

1043 – Victorian Railways 3rd series steel U/HD van

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



U 1504 at Murchison East, Feb 20, 1978, courtesy of Geoff Winkler

Basic history notes: Between 1956 and 1959, Bendigo North Workshops constructed 330 vans utilising the underframes of wooden-bodied U vans as they became available due to age or accidents. The new van pressings were similar in appearance to the VF bogie vans and the ends pressings came in two variations. Corrugated roofs were provided as well as lever brake handles. Later a number were converted to HDs for departmental use and some decals have been provided in the kit to do either U or HD.

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. Glue the MDF block into the casting whilst resting on a flat surface and wait until its glued
6. Attach MT 1015 couplers with screws, the slight taper of the MDF goes inside the casting
7. Glue the underframe to the casting centrally all round
8. 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
9. Remove couplers, mask the underframe axle box holes (use old plastic MT wheels) and paint the entire wagon Steam Era wagon red or equivalent

10. Using a Spirit Design Versatile Micro Brush or similar paint the faces of wheels Steam Era wagon red
11. 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
12. Decal as per prototype photos, paint white squares for handbrakes using photos of U 1498 below as a guide
13. Refit 1015 Microtrains couplers and weather accordingly



U 1498 at Spencer Street yards - photo courtesy of Rob O'Regan



HD 42 – photo courtesy of Geoff Winkler

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>
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