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Roco's HO Swiss specials

There is a current trend amongst model manufacturers (bus and train) to produce limited runs of items. This presumably boosts sales and adds rarity value to certain items. Often the only difference between one batch and the next is a running number, but livery changes and detail or design differences may also feature.

Roco is probably the most prolific manufacturer of Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) rolling stock, although Lima, Hag and others are also significant contributors. For this survey only the HO scale products of Roco built for DC(gleichstrom) operation are considered. I have to admit to being a collector of model railway rolling stock rather than an operator of a model railway layout - but hopefully, in time, this situation will be reversed! Visits to Swiss model railway shops, reading the Swiss model railway press and acquiring Roco catalogues of various sorts has revealed that an extensive range of models are, or have been, available as limited edition or "special" models. In recent years Roco has produced Swiss (and Austrian) supplements to the main catalogue which lists some of these items. However, many

other items are produced which do not reach these lists. I have tried to build up a list (and a collection) of these Swiss special items. By featuring this in Swiss Express other modellers may find the information of value and hopefully may be able to contribute further details from their own experience.

Before listing items it is worth noting that Roco invariably changes the running number of any item of rolling stock or locomotive when a new batch is produced. Catalogues will normally quote the locomotive numbers but for wagons and coaches this is not so obvious. e.g. The "Schweizer Zucker" silo wagon (46393) has recently been re-released with a new running number. The Eurocity coaches (46770/46771) have each been produced with at least three or four different running numbers.

A list of known locomotive issues is shown below. (Passenger and freight rolling stock may follow).

LOCOMOTIVES

43493. 1 Re 4/4 IV 10101 The last livery carried



Opposite page: Roco Re4/4^{IV} 10101. Photos P. Marriott
Above: Roco Re460 in Tilsiter livery.

by these former "Bahn 2000" liveried locos prior to sale to the SOB.

43493.2 10102

43493.3 10103

43493.4 10104 New pantograph

43542 Re 4/4 IV 446.448 Südostbahn livery

43535.2 Ae 6/6 green livery with Seetal stripes 11427

43696 SEE Ae 6/6 green livery with Seetal stripes (newer model)

43575.2 Em 4/4 Red diesel loco (ex SNCF) PW duties

43621.3 Em 3/3 (Ex DB Br 260) Etra 260.749-7 (used on BLS PW duties)

43644.1 (Ex DB Br 211) Vonoli "Immensee" PW loco-yellow

43682 Ex Dr Br 143 143922-3 As on loan to SOB

43655.2 Re 460 460007 "Junior" - faced decals as carried for naming

43655.3 Re 460 460029 "Eulach" Dummy (no motor)

43655.5 Re 460 460099 "100 Lok" One hundredth built - special logo

43656.1 Re 465.001 BLS "Simplon" dummy (no motor) (pre-SLM 125 Jahre)

43656.9 Re 465 BLS 465007 "Schilthorn"

43710/206 BLS Ae 6/8 206 (208 in the main catalogue release)

For completeness the advertising graphic liveried 460s are listed

43652 460015 AGFA In 1995£96 Catalogue

43750 460018 Danzas

43751 460019 Miele

43752 460020 Tilsiter In 1996 new release brochure

43753 460021 Milch/Lovely

43754 460021 TCS

43756 460016 Ciba - repainted blue version

Marklin / Trix

To commemorate the Swiss 150 celebrations Marklin/Trix will produce the 'Spanisch Brötli Bahn locomotive and train in HO scale.

The model will be produced as an AC version under the Marklin name, and as a DC version under the Trix name.

Both will be limited-run, available once only. Get your orders in now.

John Jesson