

1047 – Victorian Railways 1st series short wheelbase steel U van

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



Photo courtesy of Rob O'Regan

Basic history notes: Between 1897 when the first was constructed and 1906 a total of 560 short wheelbase vans were manufactured by the Victoria Railways workshops. Group numbers were 278, 281-560 with 281 being the original U van. They featured pressings for the body and steel underframes, which would give substantial life when compared to wooden bodied wagons.

The kit: Only minimal tools and basic skills are required to build a very accurate model of a Victorian Railways wooden U/HD van. It is suggested that you read 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.

Assembly and painting:

1. Trim any excess flash from the casting
2. Wash the casting in warm soapy water and dry to remove any residual mould release used in the casting process **otherwise the paint won't adhere**
3. Using a Microbrush dipped in **graphite powder** twizzle the brush into each axle box hole with thumb support behind each axle box. This is the best lubrication for these types of 3D printed underframes
4. If needed sand the long edges of the MDF block so that it slides easily into the casting
5. Screw 1015 couplers into the holes provided by the MDF block. The slight taper goes inside the casting
6. Test fit the underframe to MDF block and couplers. You may have to trim the area near the coupler to allow an easy slide on and off of the underframe
7. Using Selley's Kwik Grip water-based adhere the underframe centrally to the MDF block
8. Once dry slide the underframe assembly into the casting and remove the area of the casting around the coupler so that it sits flat. You may have to narrow the 2 side projections on the base of the casting near the doors
9. Bend shunter steps step at 90 degrees and drill 2 holes (0.48 -0.5 mm) in each LH end of the underframe to match and superglue in place
10. Remove couplers, mask the underframe axle box holes (use old plastic MT wheels) and paint the entire wagon Steam Era wagon red or equivalent

11. If desired use a Spirit Design Versatile Micro Brush or similar paint the faces of FVM wheels wagon red or rail brown
12. Decal as per prototype photos and paint white hand brake squares as per arrows in the photo or use decals provided
13. Carefully insert the wheels into the underframe so that the last wheel being pushed in has its point matching the slight recess created for it in the side of the underframe, as the 3D FXD material is not as forgiving as Delrin plastics. Test for freedom of movement and adjust graphite power accordingly
14. Glue the underframe/MDF block assembly centrally to the casting all around and remove any casting material carefully to achieve a good flat fit
15. Weather accordingly and refit 1015 MicroTrains couplers in the recess of the underframe



U 293 Dandenong yards – photo 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/indkex.htm>
Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me. **Email** chrispearce@spiritdesign.com.au
Spirit Design ABN 92 510 718 068
www.spiritdesign.com.au