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LIBRE

THE MAGAZINE THAT CAMPAIGNS FOR

A DIFFERENT KIND OF RAILWAY MODELLING

INTERNATIONAL

Editorial #85

VOIE LIBRE GETS A FACE-LIFT



Voie Libre turns 20! For two decades, we have been promoting a different approach to railway modelling, another way of building layouts, an offbeat look at things! From the outset, Voie Libre campaigned for a shackle-free kind of modelling. Voie Libre fights for creative modelling!

To better emphasize our dynamics and originality, we have given our graphic design a facelift, and spruced up the editorial line. More than ever, we take responsibility

and claim our active commitment to "practicing railway modeling differently". And as we are in the field of activism, Voie Libre, with full support from the LR Presse group, has boldly stepped into the production of rolling stock. The P'Tits Kits Voie Libre are born! New and original models, produced using the latest technologies, which, we hope, will meet your expectations. The first release is a sugar beet consist.

Enjoy your reading and happy modelling.

François Fontana



THE P'TITS KITS VOIE LIBRE

3D printing, CAD design and drawing, laser-cutting... when all kinds of contemporary technologies step into the railway modelling world, the result is: the P'tits Kits Voie Libre.

Text and photos: François Fontana, Eric Fresné

THE MODELS AT A GLANCE

Scale: H09 / 009 compatible with available motive power
Inspiration: wood or metal Aubineau open wagon and Decauville van.
Period: 1890s to nowadays.
Weight: ca. 6g
Price: €139,90 per set containing three open wagons and one van
Available from
the LR Modélisme shop:
<http://www.lrmodelisme.com/>



H0 scale narrow gauge enthusiasts are not really short of motive power these days! Ever-more interesting new releases keep popping up. So many that we'll soon be unable to buy them all... who could have guessed? On the other hand, we are not quite so lucky when it comes to carriages and wagons to make up realistic consists.

QUITE A TEAM

However, Voie Libre is here! Under the aegis of the magazine, several creators got together, pooled their talent, shared their research, combined their experiences. This is how prototypes were born, using highly up-to-date techniques: two- and three-dimensional CAD drawing, laser-cutting, 3D printing...

COMPLETE SETS

Times are a'changin', and so are modellers! We are all alike, in a hurry to enjoy our many hobbies. Building a wagon from scratch is a great project, but it's time-consuming and requires calling on many suppliers. The Voie Libre team has therefore designed its P'tits Kits Voie Libre sets to be complete: the wagon bodies, axles and wheels, couplings, markings and loads are all included in the box. A box that is also used to store the wagons once the operating session is over.

SIMPLICITY AND EFFICIENCY

The P'tits Kits Voie Libre are simple, designed to be assembled in just a few minutes. What is left to the modeler is decorating each wagon. Even though, in the case of this first set, it can be enough to simply



IT'S ALL IN THE BOX.

The set contains what's required to build three open wagons and a van: the bodies, of course, the axles, the couplings, the van roof, the decals and also the loads. As this first set is called "The sugar beet consist",

it also includes three shaped polyurethane foam blocks as well as a pouch of beet roots to be glued on top. Naturally, the floorboards of the open wagons are reproduced, for modellers wishing to leave them empty.

spray one colour over each wagon using a can. A sheet of decals is there to number each wagon and give it a commercial identification.

The 3D printed parts are supplied cleaned. The axles and couplings are from the Peco range. Simply insert the axles into their housings. The Nylon axles turn wonderfully in the cone-shaped bearings. The roof of the van is a rectangle of sandpaper glued in place with standard adhesive from a tube. The weight of the open wagon is similar to that of equivalent commercial productions. Running qualities are perfect. —

JUST LIKE THE PROTOTYPES

As soon as the sugar-beet industry became interested in 60cm gauge railways, the general appearance of the typical beet wagon was quick to appear. It's a high-sided open wagon, able to carry 5 to 8 tons of beetroot. It was often found in homogeneous consists of 10 to 20 wagons, accompanied by a closed van. The latter was used by seasonal workers to travel from the sugar mill and its dormitories to the loading sites.



© J.H. Renaud

Near Maizy sugar mill in the 1960s.



The small closed van has a door only on one side! It was given a coat of medium grey primer, the metalwork was outlined with a black wash. The roof, a rectangle of fine grain sandpaper, is lightly weathered with pastels.



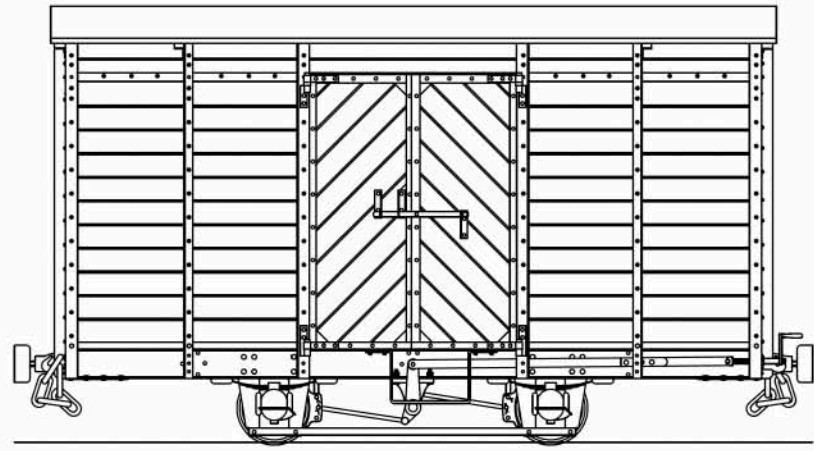
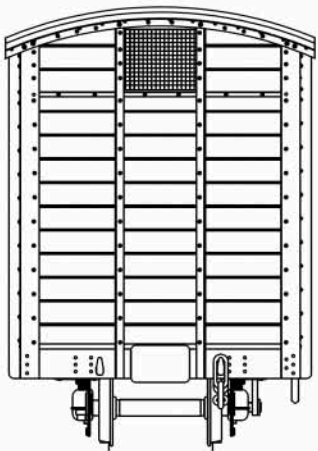
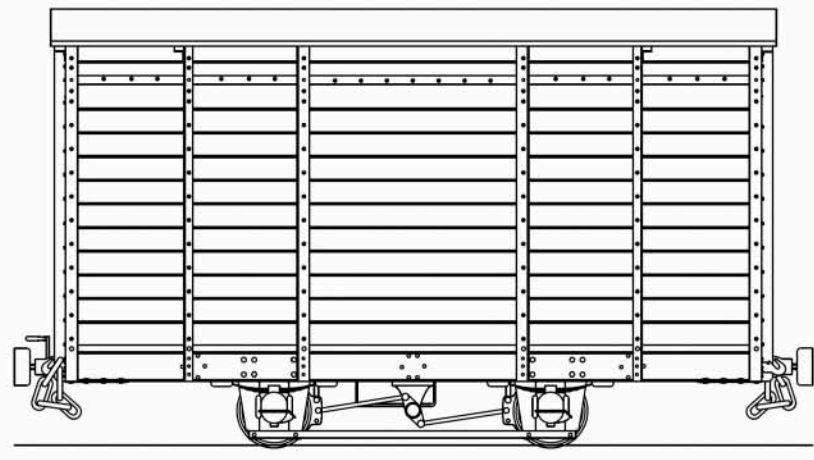
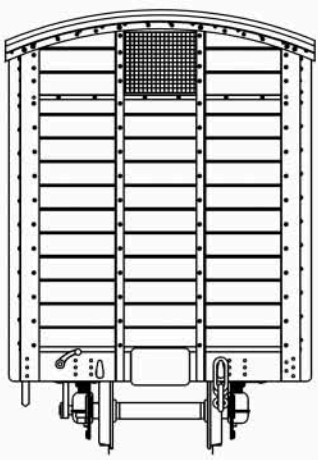
The metal open wagon is completely painted grey. The chassis is then painted in matt black. A wash of muddy brown weathering give sit the appearance of a new wagon in service.



The wooden open wagon has been given a coat of black primer. The planks are stained with a wash of brown acrylic paint.

Van for sugar beet trains built for the SDS company by Decauville

Drawing Eric Fresné, scale 1/43.5



Weidknecht "Intrepid" 4-6-0 T locomotive

Based on a builder's drawing, scale 1/43.5

