

## 1033: PTC – V/Line VQLX skeletonized container wagon.

*(3 versions available: each sold separately) Requires bogies and couplers to complete.*

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



Peter J. Vincent Collection  
VQLX 28-A, seen here at Shepparton. Courtesy Peter Vincent Collection.

**Basic history notes:** Between late 1980's and early 1990's the Victorian Railways - (V/line) commenced a program to expand their container wagons as quickly as possible. The easiest solution was to cut the decks and any above structure off 134 wagons on the following classes VFLX, VFLY, VFNX, VF PX, VQEX, VQEY, VFTX, VFTF and VFMX. The skeletalization produced some interesting arrangements in the deck openings. There were 3 main pattern types with some being more common than others. After removal of the decks, container anchors were added for three 20ft containers. The wagons be seen on various trains both locally and interstate. Current colour schemes include VR - V/line red and FA/FV green. I have not come across any in PacNat Blue as yet.

**Equipment & Materials:** Exacto knife (blade no 16 or similar), 800-grit aluminium oxide sandpaper, small flat needle file. Also and 'Hold and Fold' is Ideal for bending the etch or a vice with 2 stainless steel rules will help. Fast drying wood glue like 'Selleys Exterior PVA', 'Selleys Kwik Grip' water based, a soldering iron or super glue are required for completion (all recommended: usual disclaimers).

**Soldering notes:** *when removing any item from the etch with an Exatco knife please take care. Cutting should be done on a self-healing mat using a few score marks rather than the cut once method. Make sure that the brass is clean before soldering by using a brass cleaner like Tarnoff, very fine wet and dry sandpaper or using a fine wire brush in a Dremel to lightly polish the surface front and rear whilst taking care not to damage the etch itself. Depending on your skills some soldering is required but you could use superglue. Really its up to you the modeller to decide your skill level. It is assumed if you use solder you will also be fluxing the joints with Carr's Red label flux or equivalent.*

**Special Note:** *Do not use the two shunter steps in the main etch, as they are incorrect! Please use the correct ones supplied on a separate etch when assembling your model.*

**Assembly Instructions:** These cover all 3 versions of the VQLX derivatives that I make. Please use the pictures and diagrams to aid construction of the unit you bought.

There are a few steps that require close attention and they are highlighted in ***bold and italics!*** Parts referred to in the text are marked (P1), (P2) etc. ***Refer to the photos, which illustrate well the correct positioning of all parts.***

This kit can be assembled with super glue or by soldering the brass components. The wooden underframe is best glued with 'Selleys Exterior PVA' wood working glue and the assembled frame is glued to the brass decking using 'Selleys Kwik Grip'.

### The Etch:

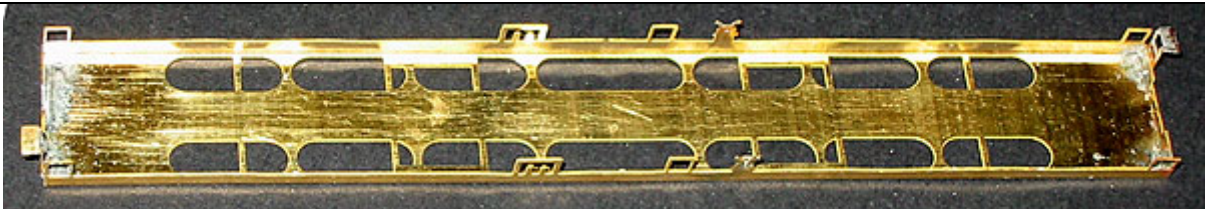
1. Cut the main deck etch free (P1) from the surrounding brass sheet.
2. Using a 'Hold and Fold' or pliers gently bend a side up so that the fold line is on the inside of the unit. I.E The square holes in the decking are the container support lug area and should face upwards on the completed model. All fold lines remain under the wagon when assembled.
3. Repeat the same for the other side. Make sure that you don't damage the side stirrup steps of the grade control cage and the two valve representations enclosed in the cage.
4. Bend an end up at 90 degrees.
5. Repeat for the other end.
6. Attach the two cross arm brake handles (P2) to the brake holding backing plates. A small hole is provided if you would like to use wire back to the main underbelly. **Wire to be added after the underframe is installed.**
7. Run a fillet of solder or glue around the inside of the folded sides.
8. Free a shunter step (P3) from the etch but make sure that you cut only the top part of the etch to free the step. There is a little 1mm tab then another etched fold in the top of the shunter step. This is inserted into the holes provided at the end of the wagon and either glued or soldered into place. Before this is done fold the step 90 degrees so that the step rises towards the fold line and soldered. Solder or glue the step to the wagon end in the holes provided.
9. Repeat the process for the other shunter step.

### The Underframe Type 1: **Test fit all parts before applying glue.**

1. Using 'Selleys' Exterior PVA' wood working glue or equivalent glue (P6) glue into one of the four (central) slots along the underframe but not into the slots that are closest to the edge of the centre sill on the sloping edge. Repeat for the other (P6) parts
2. Glue the completed assembly into the other half of the underframe belly (P4).
3. Glue (P7) into the slots on the sloping sections of the centre sill.
4. Glue the assembly centrally on top of centre sill (P5) making sure the ribs of (P6&7) are over the ribs of (P5).

### The Underframe Types 2 & 3: **Test fit all parts before applying glue.**

1. Glue parts (P4) centre sill parts together forming the main underframe belly. Make sure the slots cut for the ribs are lined up and if need be rotate one half 180 degrees.
2. Glue (P4) combined assembly into the centre line hole provided in (P5) the underframe or on top if the unit is the same as the third wagon in the diagram on page 4 below.
3. (P6) glue the four of into the four slots along the assembled underframe but not into the slots that are closest to the edge of the centre sill on the sloping edge.
4. Glue (P7) into the slots on the sloping sections of the centre sill.



Completed decking of Type 2 - Underside view



Completed decking Type 2- Top view



Underframe glued to brass etch. Type 2

### Combining the underframe and the centre sill.

**Note: The only glue that is suitable for this operation is the 'Selleys Kwik Grip' or similar in that it allows wood and metal to be joined. Some superglues can be used but not all as any flexing causes the shiny surface of the metal to part away from the wood.**

1. Trial fit the assembled underframe to the underside of the decking making sure that Parts **(P6 & P7)** are inline with the decking ribs and not showing through when viewed from the top. If necessary rotate the assembly 180 degrees to get the best fit and when happy glue the unit in place.

**Bogies and couplers:** Use any Micro-Trains or other brand of roller bearing bogies, as these are similar to the Victorian Railways bogies - V/line XC/XSC bogies.

Couplers are best body mounted and the bogies kept separate. You can trim the couplers from a bogie and adhere them to the deck using 'Selleys Kwik Grip'.

**Painting general:** The completed kit should be *lightly coated* with an etch primer and then given a coat of Steam Era wagon red or equivalent colour from other makers. Steps, shunter steps, grade control valves and cross arm wheel brake are painted white. Freight Australia green should be substituted for the red when either using it as FA/FV.



Painted green and with white numerals during the Freight Victoria era. Photo courtesy Peter Vincent



Painted green and with yellow numerals during the Freight Australia era. Photo courtesy Peter Vincent

**Decals:** A small range of white decals is provided for the VR - V/line era and the Freight Victoria numberings, which also ran under Freight Australia until newer yellow markings were applied. Gently cut a decal from the sheet and soak it lukewarm water for about 5 seconds and remove from the water and set aside. After 20 seconds test to see if the decal will slide off the backing paper. If it doesn't slide off re dip into the water for a few extra seconds. Position the decal as per photos above.

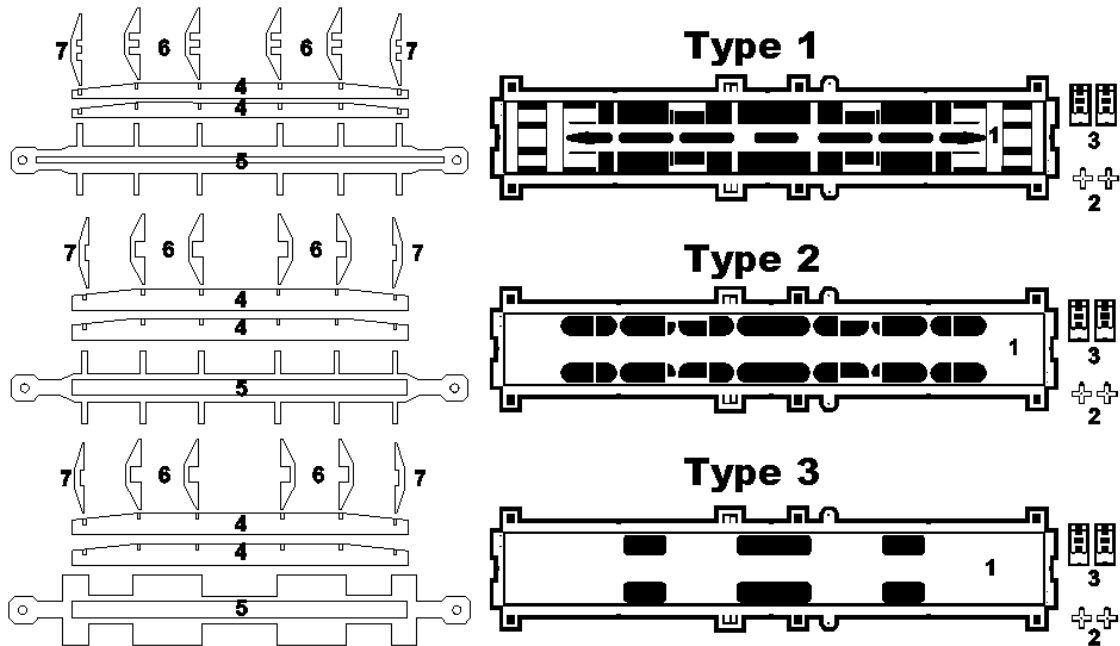
**Weathering:** Use pastels or paint to weather the wagon to your taste. Use the photos as a reference.



Completed Type 1 model



Completed Type 2 model



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/index.htm> .

Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me.

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