and many into work train service in Penn Central and even Conrail.

Starting in 1930, many G22 gons were equipped with 100-ton trucks and assigned to container service. They typically hauled multiple small containers of PRR design which were use for various dry aggregate materials.

Rapido's new HO model is based on the G22 class with both single- and three-rib ends. Both G22 and G22B container cars are available, with accurate container loads included with the G22b.

#### Rapido's HO G22 model features:

- · Accurately scaled from prototype blueprints and photos
- · Diecast chassis for great weight and operation
- · Correct interior details depending on sub-class
- K or AB brake systems as appropriate.
- Full inside and outside rivet detail
- · Separate wire grab irons
- · Rapido semi-scale metal couplers
- Free-rolling trucks (70-ton or 100-ton) with turned metal wheels
- · Container load where appropriate
- Accurate paint and decoration

### Order Deadline May 15, 2024





### MSRP GONDOLA ONLY

US \$54.95 - SINGLE \$164.85 - 3-PACK \$329.70 - 6-PACK CAD \$64.95 - SINGLE \$194.85 - 3-PACK \$389.70 - 6-PACK

### GONDOLA W/CONTAINERS

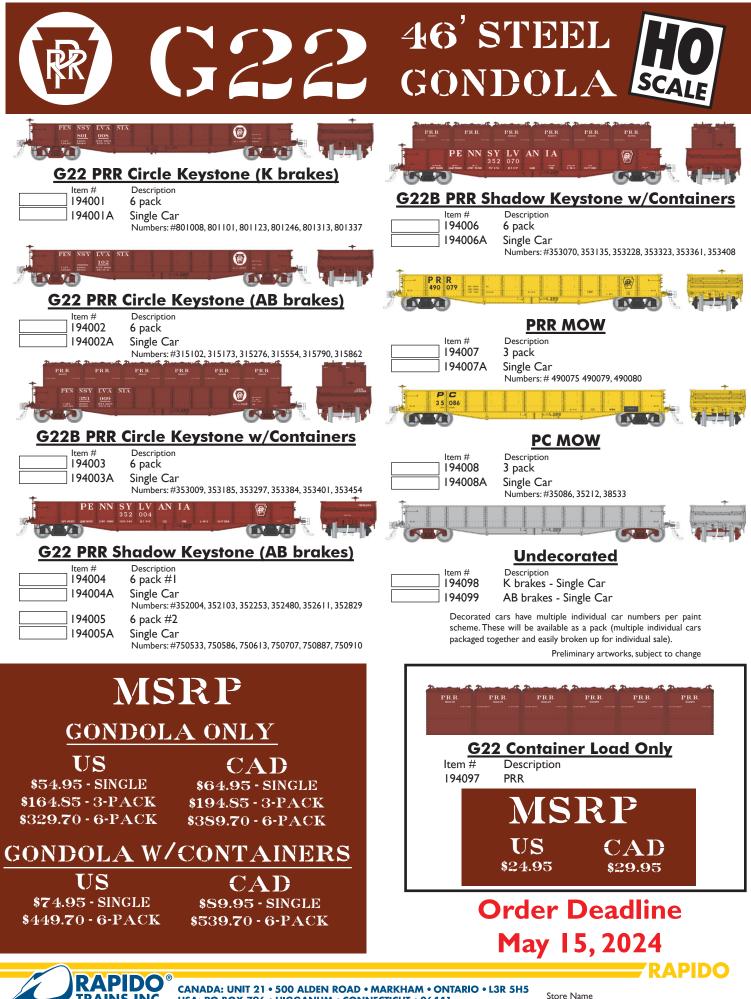
US \$74.95 - SINGLE \$449.70 - 6-PACK CAD \$89.95 - SINGLE \$539.70 - 6-PACK

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# ENTERPRISE COVERED HOPPER



### "We're building a model of the Enterprise!

### Beauty, goal, eh??!!!!!"

#### No, not **THAT** one Jason...

Rapido Trains is excited to offer the "Enterprise" 2-bay covered hopper in HO scale, *now with wire grabs and ladders and a new paint scheme!* 

During the early development of covered hoppers, the New York Central built several different groups of "Enterprise" covered hoppers both for its own use and for its subsidiaries. The first groups were built in 1939 and 1940. These cars proved quite successful, and in 1946 the NYC built another group of cars under Lot (the NYC's classification system) number 747-H. The postwar cars were slightly larger than their predecessors with a 2000 cubic foot capacity. Some of these cars were fitted with smaller, circular hatches for flour and sugar loading.

A total of 750 cars were built in Lot 747-H. They proved so successful that additional cars followed in Lots 783, 784 and 785. The later series differed in using diagonal panel roofs but were otherwise identical to the Lot 747 cars.

### Order Deadline September 17,2024

The Canadian National also built 150 cars to largely the same design. These were also delivered in 1948. The CN cars differed from the NYC's in the design of roof panels, side panels, hatch spacing and construction details. The CN's cars remained in service for many years, with some being later converted to ballast cars for maintenance of way use.

Rapido is offering correct versions of both the New York Central Lot 747H cars and the CN's home-built versions.

All Rapido Enterprise covered hoppers feature:

- · Designed from original blueprints and field measurements
- Both NYC and CN versions available
- Wire grab irons and ladders
- · Fully detailed body and underframe
- Rapido semi-scale metal couplers
- · Free-rolling trucks with turned metal wheels
- Accurate paint and decoration
- · Multiple road numbers per scheme

<u>US M</u>	<u>SRP</u>	CANADIAN MSRP
\$ 54.95	(SINGLE)	<sup>\$</sup> 64.95 (SINGLE)
\$164.85	(3-PACK)	\$194.85 (3-РАСК)
\$329.70	(6-PACK)	\$389.70 (6-РАСК)

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Phone Number



Note: Roadname from first release shown. Different roadnames will be offered on current run.

Please welcome back the HO Scale Procor general purpose 20,000 gallon tank car, affectionately known as the Procor GP20 (no, not the locomotive).

Founded in 1952, Products Tank Line (renamed Procor in 1962) constructed their manufacturing plant in the mid-1950s in Oakville, Ontario. Initially, engineering was supplied by parent Union Tank Car Company. In the 1960s, Procor assembled their own engineering department and crafted a series of standard design tank cars which paved the way for a new generation of equipment, with many modern designs reflecting this new standard. The GP20 (again, the tank car and not the locomotive) was suitable for lighter density commodities which would not congeal or freeze in cold weather, such as various oils and fuel. The same car could also be equipped with interior heater coil pipes, such that the contents could be reheated. The same basic design — including tank diameter and length — was manufactured from 1969 through until 1984. The GP20 was constructed with both 70 ton and 100 ton capacity trucks. Later designs were also equipped with a separate fittings dome (in addition to the manway assembly fitting), which allowed the tank rating to be upgraded from 60 psi to 100 psi.

When production of the GP20 tank car was completed in 1984, Procor had built almost 1000 cars of this design. They are in use across North America in both fleet service and lease service to numerous companies. Common reporting marks carried by these cars included UTLX (Union Tank Car), PROX (Procor), NCTX (North American Car Co.), BCOL (British Columbia Railway), and CN (Canadian National).

### The Rapido 20,000 gallon General Purpose Tank Car features:

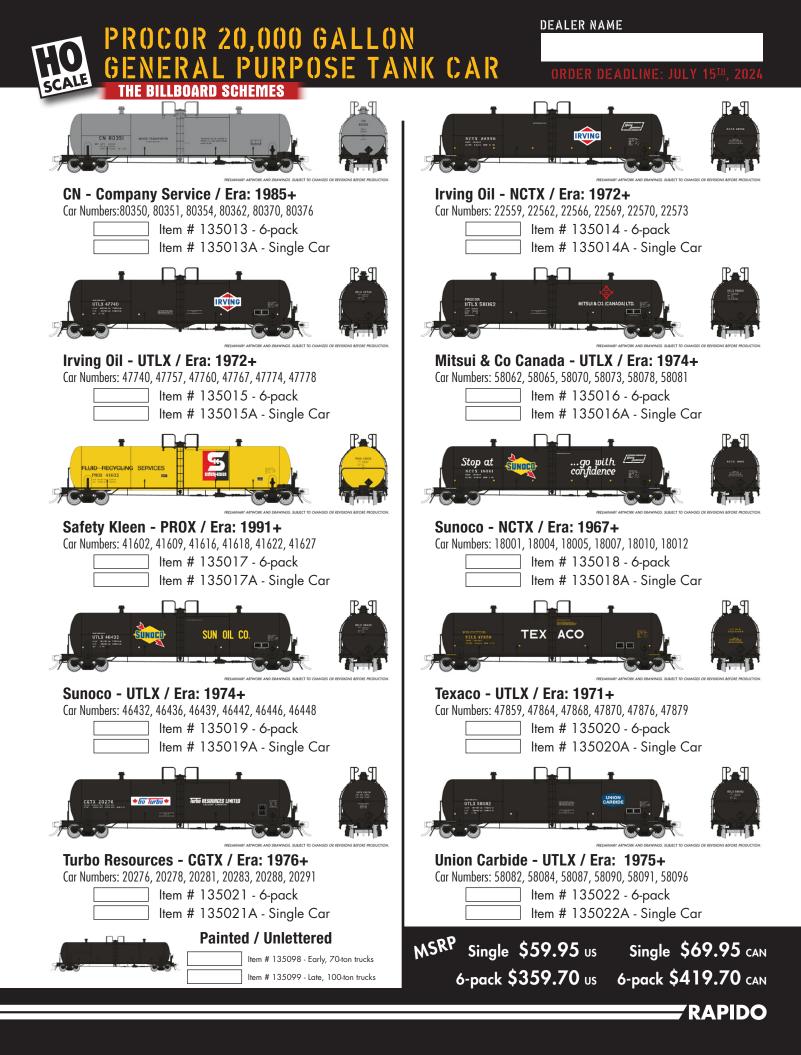
- Drawn from original blueprints and drawings
- Artworks sourced from original design drawings and photos
- Photo-etched metal walkways
- Detailed vent stacks, loading hatches, air tanks and braking equipment.
- Metal couplers
- Early style features 70-ton trucks with 33" wheels and an exposed drain valve.
- Late style features 100-ton trucks with 36" wheels and a reinforced drain valve housing.

**Note:** All schemes are available in 6-pack cases, as well as single cars. Car numbers for single orders will be randomly selected from the listed road numbers. Unnumbered cars are available by special request only. Please contact for details. MSRP Single \$59.95 us 6-pack \$359.70 us

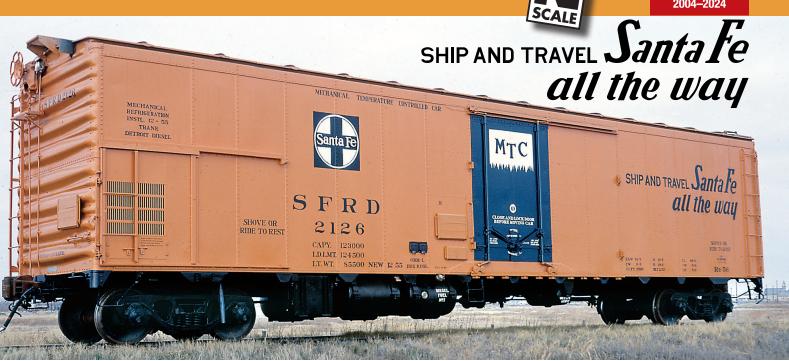
Single \$69.95 CAN 6-pack \$419.70 CAN







### SANTA FE Rr56/60/61 Mechanical Reefer



Rapido is pleased to offer the Santa Fe RR-56/60/61 Mechanical Reefer in N Scale.

In 1955 The Santa Fe Railroad introduced the RR-56 class of Refrigerated boxcars. Based on the previous RR-54 class of Boxcars, the RR-56 Class incorporated lessons learned from the RR-54 cars to build & operate its 1st large fleet of Mechanical Reefers.

The RR-56 were classed as "All Purpose" MTC (Mechanical Temperature Control) cars by the Santa Fe Railroad. The fleet numbered 200 cars numbers 2000 – 2188, 2500 – 2510 in the series. Delivered with SFRD reporting marks, these were changed in 1963 to SFRP but retained their car numbers.

In 1958, Santa Fe built the RR-60 & RR-61 Class of Reefers. These were additional cars built to the same standards as the RR-56 class but carried different insulation & Identified as Super Insulated All Purpose Mechanical Temperature Controlled cars.

#### The Rapido RR-56/60/61 Boxcar features:

- Drawn from original blueprints and drawings
- Artworks sourced from original design drawings and photos
- Separate door posts, door latches and coupler cut levers
- Fully-detailed underframe including piping and equipment
- Detailed cushion draft gear
- 2 Roof Hatches for either open or closed operation
- See-through side grills
- Trane Diesel Generator included!

MSRP Single \$41.95 USD 4-pack \$167.80 USD Single \$49.95 CAD 4-pack \$199.80 CAD

**Note:** All schemes are available in 4-pack cases, as well as single cars. Car numbers for single orders will be randomly selected from the listed road numbers. Unnumbered cars are available by special request only.

### **Order Deadline: TBD**

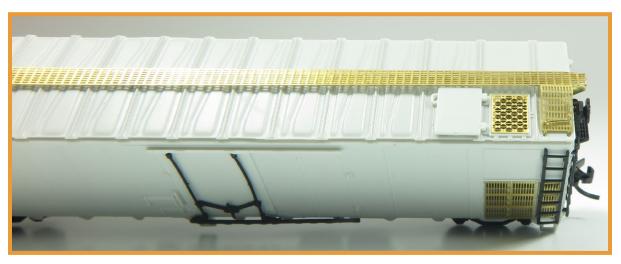


**RAPIDO** 

rapido20









PRE-PRODUCTION SAMPLES SUBJECT TO REFINEMENTS BEFORE PRODUCTION

### **Order Deadline: TBD**







### **Order Deadline: TBD**



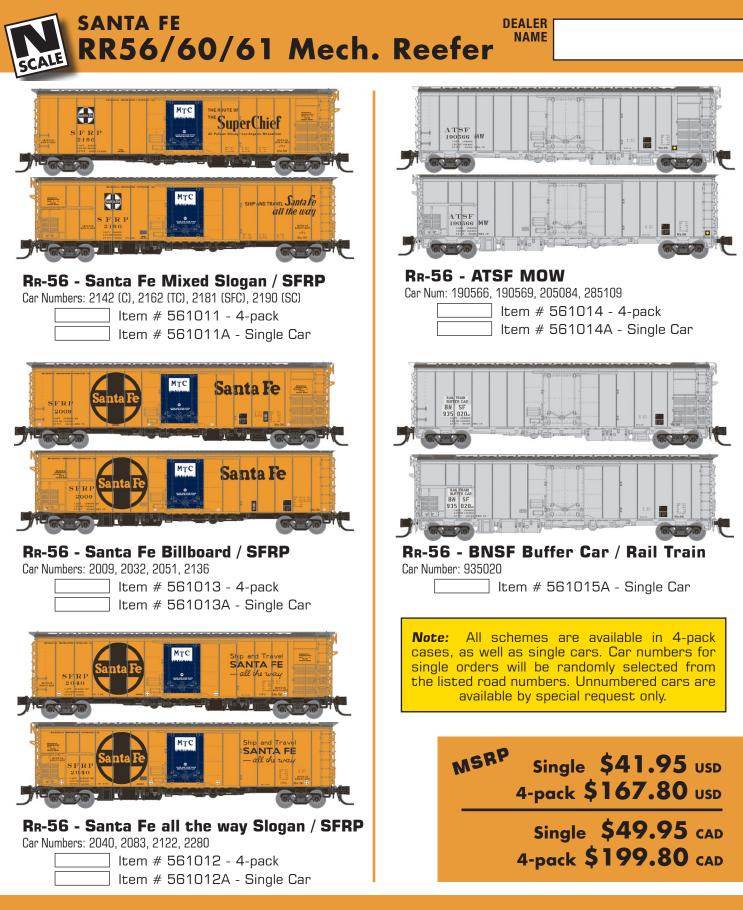
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### **Order Deadline: TBD**



*'RAPIDO* 



### **Order Deadline: TBD**



*'RAPIDO* 

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Rapido UK Newsletter No. 43 ©2023 Rapido Trains Ltd Click here to view this email as a web page.

#### Dear Rapido Customer,

We are finally back in the office, and it smells a bit fishy!

It's been a long month, with two big shows at either end of the country and lots of projects that simply won't design, render, or colour themselves. We are pleased to say that we now have put away the show gear, samples and suggestion boxes, and can get back to working at full steam getting models into your hands.

The shows were incredible and we thoroughly enjoyed talking to everyone about their favourite upcoming projects. Some of you even shared some awesome ideas for other models we could make. But you'll just have to wait and see if those insightful inputs ever hit the shelves.

While we have been travelling the country our factories have been working at full tilt to get the next batch of models ready, and sending us some amazing samples. We even managed to get some of them up to the shows for you to enjoy (the O1 arrived only 24 hours before we left for Ally Pally). Oh, and while we were there, we even found out that we had won an armful of British Railway Modelling Awards for 2023, of which we are immensely proud!

In other news, we have a rather fishy announcement that will be hurtling down the East Coast Mainline bound for your layout. More on that in a bit!

In addition to that, the next OO gauge wagon project should be arriving in your hands imminently and we are super excited to see what you think of our <u>RCH</u> <u>1907 PO wagons</u> when they do.

So let's take a closer look at the <u>O1</u>, the awards, Ally Pally and more, and spring into April (well, what's left of it...) with a newfound vigour. Enjoy!

If you are using a web-based email service such as Gmail, be sure to click on the link near the bottom of the email that says something like "[Message clipped] View entire message". That will ensure you don't miss any of this newsletter.

### New Announcement: BR Dia.1/801 Fish Van (OO Gauge)

Rapido Trains UK is proud to announce we will be expanding our OO Gauge wagon range with the <u>BR Dia.1/801 Fish Van</u>.



During the nineteenth century, the expanding railway network helped create a boom in the fishing industry. With fast and reliable services fresh fish was able to be transported by rail across the length and breadth of the UK. As early as the mid-1840s special fish trains were operated by several railway companies using specially-built rolling stock.

As technology developed, faster services were offered with trains operating on the East Coast mainline all the way from Scotland to London.

Fish vans on the LNER originally featured a short wheelbase but later developments settled on a larger 15ft wheelbase in the form of the Diagram 214 12t Insul-Fish vans (designed by the LNER but built under BR from 1949). These vehicles were designed to operate in passenger trains and featured LNER 8-shoe brake gear and steam heat pipes.



British Railways continued to build a variation of these vans – Diagram 800. They were built with standard oil axleboxes but some were upgraded to roller bearings in later life.

The final diagram of fish van built by British Railways was the 1/801 diagram. Like the 1/800 this featured a 15ft wheelbase and 21'8" body. Roller bearings were used from new and allowed the wagons to travel at speeds of 60mph. As they were roller-bearing fitted, they gained the 'Blue Spot' designation on the bodysides. This design however featured several differences on the body, most notably the diagonal end bracing and around the side doors along with the adoption of the BR clasp brake system. Three batches of vans were built between 1960 and 1961 with a total of 558 vans being produced.



Photo courtesy of P Fidczuk.

With the decline in fish traffic, services ceased in 1968. Many vans were transferred to Parcels Traffic (coded NRV and later SPV under TOPS) and sported BR rail blue livery with a 'double arrow' logo. Other vans found use in Departmental service, barrier vehicle use and even as support vehicles for breakdown cranes carrying several different liveries. This resulted in vans being seen all across the network.



A small number of Diagram 1/801 vans have survived into preservation at locations such as the Swanage, Great Central and Bluebell railways.

This model will be the first Diagram 1/801 van ever produced in OO gauge ready-to-run. Our model features the usual wealth of detail alongside many separately fitted parts including steps on the engineers' versions and two different types of buffers as seen on the prototypes. Separate label boards will be provided for modellers to fit as required. Metal bearings shall aid supersmooth running enabling prototypically long trains to run with ease.



These models are currently in the tooling stage. The order book is open, and you can order yours directly from our website or any of our Official Retailers.

### FANCY A FISH VAN? - ORDER YOURS HERE

Oh My, O1 - Running samples received (OO Gauge)

Over the last few weeks, we have been playing with – sorry, I mean "rigorously testing" – the awesome running prototype of the upcoming <u>SECR O1</u>. This is a model that we've all been looking forward to at the office!



We teased you with it in the cabinet at The London Festival of Railway Modelling a few weeks ago, and everyone was singing its praises. We were even able to take our prototype for a trundle around the Model Railway Club's display test track, where it ran like a dream and made light work of the rake of our SECR wagons we put behind it, aided by the loco's all-wheel pick-ups.



Whilst we may have had fun playing with it, we made sure to look it over properly too. The loco cab detail is spectacular, and with a slightly open firebox door, the faint glow of the flickering firebox is going to illuminate the brass detailing brilliantly. Our designer has done an incredible job of adding implied inside motion detail to the model so there isn't an unsightly void under the boiler, as well as capturing the elegance of the outside sprung tender nicely. We are also really proud of how detailed the steam reverser has turned out, consisting of several individual components. This key detail was important for us to get right, and we think we have nailed it.



Throughout the class's history subtle changes were made, from its pregrouping days, right through to No. 65's residency at The Bluebell Railway. We have represented as many of these changes as possible. In the January newsletter we looked at the difference between the riveted and flush-riveted smokeboxes that will feature on different versions, but there are more detailed differences to look forward to. We were particularly impressed with the tender front cross brace variants.



After our review of the detailed early engineering sample was completed, we found only minor revisions were required and have already transmitted them to the factory.

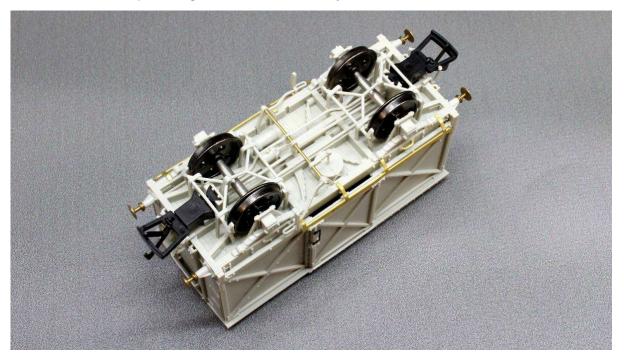
Get your orders in with us directly through our website, or via one of our Official Retailers.

### ORDER AN O1 HERE



### Caley Van Early Engineering Samples

Following the positive feedback the 3D printed samples received at Model Rail Scotland we were really pleased when the first early engineering samples arrived of the upcoming <u>Caledonian Railway Dia.67 10 Ton Vans</u>.



These highlight some of the amazing details, including the external framing and the separately-fitted door rail and handles. We think these look great and will be checking them over properly over the coming weeks. See what you think for yourselves!



You can pre-order your Caley vans via our website or any of our Official Retailers.

### COLLECT A CALEY VAN HERE

### A Banging Rapido 31 is No Joke!

It's no joke, we've been plotting to make a 31!



For an undisclosed reason the owner of the company, one Mr G. Fawkes, required a loco that would produce absolutely no smoke, sparks, or fire, for use on his central London-based underground railway. We can only surmise its purpose! He requested it be numbered 31, that way it would blend in with the multitude of 31s that seemed to have surfaced recently.



We didn't want to miss out on the fun everyone else was having, so we decided to make the most banging 31 in ready-to-run. The perfect locomotive to complement our previously launched G. Fawkes Not-Quite-Mink, run on any London-based layout, or simply go into the collection of someone with a bit of a sense of humour.



Pre-order yours now direct from us or from any Official Retailer. Remember, absolutely no smoking while on board!

### ORDER YOUR G. FAWKES FIRELESS TODAY

To accompany our latest fireless you need a couple of wagons. With our G. Fawkes 'not-quite-mink' now completely sold out, our friends at <u>The Wagon</u> <u>Yard</u> have commissioned a run of matching 7-plank opens using our new RCH side door only tooling. We think it looks rather smart! To order yours head over to their website by clicking on the link below.



CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WAGON YARD NOW

### Last Call - Order Books Closing!

This month's other order book closures are a selection of Western Region Wagons. Thanks to the previous work done on the wagons' underframe these projects have been able to progress much faster than others like them, as such we are choosing to close the order book so the factory can begin making them.

We will be closing the order books on May 20<sup>th</sup> for the following:

- OO Gauge GWR Dia. O18 5-Plank
- OO Gauge GWR Dia.N19 Loco Coal



That is just over a month left so you still have a little time left to order them either directly through our website or from any of our Official Retailers.

We also closed the order books on the following earlier this week:

- <u>OO Gauge LB&SCR E1</u>
- <u>OO Gauge GWR B-Set Coaches</u>

We have very limited stock of most versions available directly through our website and, of course, many of our Official Retailers have placed orders for stock too. So you can contact your chosen retailer to see if they have the versions you seek!

### **Product and Shipping Updates**

Our factories are currently running at full speed with production of a number of projects. Some have little to show right now, but others are much further through the production process. In no particular order here are some of the latter:

### Leyland Fleetline



The second run of <u>Leyland Fleetline</u> buses are progressing really well in the factory. Spraying and tampo work is all but complete and many of the models have entered the assembly stage. Samples have been received in the UK for final review just before this issue went to press. Once the review is complete and signed off, final assembly will take place with a factory completion date in mid-May. Once complete they will be packed up ready for their voyage to the UK with an expected arrival sometime in early July.



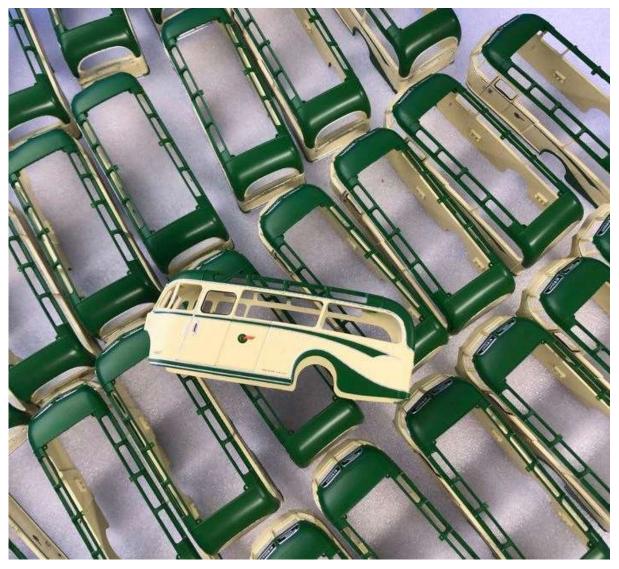
### Metropolitan No.1

Our <u>E class</u> models are now in the paint shop. These models have a lot of intricate printing and this process does take time... but they will be worth the wait! They will then move to the assembly and testing stage with an anticipated completion date (in the factory) of late June. We have also completed the sound file for our DCC Sound models in conjunction with ESU.



### **Bedford OB**

Alongside the Fleetline the <u>Bedford OB</u> is making waves through the factory. These are currently about three weeks behind the Fleetline delivery.



Whilst all of the above projects have something to show there are a number that, at present, are working through the injection moulding stage. These include the <u>N gauge OAA</u>, <u>LNWR vans</u>, <u>LNER/LMS LOWMAC</u> and the <u>LNER</u> <u>Y7</u>. We hope to be able to show you progress on these shortly.

### The Wrong Render!

In the latter part of last year, we made enough progress with the <u>BR Class 44</u> in N Gauge to make it available for pre-order, which is awesome. As part of this announcement, we published images of the upcoming models, and unfortunately, we made minor errors. However, thanks to the eagle-eyed members of the community and their swift feedback we have been able to resolve this before it's too late.



Class 44 – D5 "Cross Fell" BR Green with Small Yellow Panel (SKU 948004) had lost its stripe relatively early in its running life. An error crept in on the render and this was included on the original artwork. Thankfully, this has now been rectified and the render above reflects the corrected art.

### PRE-ORDER YOUR N GAUGE CLASS 44 HERE

### **Brilliant Bookings**

Rapido Railex is getting closer, so, we thought we would show you some of the layouts that will be attending the show. With a focus on quality over quantity, we have quite a selection of brilliant layouts already booked. Let's take a look at a couple!

Wendover (OO)



*Wendover* in Buckinghamshire is a small market town on the joint Metropolitan and Great Central line into London. The layout represents the station and its environs in 1930. A wide variety of traffic can be seen with commuter and local goods traffic operated by both companies plus LNER (GC) expresses between London Marylebone and the north. Also long distance coal trains from the LNER and the high speed fish trains from Hull and Grimsby. Of further interest is the connection to the Air Ministry light railway serving RAF Halton.



#### Melton Mowbray North (N)

Now cared for by AIMREC, *Melton Mowbray North* was originally built by John Spence and Steve Weston. The line through Melton Mowbray was a joint venture between the Great Northern and London and North Western Railway companies, opening for traffic in 1879. The model is run in two eras, firstly from 1948 to 1953, showing the line as it was with local passenger and freight traffic regularly passing through.

However, the operators also imagine what things might have been like between 1957 and 1962 had the line come under the supervision of the Midland Region of British Railways following the Modernisation plan of 1955 and seen the dawn of the diesel age.

Wheal Elizabeth (P4)



*Wheal Elizabeth* represents a coal-fired china clay dry and associated facilities situated at the end of a Cornish freight only branch.

The layout was inspired by the distinctive operations on a number of the china clay branches in central Cornwall where this industry remains an important part of the local economy. The clay dry was inspired by the last of the coal-fired clay driers at Carbis Wharf and the extensive complex at Stannon Dries situated at Wenfordbridge. The infrastructure of these lines changed relatively little from the mid-1950's until the mid-1980's allowing the layout to represent a range of periods.

Corrish (009)



*Corrish* is a small 009 layout depicting the atmosphere of the old Corris Railway in Mid Wales.

Whilst being a 'simple oval of track', *Corrish* appears much larger with plenty of detailed interest, such as a slate quarry, small station, woodland area and even a bridge crossing a small stream. *Corrish* is also distinctive in that it can be viewed from any angle, all of which give fresh scenes.

Each month we will be showing off more of the layouts that will be coming, so make sure you keep an eye on the newsletter for further teasers. Don't forget you can pre-order your tickets and find out more information by clicking on the button below.

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT RAPIDO RAILEX 2024

### **Blowing Our Own Trumpet - BRM Award Winners**

We aren't ones to blow to our own trumpets too loudly or too often, well, apart from Andy of course, who quite literally used to play the trumpet in various Northern Jazz Clubs. But other than Andy's previous public tootling, we are – for the most part – a wee bit humble.

So, to break character and shout as loud as possible, we are super proud to be the winners of an armful of awards at the <u>British Railway Modelling</u> Awards for 2023.

Thanks to you lovely lot, we won Gold for both the Innovation and N Gauge locomotive categories. How incredible is that! We also walked away with seven

other Silver and Bronze awards, including a Silver in the OO Manufacturer of the Year category.

Seriously, thank you very much for your support. It is hugely appreciated.



### Stop press! Another show: Bristol Model Railway Exhibition!

No sooner had we had got used to our own beds and a distinct lack of nice hotel breakfasts again, we get invited to attend another awesome show, and how could we say no? With an arm full of Western wonders to scintillate the Southwest we would be silly to say no.

So, with great pleasure, we will be attending the <u>Bristol Model Railway</u> <u>Exhibition</u> from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th of May. Pop by the stall for a chat and while you are there feast your eyes on our pretty Prairies and beautiful B-sets. You won't be disappointed.

You'll find us at stand 51 and we look forward to speaking to you all.

### Thought of The Month - The Magic of Colour

We have treated you to some awesome liveries over the last few years, and as we have added more striking 'what if' and 'inspired by' liveries to the range we wanted to look at the changing trends of hobbyists' interests. We're taking a more light-hearted approach than simply asking you what you want, because, between our Social Media pages and our Product Suggestion Form, we have a fairly good idea of the overall prototypes you would like to see.

What we wanted to get you thinking about is colour!

Here is a nice selection of the brightest additions from across our OO gauge range. As you can see they contain everything from the surprisingly realistic, yet garishly eye-catching, such as the bright yellow GWR Toad, to the subtle, yet amusing G.Fawkes Not-Quite-Mink.



Speaking to retailers and customers alike, the general consensus is there seems to be a swing in the direction of modelling brightly coloured trains that may not be prototypically correct. Frankly, we think this is brilliant! People enjoy their hobby how they want to, but still have an interest in model quality and detail. So, are people as interested in long rakes of brown BR box vans or grey BR plank wagons? Maybe not!

Don't panic BR modellers, we aren't going to stop doing the awesome selection of rolling stock liveries we already make. But you may be surprised to hear sales on strange yet brightly coloured engineering stock, fictional yet pretty liveries, and wagons with unusual markings often match sales of liveries of a more conventional nature. A great example of this is our recently released GWR Y4 Banana vans, in which the version featuring a small logo of a bunch of bananas outsold the others by a considerable margin, despite it only being a small detail.



We have more brightly coloured offerings to come too, of course. The fish vans are a rainbow (trout) of colours, and the rest of the upcoming range has some real surprises in it too. It will be interesting to see which ones you delightful lot order the most of!

So, with all of the Winter and Spring shows and awards behind us, and the Summer looming, we are going to get our heads down and say goodbye for another month. Thanks for reading and once again thanks again for your votes.

Happy modelling!

The Rapido Trains UK Team

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Check out our YouTube channel, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter!

