



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



500/600 Steel Cars

SAR/ANR/AN (Steam Age, Steam Ranger, Northern Rivers Rail)



M Jenkins photo

The Prototype: New first and second class steel cars were produced for the SAR from 1936 to 1937 by the Islington workshops. The four first class cars were numbered 500 – 503, the eight second class cars were numbered 600 – 607.

In later years many of the cars were sold to Steam Age and SteamRanger. Some of the Steam Age cars subsequently made their way to Northern Rivers Rail in NSW where they ran in the Ritz Rail tourist train to Murwillumbah.

Paint Schemes: When introduced the cars were painted in the Hawthorn Green and Cream Centenary scheme with black roof, underframe and bogies; and silver on the insides of the end vestibule stairs. The cars preserved by SteamRanger have been restored to a version of this scheme. Lettering was gold with drop shadows of red and black (a little hard to reproduce in N scale). Cars transferred to Northern Rivers received their blue colour scheme.



Photo courtesy Comrails website

600 class car in original colour scheme at NRM

For More Information:

Much of the information used in the development of the kit and presented here was gleaned from the notes of the **Modelling the Railways of South Australia Convention** pp 3-33 – 3-46, the line drawings in that article, as well as the SAR line drawings. The article gives a complete listing of all the cars, with dates of colour scheme changes and ultimate disposal.

The Comrails web site: http://www.comrails.com/sar_carriages/a0400.html is a wonderful source of information on these (and other) cars and some of the photographs in these notes are courtesy of that site.

The Kit: The kit consists of a body and underframe printed in Shapeways frosted extreme detail plastic. It will be necessary to fit bogies and MicroTrains 1015 couplers. It is possible to use commercially available Commonwealth type bogies with 8'

wheel base, but to represent the unique bogies fitted to these cars which have 9' wheelbase, MNSSARM has produced models which are available from Shapeways, in their black high definition acrylate material.

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 and steps into the bottom of the body, particularly under the doors. If necessary, sand or file the floor and steps, firstly so that the floor is a snug fit in the base of the body, and so that the steps fit neatly under the doors.
3. Fit bogies – bogies with 9' wheel base are needed. As an alternative, Roundhouse Commonwealth trucks (8986) can be used. Check that the bogies clear the steps. This is best done before proceeding further, as they can be initially tested for clearance with the floor upside down on the bench. Test run the floor on your tightest curves.
4. Painting: first wash the model in warm soapy water, rinse and dry. Apply a primer, then the appropriate colour scheme (see notes on paints below).
5. Apply decals: For the original green and cream scheme use the gold lettering: in the panel above the windows: SAR to the centre, First or Second adjacent to each door as appropriate. See photos below.



Photos of 600 class car in National Rail Museum to show location of lettering

6. Fit couplers to the floor, depending on selected coupler and how closely coupled you want the cars. It is likely that bogie mounted couplers would interfere with the steps on small radius curves. The steps have been designed to fit MicroTrains 1015 couplers.



Photo courtesy Comrails website

600 class car in SteamRanger colour scheme

Paint Colours

For the green and cream Centenary scheme: Humbrol No 3 Brunswick Green is a good representation of the green. For the cream, Humbrol No 41 Ivory has a white colour, which can be toned down with a few drops of No 7 Light Buff to give more of a cream hue. Roof and underframe black, step interiors silver.

Acknowledgements Master 3D design by Malcolm Jenkins, Photos courtesy of Comrails webpage (Chris Drymalik).



Photo courtesy Comrails website

605 in Northern Rivers Rail Ritz Rail colour scheme