

## 1041 – Victorian Railways steel T van

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



T439 North Geelong - photo courtesy of Geoff Winkler

**Basic history notes:** These were the 3<sup>rd</sup> type of T van (semi refrigerated) produced by the Victorian Railways when construction commenced in 1954 and would eventually total 50 in number. The use of steel was to eliminate the problems associated with wooden vans but they had a very short service life compared to the previous T vans in that they were decommissioned in the early 1980s along with most of the other 4-wheel fleet of wagons on the VR.

Construction of the bodies was from steel pressings to which a 16 gauge steel sheet was attached. Insulation was 'Onazote' which was an expanded ebonite sheeting similar to expanded polystyrene. Initially, they were painted aluminium with wagon red underframes until changed to wagon red in the 1960s as it was found the aluminium tended to fade quickly and didn't offer any better properties over the standard wagon red colour. These were some of the first Victorian Railways wagons to be put into service with no buffers.

**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 steel 'T' 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.

### **Wagon assembly:**

1. Trim any excess flash from the casting
2. Test fit the underframe into the casting and remove any material deemed necessary to achieve a close fit
3. Wash the casting in warm soapy water and dry, **otherwise paint won't adhere**, to remove any residual mould release used in the casting process
4. Remove the wheels and couplers now in readiness for painting
5. Glue weights of your choice using Selley's water-based Kwik Grip to the underframe floor. The suggested wagon weight is 8-9 grams **when fully assembled**
6. Glue the casting centrally to the underframe using either Superglue or Water-based Kwik Grip
7. Using prototype photos add handrails and water drain pipes if modelling them
8. As the kit is using a RTR Aust-N-Rail U van underframe I will leave it up to the builder whether to trim the brake wheels off and replace them with a lever brake fashioned from styrene

### Painting:

9. Using a Spirit Design Versatile Micro Brush or similar paint the faces of wheels Steam Era wagon red
10. Mask the axle box holes and paint the entire wagon Steam Era wagon red or equivalent

### Final assembly:

11. Using a grey Copic marking pen or grey stain, stain the wooden walkway boards
12. Glue the double walkway boards to the supports on either side of the 3 roof hatches
13. Decal as per prototype photos above and below noting that the white handbrake squares are on the lever handbrake side, re-attach the 1015 MicroTrains couplers and weather accordingly



Steel and wooden T vans courtesy of Mel Skinner



T451 Courtesy of Rob O'Regan

For more information and photos see: [www.spiritdesign.com.au](http://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](mailto:chrispearce@spiritdesign.com.au)  
Spirit Design ABN 92 510 718 068  
[www.spiritdesign.com.au](http://www.spiritdesign.com.au)