

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2011)
Heft: 107

Artikel: Josef Meyer revolutionise the wagon bogie : Ron Smith reports on major new development
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854709>

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JOSEF MEYER REVOLUTIONISE THE WAGON BOGIE


Ron Smith reports on a major new development

The mass-produced, reliable and proven successful Y25 standard freight wagon bogie was introduced 50 years ago. Now Josef Meyer Transport Technology AG of Rheinfelden has introduced a natural successor, the LEILA bogie (Leichtes und Lärmarmes Güterwagendrehgestell - light and low noise freight car bogie) that incorporates many clever features. Depending on type it is 10% to 25% lighter than existing bogies; has disc brakes; on-board hot box detector; whilst an "X" shaped connection between axles enables it to self-steer, greatly reducing wear on the wheels, bogies, and track. It can run at up to 160 kph and still brake to a halt in conventional braking distances. By steering (tracking round curves) it eliminates wheel flange/rail squeal; and by reducing wheel/rail friction it also reduces the power needed to move the wagon. It can also be substituted for the Y25 type on old wagons. Another effect of the LEILA is its low life-cycle cost due to reduced wear. However there is one downside - it costs more than an Y25! With the fragmenting of the rail system, saving rail wear and reducing noise will not specifically benefit the wagon owner, who will compare first cost with the Y25 alternative. Changes to track access charges could allow such factors to be taken into account, with LEILA equipped wagons attracting lower charges. Implementing this will be difficult in the short term due to differences in track usage charging between EU countries. Josef Meyer manufacture and repair wagons, and LEILA is a natural evolution allowing them to compete with low-cost Y25 manufacturers in the East. The Y25 has had its day and the high-tech LEILA is long overdue.  PHOTOS: Josef Meyer



Ivan Rodrigues of the Switzerland Travel Centre writes:

It was great for me personally to meet many SRS members, and experience your level of support, at the Harrods event in April. Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm. STC are pleased to see members taking advantage of our latest special offers, including the 5% discount which we announced in the June edition and we now have some more exciting offers. Firstly STC has an exclusive offer "All you can eat" lunch buffet at Restaurant Taverne in Mürren for CHF10/person. To qualify you must show a valid Schilthorn ticket along with our voucher enclosed with every STS pass purchased through our office. We also have another special promotion on the "3 day Swiss Flexi Pass" offering up to 30%

discount on the normal price and don't forget our 2-for-1 regional passes offer which is available. Travel periods on all these products are restricted so please call Diana and the rail team on **020 7420 4908** for more details. With plenty of options to travel to Switzerland, we would be delighted to assist you with your next trip. 

MODELLING COURSE

On Friday 7th October On-Tracks and German scenic modelling suppliers Noch are running a one day training course at a hotel near Birmingham Airport. The cost will be £99 for a full day of hands-on instruction, refreshments and a pack of useful Noch products. More details on www.noch.co.uk 

SwissTip Some good ideas and information about Switzerland from travellers.

Dislike crowds? Remember that the Swiss start work early and also often finish earlier than in the UK so try to avoid local public transport between 06.00 & 08.00 and then 16.00 to 18.00. Some schools start at 07.00 and finish at 12.00 so children often invade buses, trams and trains then. In cities many offices keep to a fixed lunch hour from 12.00 to 13.00 so eat later.