

1060 – Victorian Railways 20ton small dome cement wagon

J 12 at Dandenong, Nov 16 1981 Photo courtesy Peter J. Vincent

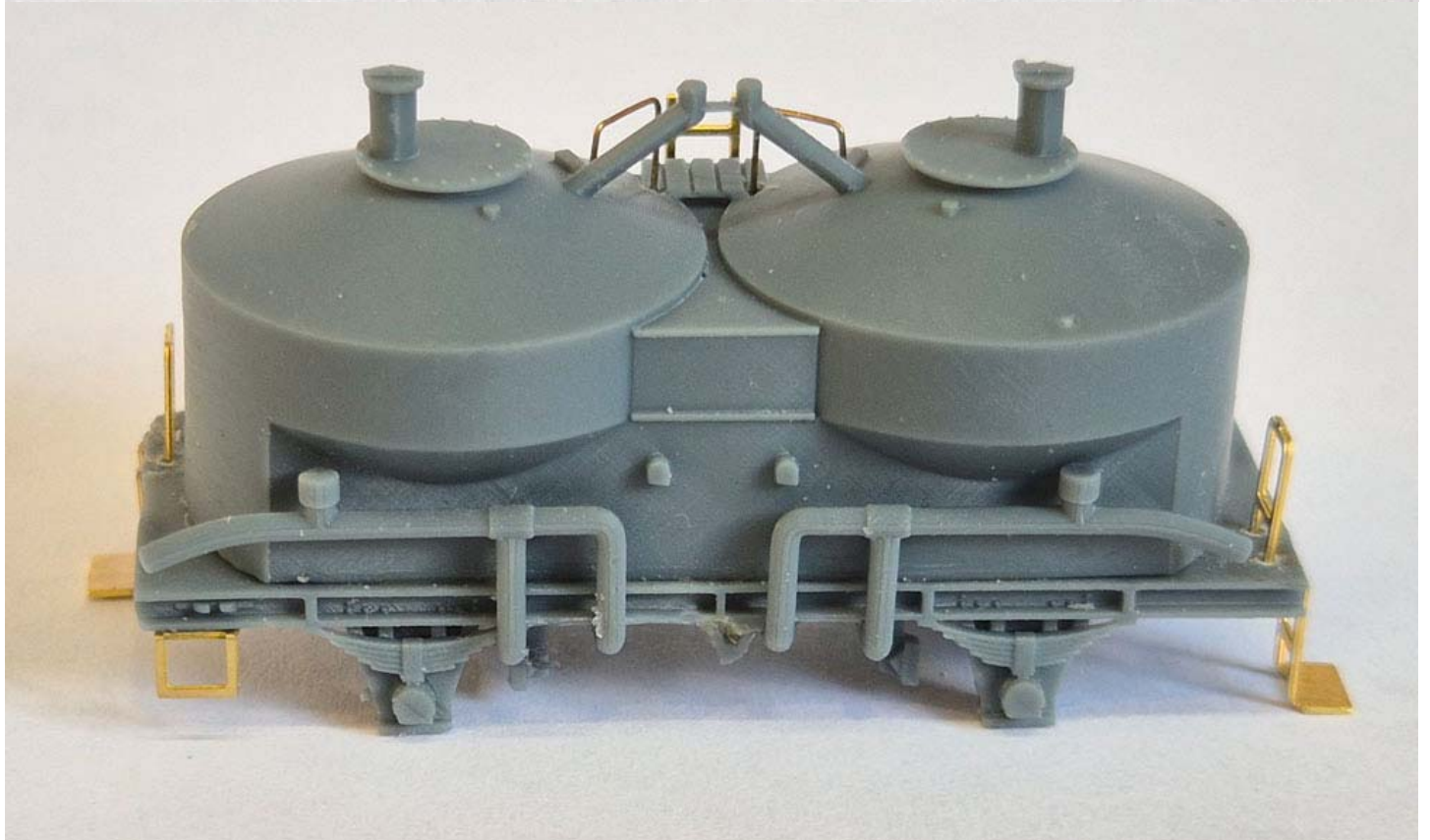
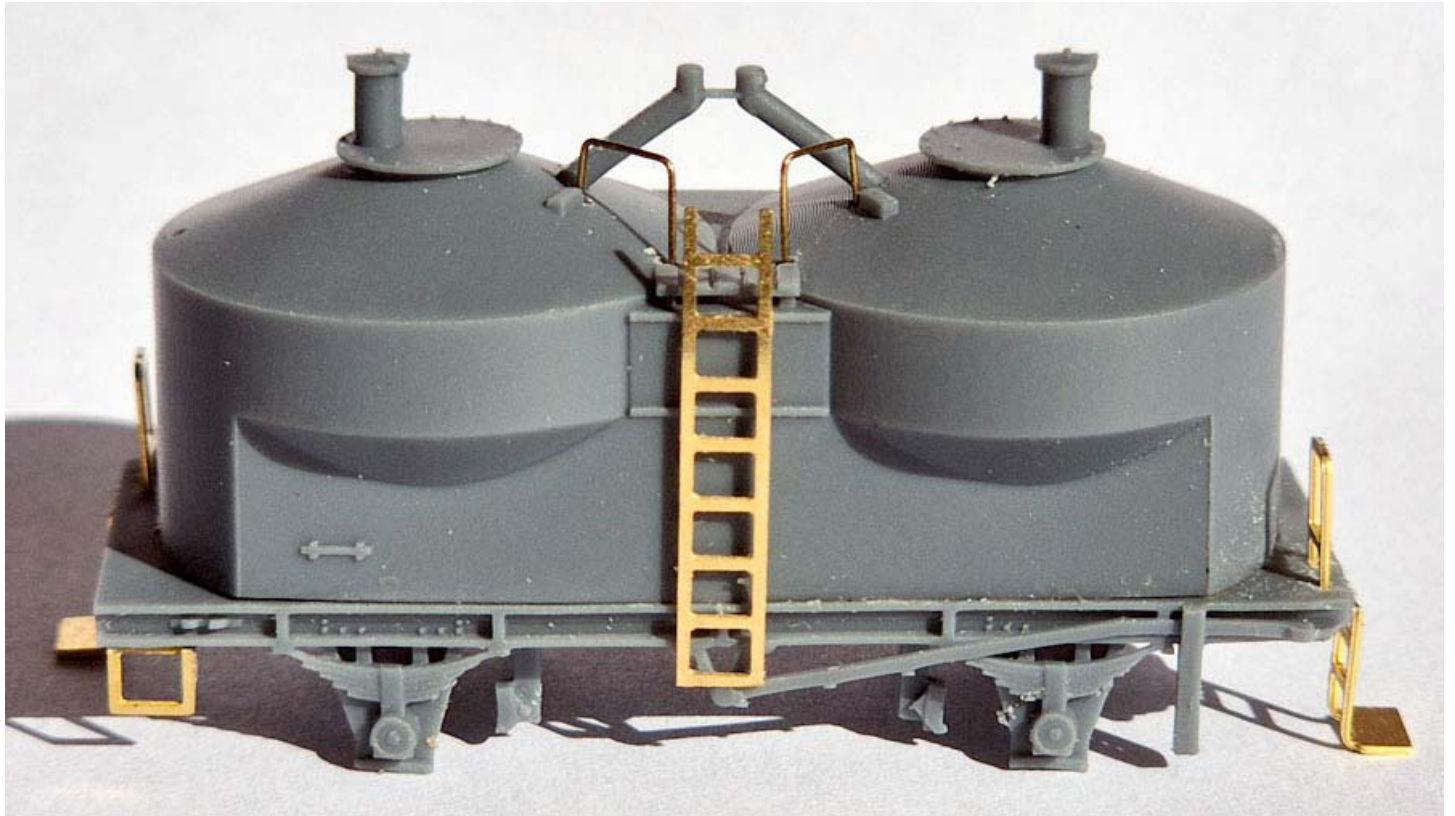
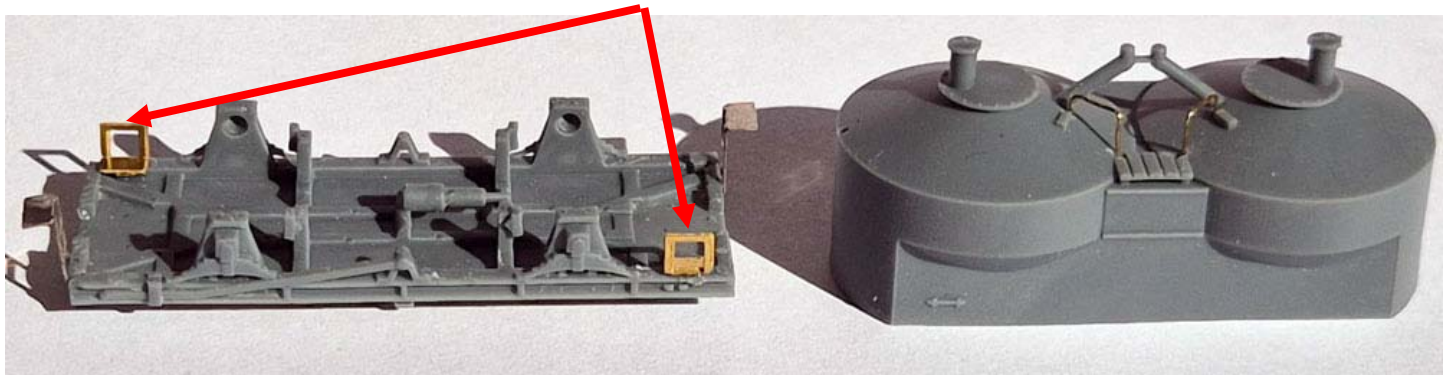
Basic history notes: The J cement wagons started life as a mixed group. Originally built in 1949-1952 to haul pulverized brown coal, they were coded "X." Later, they were converted to carry flour and then cement, depending on their size. Their code was changed to "J" because "X" was already used for a standard gauge bogie exchange system.

This model kit focuses on the J8-J27 20-ton wagons (20 in total). These were the smallest capacity units, with a distinctive dome shape and periscopes when viewed from the side. They operated at a pressure of 15 psi and unloaded at a slow rate of 10-15 tons per hour. By the 1980s, their fully loaded speed limit was reduced to 30 mph. Eventually, they were phased out along with all other four-wheel wagons on the Victorian Railways by the mid-1980s.

The kit: Can be put together in under 2 hours. Only minimal tools and basic skills are required to build a very accurate model of a Victorian Railways 'J' van. Read through the instructions first to become familiar with the components and the essence of construction.

Wagon assembly:

1. Drill 0.3-0.4mm holes into the top of the domes near the step where indentations are for the handrails if used. You will need a 3.5mm wide handrail which can easily be made with the 'Wedge' available from SpiritDesign with the supplied 0.3mm wire
2. On the underframe drill the holes at the headstocks and above adjacent where the handrails meet the deck. You just need to drill a little way so that the brass steps/handrails have some purchase
3. Glue the shunters after bending the bottom of the step 90 degrees into the holes provided in the headstock ends using Liquid brushable Superglue. Also, coat the step so that glue runs into the folds where the step is bent 90 degrees or solder these before gluing
4. Superglue a stirrup step on the LHS of the underframe starting with the handbrake side. The other is diagonally opposite on the other side. See the red arrows below in the photo
5. Using PVA glue the domes to the underframe
6. Bend the ladder and attach it as per the photo above using Superglue
7. Superglue the LH & RH pipework to the wagon using photo 2 as a guide



Painting & decaling:



8. Carefully remove the wheel's axle via the 'V' groove side first and then guide the remaining axle point clear. **DO NOT flex the 'W' iron** too much as the resin will break. I use my fingernail on the 'V' groove side whilst pushing my other thumb against the opposite wheel and tilt the wheelset up at an angle to remove it
9. Mask the axle box holes and paint the wagon Steam Era wagon red or equivalent
10. Decal as per prototype photos above and below
11. Insert the wheels into the axle boxes ensuring that each axle point set is pushed into the 'V' groove last
12. Glue Micro trains 1015 couplers into the underframe where the space is provided



For more information and photos see: Mark Bau's <http://www.victorianrailways.net/> or Peter Vincent's <http://www.pjv101.net/index.htm>
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