

1042 – Victorian Railways wooden HD/U van

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

HD on rotten row waiting scrapping. Photo Courtesy of Rob O'Regan



Basic history notes: During 1895-97 Newport Workshops and several contractors built 167 wooden ventilated box vans featuring louvered bodies. Originally intended for perishable traffic they carried the number range U113 – 280 excluding no 278. During the 1930s a conversion plan saw steel underframes and auto couplers fitted. By the 1950's the high cost of maintenance on the wooden structure would see their number fall as many underframes went into the new P van explosive wagons being constructed in 1958-59. Around this time the remaining 42 Robinson Pattern 'U' vans were recoded HD for departmental use only and lasted well into the 1970s with the last being condemned in 1980.

They make a great addition to a works train or just sitting in a siding on your layout. As a variation, some were altered to have windows and extra doors added for use as departmental vehicles. You will need to source photos from websites below to see the styles.

The kit: Can be put together in a very short time. Only minimal tools and basic skills are all that is required to build a very accurate model of a Victorian Railways wooden U/HD van. It is suggested that you read through the instructions first to become familiar with the essence of construction. Buffers were not included in the underframe as they are prone to break easily using 3D printed current materials.

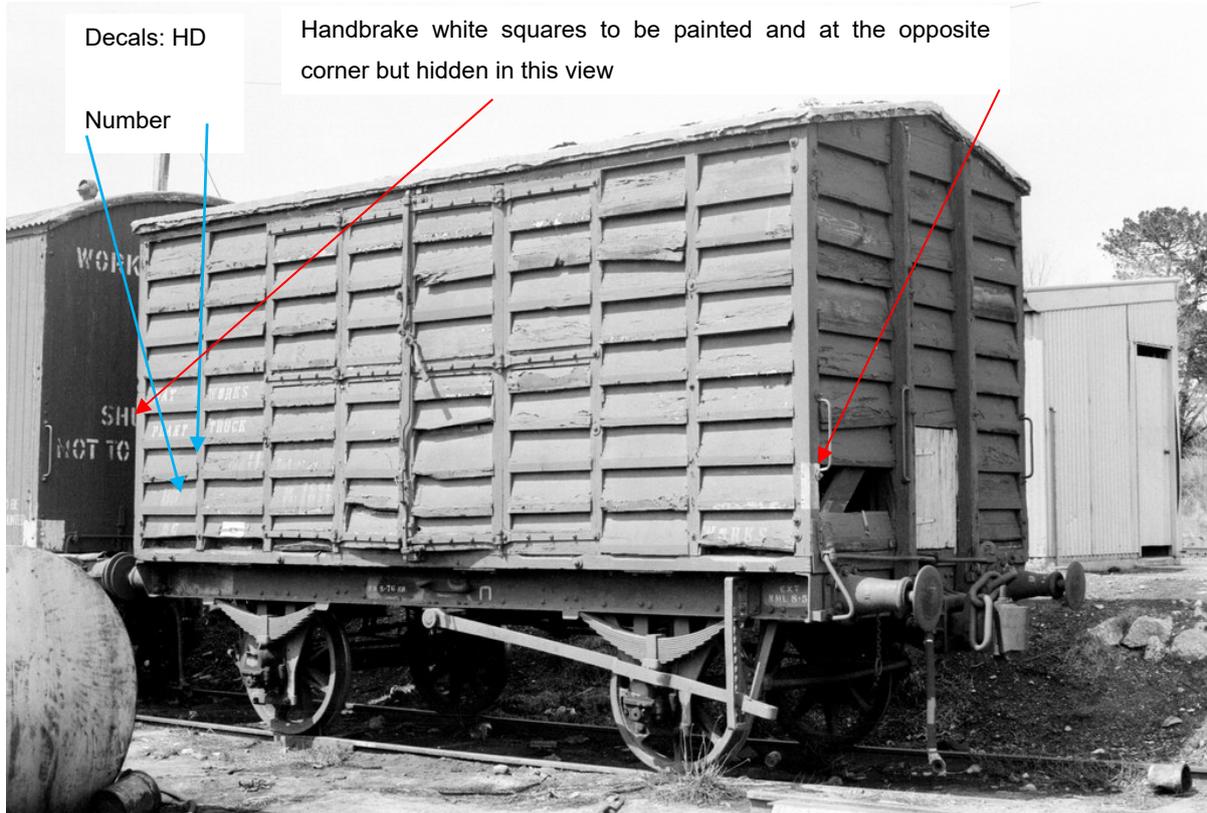
Equipment & Materials: Sandpaper 150 -200 grit, Graphite powder, Selley's 'Kwik Grip' water-based or Superglue, paints etc.

The underframe: The underframe is 3D printed and is the correct one for this wagon using the latest techniques available at the time of the release of the kit. As this is a new field we are exploring please take the time, patience and care when handling it as it is not as flexible as an injected moulded underframes that we are all use to. It is essential that Graphite powder is twizzled into the axle box to lubricate the wheelsets and should be part of a semi-regular maintenance routine so that it provides many years of service.

Wagon assembly and painting procedure:

1. Trim any excess flash from the casting and gently sand the base flat at the corners by sanding the base on a flat surface with some sandpaper in a circular motion. Very minimal is need to be removed as we just want the edges flat to accept the underframe. Do a few trial fits and stop sanding when happy
2. Wash the casting in warm soapy water and dry, **otherwise, the paint won't adhere**, to remove any residual mould release used in the casting process
3. Insert old Microtrains Pizza cutter flange wheels into the underframe as they will protect (the axle box inner faces) whilst you paint underframe and casting using Steam Era wagon red or equivalent
4. If desired use a Spirit Design Versatile Micro Brush or similar paint the faces of KITS wheels Steam Era wagon red or rail brown

5. Decal as per prototype photos and paint white hand brake squares as per arrows in the photo
6. Using a VMB (versatile micro brush or smaller) brush or smaller dip the end into the Graphite powder and coat the inside of the axle box liberally. Important **DON'T** substitute any other lubrication as trial and error has shown this to be the best method thus far for the supplied Fox Valley Models wheels for this kit. If using 36" MicroTrains wheels these will also give excellent rolling characteristics. 33" MT wheels are smaller and you will have to adjust the coupler height spacing
7. Carefully insert the wheels into the underframe so that the axle point being pushed home last has its point matching the slight recess created for it in one side of the underframe 'W' iron as the 3D FXD material is not as forgiving as Delrin plastics
8. Glue the underframe centrally to the casting all round
9. Weather accordingly and fit 1015 MicroTrains couplers in the recess of the underframe either by gluing or screwed to the casting



Both photos courtesy of Rob O'Regan



More information and photos see: 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 92 510 718 068