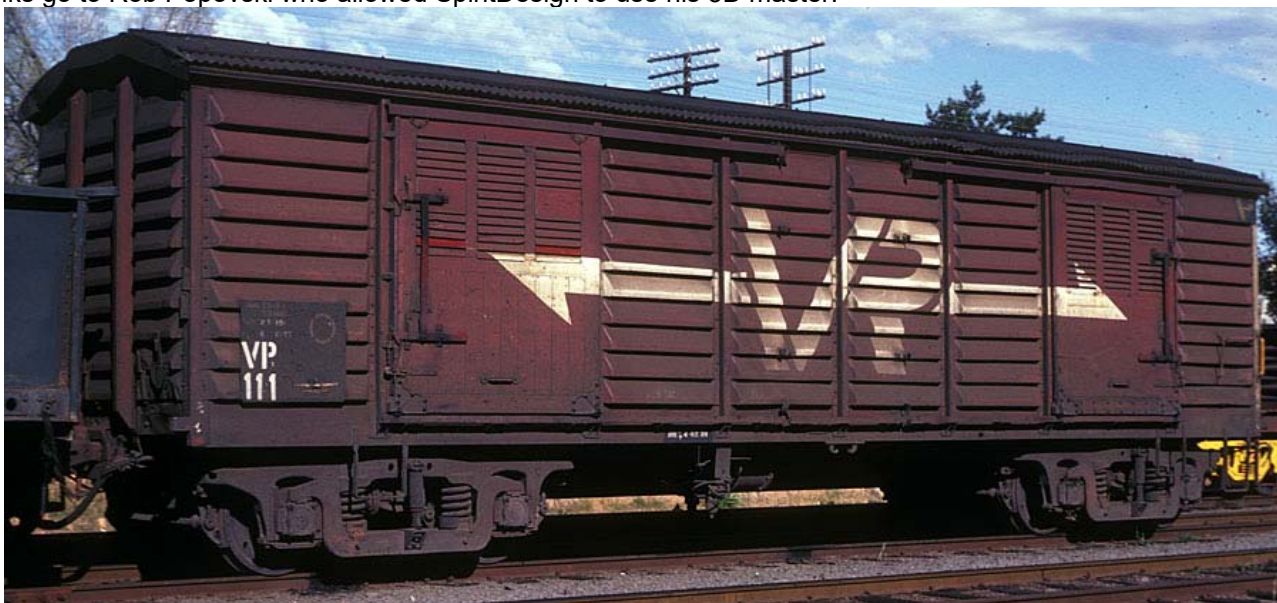


1040- Victorian Railways Express baggage wagon

Requires couplers of your choice to complete.

Thank you for purchasing this kit and I hope you get many hours of enjoyment from it. Chris Pearce (Spirit Design). Thanks go to Rob Popovski who allowed SpiritDesign to use his 3D master.



VP111 at Albury Station September 1981. Photo courtesy Rob O'Regan

Basic history notes: From 1954-to 1956 the Victorian railways constructed the VP van based upon the already successful VF. Vans were used on fast passenger trains within both Victorian and interstate on the Standard Gauge network in NSW. The VPs had an extra door on either side to aid loading and unloading at stations than the VF's numbered lower than 50. All vans were carried upon the BX fast express passenger bogies except VP140, which was exchanged for plain bearing bogies. The reason behind this is not known.

20 Units were permanently placed on the Standard Gauge and were given number boards like VP111 above and could be seen on all premier express trains like the 'Spirit of Progress' and the 'Southern Aurora'. Numbers start at 100 and continue through to 149. Generally, vans were situated behind the loco and this would cause some interesting trains if vans were needed back in Melbourne a train could have a single van at the front and 2 or 3 at the rear depending on movements. As repairs were needed, the VP could be seen with 'BP' doors upon repairs being carried out and it was known for some to have a mixture of both metal and wooden types.

From 1979, they received new coding in VLBY but not all managed to get the new coding as scrapping had already started. By 1991, the remaining vans were in storage and a few have been saved in preservation.

The kit is based on units running from the 1960s-until withdrawn in the mid-1990s.

The kit can be put together in under an hour spread over a few days. Only minimal tools and basic/intermediate skills are all that is required to build a very accurate model of a VR 'VP' express baggage van. It is suggested that you **read through** the instructions first to become familiar with the components and the essence of construction.

Equipment & Materials:

Small files, sandpapers and general modelling tools. Selleys 'Kwik Grip' water-based or super glue

Assembly Instructions before painting:

1. Clean any flashing from the castings carefully
2. Test fit the underframe into the main van casting and sand the underframe for a neat fit
3. Drill a 2mm hole in each of the bogie bolsters centres to take the bogie pin
4. Attach MicroTrains 1015's to the underframe, test against a height gauge and remove just before painting
5. Glue the brass wire into the handbrake notch provided
6. Sand minor surface ripples on the ends, roof ends, near brake lever etc.

Painting general and decaling:

7. Wash the castings in warm soapy water to remove moulding release agents before painting
8. The van and underframe should be given a grey primer undercoat and then given a Steam Era wagon red topcoat
9. You have been provided with the correct style VR bogies in Microtrains BX Express bogie and should be painted black or weathered heavily
10. Using the prototype photos position the decals accordingly. If using paper number boards adhere these to styrene painted black using Microscale matt or similar paint acting as a glue. Use photos as a guide

Weathering: Use pastels or paint to weather the van as per photos to your liking. Do not forget the roof as smoke and diesel fumes stained them rather heavily

Note the 'White P' on the black background is positioned on the ends and sides.

Louver decals as per VP 101 above or code boards as per VP 127 below.

See websites listed for your VP codes



VP101. Courtesy of Rob O'Regan



VP127. Courtesy of Rob O'Regan

For more information and photos see www.spiritdesign.com.au, Rob O'Regan's website <http://www.robx1.net/> or Mark Bau's <http://www.victorianrailways.net/> or Peter Vincent's <http://www.pjv101.net/index.htm>.

Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me.

Email chrispearce@spiritdesign.com.au

Spirit Design ABN 92 510 718

www.spiritdesign.com.au