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Corrugated sheet metal is used for the locomotive body walls, due to weight and strength considerations. The lightweight construction of both the body and the bogies is one of the main characteristics of the mechanical part. Another feature is a further developed version of the shifting axle drive, which provides both transverse decoupling and radial adjustment of the axles. This concept is identical to that used for locomotives delivered to privately-owned railways in 1987.

Excellent track following characteristics and thus minimal stressing and wear of track and wheel sets are obtained by:

- lightweight wheelsets having low unsprung mass, i.e. monoblock wheels with bonded shrink-fit and hollow-forged axle
- flexicoil spring axle-box links
- wheelsets transversely decoupled with respect to the bogie and traction motors
- links between traction motor and the center girder of the bogie, trapezoidally arranged, provide radial adjustment of the wheelsets even when tractive effort is being exerted.

Transfer of tractive and braking forces between bogie and locomotive body is via a pair of traction rods, mounted almost horizontally.

BBC (Brown, Boveri and Company Limited, Baden, Switzerland) three-phase drive equipment incorporating asynchronous motors has been chosen. Up-to-date power semi-conductors (gate turn-off thyristors), as well as the use of microprocessor technology for control and automation systems, are further features of this new SBB (Swiss Federal Railways) locomotive.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

From: P. Howard

Verlag Eisenbahn announce the publication of four new titles for this year. All are by Claud Jeanmaire with German Text. Large format with hard covers.

75 Jahre Lötschbergbahn.

Covers the BLS main line from Spiez to Brig. Maps, Plans and photos of construction and operation. 400 pages. 900 photos.

Lötschberg im Bau

Covers the construction of the BLS and the addition of the second track to the main line. Approximately 256 pages. 400 illustrations.

Die Strecken der BLS. Betriebsgemeinschaft.

This deals with all the subsidiary sections of the BLS group. Approximately 300 pages. 600 photos, maps and plans.

Das Rollmaterial der Berner Alpenbahn Gesellschaft.

Comprehensive stock list of both main line and subsidiary lines. An updated version of Archive 12. 300 pages. 600 illustrations, plans, photos and maps.