

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 3 (1991-1993)
Heft: 7

Artikel: Swiss signals. Part XI, Signalling on the RhB and FO
Autor: Jesson, John
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-855212>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.03.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Signalling on the RhB and FO

by John Jesson

Continued from page 32 June 1992 Swiss Express

It was not my original intention to cover the signalling of the Rhatische Bahn and the Furka-Oberalp. However David Yule has provided information on the signalling of these two popular railways, which has much in common with SBB signalling.

Most of the signals and their meanings are similar to those in use by "big brother", although there are a few detail differences. To add to the value of the information, it is also applicable to the MOB

Hauptsignal

(Refer to Swiss Express Vol.2 No.9, March 1990 and corrections in Vol.2 No.10, June 1990)

2-, 3- and 4-light Hauptsignals are in use, but not the 5-light.

The 2-light signals can display either a red light (the lower of the two), meaning stop, or a green light (upper), meaning proceed at up to maximum line speed. (Fahrbe-griff 1)

The 3-light signals can display a red light (the centre of the three), a green light (upper), with the same meaning as the 2-light signal, or both green and yellow lights (upper and lower) meaning proceed at reduced speed of maximum 25 km/h (Fahrbe-griff 2).* The lights of the 4-light signal are, reading from top to bottom, green, red, yellow, green. Stop and proceed aspects are as for the 2- and 3-light signals, the upper green light being used for the proceed aspect. Also green-over-yellow again indicated Fahrbe-griff 2, as for the 3-light signal. Both green lights mean proceed at reduced speed of maximum 45 km/h (Fahrbe-griff 3)*

* Note the difference of maximum permitted speed compared with SBB signalling.

Vorsignal

(Refer to Swiss Express Vol.2 No.9, March 1990 and corrections in Vol.2 No.10, June 1990)

The Vorsignal is the same as that used on the SBB, and the indications it displays in

relation to the various Hauptsignal displays are also the same as in use on the SBB.

Because of the sharp radii used on the metre gauge, it is sometimes necessary for a second Vorsignal to be positioned between the Vorsignal and the Hauptsignal to which it applies. The second Vorsignal is not at the full braking distance from the Hauptsignal.

Hauptsignal and Vorsignal on the same post

(Refer to Swiss Express Vol.2 No.10 June 1990)

The same explanations apply as for the SBB

Point signals

(Refer to Swiss Express Vol.3 No.4, December 1991)

Point indicators are similar to those in use on the SBB, including the use of a circular orange marker to denote a dead end siding.

The indication for pointwork in dual-gauge track differs slightly, the indicator board being a black-bordered white square bearing either the letter **S** or **N** and the word Halt, indicating that either **S**chmalspur (narrow gauge) or **N**ormalspur (standard gauge) trains must stop.

Train stop board

(Refer to Swiss Express Vol.3 No.1 March 1991)

Unlike the SBB, which indicates different stopping positions at stations for trains of differing lengths, the RhB uses a simple black H on a coned white board, edged black.

Transit signal

(Refer to *Swiss Express Vol.3 No.1, March 1991*)

On the RhB, an unstaffed station is indicated by a white T on a black board, on the station building.

Distance posts

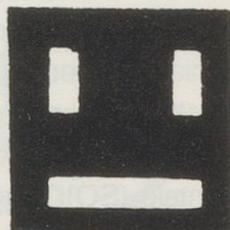
(Refer to *Swiss Express, Vol.3 No.2 June 1991*)

The Kilometer board is the same as that used on the SBB, but the Hektometer board differs in that the distance is shown in horizontal form (eg. 25,4) rather than the SBB style of Km above and Hm below.

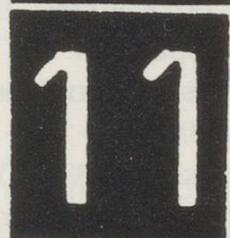
Electrified zone signals

(Refer to *Swiss Express Vol.3 No.6, June 1992*)

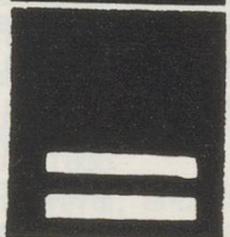
No traction current.
Yellow on black board.



11,000 volts ac.
Red on black board.



1000-3,000 volts dc
White on black board.



Several signals and indicators have exactly the same meaning as that applicable to the SBB. These are listed below, under the issue of Swiss Express in which they were described.

Vol.2 No.11, September 1990

Fixed distant (Merkzeichen)
H and S plates.

Vol.2 No.12, December 1990

Miniature (dwarf) signals

Vol. 3 No.1 March 1991

Automatic level crossing signal
(Flashing light only)
Compulsory stop signal
Indicators of train protection equipment
Rack rail signs
Request Stop Signal (Older type only)
Snow clearing indicator
Whistle board

Vol.3 No.2 June 1991

Departure signal
Gradient posts
Telephone indicator
Warning board

Vol.3 No.3 September 1991

Alteration of permitted speed
Speed boards (Single speed only shown)
Temporary speed restriction signals
Weighbridge speed restriction

Vol.3 No.6 June 1992

Overhead wire signals

The next instalment will be the final one, and will attempt to show how the signals are positioned.

New Badges

The SBB have this year issued a set of 5 enamelled badges, representing various notable SBB motive power units against a geometric background. Locomotives featured are C5/6, *Krok*, Ae6/6, Re4/4 460 and *Red Arrow* railcar. They are on sale at the SBB Bureaux de Change at SFr.20 the set - they are

not available separately. They can also be ordered direct from 30-4950-1, SBB Secretariat, 3030 Bern, Switzerland. Payment should be in SFr. and your name and address should be included.

We would stress that the colours are rather bright, indeed strident.