

MALKY'S N-SCALE S.A.R. MODELS

Joint Stock (SAR/VR) D Bulk Mail Van



Photo courtesy Peter Vincent

The Prototype: Commencing in 1906, Joint Stock cars were built by the South Australian and Victorian railways for the Adelaide/Melbourne Express, which later became The Overland. To complement the sitting and sleeping cars, originally two bulk mail vans were built: 1D by the VR in 1906, 2D was built by the VR in 1907 and transferred to joint stock in 1923. 3D and 4D were originally travelling post office vans but were converted to bulk mail and baggage vans when TPO services ceased in 1928. During their life they were fitted with 8' 0" wheelbase 4-wheel bogies. Unlike the other joint stock cars, they had no vestibule connections.

Paint Schemes: In later years the cars were painted in the standard VR passenger car red livery with white lettering.

For More Information:

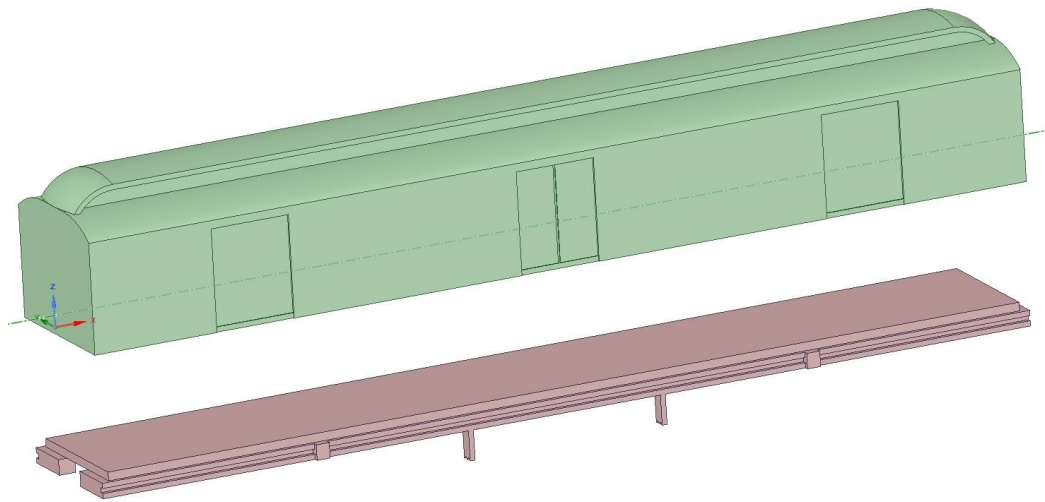
Much of the information used in the development of the kit and presented here was gleaned from an article on all the joint stock E cars in the notes of the *Modelling the Railways of South Australia Convention* pp 3-251 – 3-260, the line drawings in that article, as well as the SAR line drawings.

The Comrails web site: http://www.comrails.com/sar_carriages/b_a0202_d.html is a wonderful source of information on these (and other) cars.

The Kit: The kit consists of a body and underframe printed in Shapeways smoothest fine detail plastic. It will be necessary to fit MicroTrains 1015 couplers and suitable 4-wheel passenger bogies. Roundhouse Commonwealth pattern bogies are suitable. Wire underframe trusses are also required to complete the model.

1. Clean the plastic parts thoroughly to remove any remaining wax from the printing process. This is essential to ensure good paint and glue adhesion. Cleaning can be by soaking in suitable solvent, such as isopropyl alcohol, assisted with a toothbrush. Further cleaning and/or sanding may be needed to produce an acceptable finish on the plastic parts.

2. Check the fit of the floor into the bottom of the body. If necessary, sand or file the floor so that it is a snug fit in the base of the body. Take care to only file the raised upper portion which fits up inside the body – do not damage the C-channel which remains visible under the bottom of the sides.



3. Next it is necessary to bend up truss rods, preferably out of 0.5 mm brass wire. Holes should be drilled to receive the trusses at the outer end locations. Use the template below for bending the wire. Fit the trusses into the holes and also into the bottoms of the queen posts on the chassis. Secure with a small amount of CN superglue. For those masochists wanting a more accurate representation, double truss rods, perhaps of 0.25 mm wire, can be fitted. The chassis should be painted before fitting the bogies.



Template for bending truss rod

4. Painting: first wash the model in warm soapy water, rinse and dry. Apply a primer, then paint the body with Steam Era VR passenger car red. The underframe and truss rods and roof should be painted matt black.

5. Fit couplers. Drill where marked for the screws of the MicroTrains 1015 couplers.

6. Fit bogies – the chassis is designed to accept Roundhouse 4-wheel passenger bogies with the couplers removed.

7. Apply decals: The notation V&SA should be applied to the side just below the roof line, midway between the outer doors and the end of the car at each end. The car number should be applied at the same height midway between the centre and outer double doors at each end (see photograph).

Paint Colours

Steam Era Victorian Passenger Car Red should be used. Roof and underframe black.

Acknowledgements: Photograph courtesy Peter Vincent

