

## 1044 – Victorian Railways BLF/BLX box van

Thank you for purchasing this kit and I hope you get many hours of enjoyment from it. Chris Pearce (Spirit Design)



BLF 129 in cement traffic with ride aligned bogies - photo courtesy of Geoff Winkler

**Basic history notes:** The Victorian Railways built 129 vans at their Newport Workshops during 1961-62. When issued to traffic they had the road numbers 23-151. Vans 23-121 were originally issued to traffic as BB and the remainder as BLFs. In 1965 the vans were reclassified BLX for bogie exchange but vans 121-144 were assigned to palletised cement traffic and again reverted to their BLF codes.

When released to traffic they carried the medium-sized VR which fitted within the door space, the more familiar 25ft VR stencil was applied from 1965 onwards. If you want a non-louved door version it is a simple matter of gently scraping down the door pressings until flush with the door background. Throughout their lives, the class always wore a VR wagon red roof as opposed to the VLX's which carried a silver roof. From 1976 a few BLFs were fitted with ride aligned bogies. When the 4-digit code came in the class became VBBY and was split into VBBF and VBBX in 1987 and by 1991 the class was withdrawn and placed into storage awaiting scrapping.

**The kit:** The master for the casting is by Rob Popovski. Only minimal tools and basic skills are all that is required to build an accurate model of a Victorian Railways steel BLF/BLX van. It is suggested that you read through the instructions first to become familiar with the components and the essence of construction.

**Equipment & Materials:** **New/Sharp** Exacto knife (blade no 16 or similar) and small files. Selley's 'Kwik Grip' water-based, paints etc.

### **Wagon assembly:**

1. Trim any excess flash from the body casting
2. Test fit the underframe into the body casting and remove any material deemed necessary to achieve a neat fit
3. Wash the castings in warm soapy water and dry, **otherwise, the paint won't adhere**, to remove any residual mould release used in the casting process
4. Glue weights of your choice using Selley's water-based Kwik Grip to the underframe floor. The suggested wagon weight is 12-14 grams **when fully assembled** including wheels, bogies and couplers
5. Glue the underframe to the main body casting
6. Insert the small brass wire into the brake ratchet assembly on the end wall as per BLX 30 below

### **Painting:**

7. Using a Spirit Design Versatile Micro Brush or similar paint the faces of the wheels Steam Era wagon red
8. Mask the bogie axle box holes and paint the entire wagon Steam Era wagon red or equivalent

9. Paint a white line down the leading edge where the handbrake as per the photo of BLX 150 below

**Decaling:**

10. Decal as per prototype photos, attach the 1015 MicroTrains couplers and weather accordingly



BLX30 and BLX 150 courtesy of Rob O'Regan



For more information and photos see: [www.spiritdesign.com.au](http://www.spiritdesign.com.au), Mark Bau's <http://www.victorianrailways.net/> or Peter Vincent's <http://www.pjv101.net/index.htm>  
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