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Peter Marriot looks at how to capture the look of a BLS station

The obvious answer is to run BLS rolling stock but creating a BLS scene goes further than that. There are many detailing products available to make a good representation of BLS stations and locations. As with all these questions it is a matter of knowing "who makes what". Here are just some suggestions for HO scale:

● The BLS changed its corporate livery a few years ago and today the colours that predominate are silver, bright green and dark blue. Their posters, timetables, station nameboards and other station paraphernalia all contain elements of these colours. Posters and general station posters can be made-to-measure by taking digital pictures of the posters you want to produce, then reducing them to scale on screen and printing them in colour.

● Another method is to collect various leaflets and pocket timetables from the BLS and cut these up to the size you need. I picked up one BLS leaflet that contained a selection of miniature station posters that were ideal for cutting out (use a sharp craft knife, steel ruler and cutting board) and sticking (glue stick) onto a piece of thin mounting card for posters at stations. See the accompanying pictures for the results.

● The modern grey block paved platform surface seen on some of the refurbished BLS stations can be modelled by using plastic sections from Brawa along with the upright concrete platform walling sections.

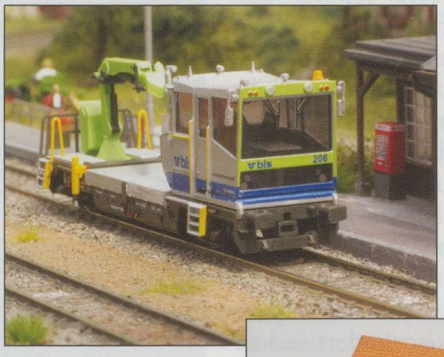
● Modern Swisscom telephone boxes are still a common sight at BLS stations. German company Brawa produces a model of the box, which is illuminated and nicely modelled with clear plastic windows and interior detail. In the UK it's available from Brawa dealers (**www.brawa.de**).

● Rietze produce a number of station accessories such as bus stops, Selecta vending machines and Automat ticket machines (the ticket machine would need to be painted in BLS silver and green to fully represent the BLS version). Rietze also make a large range of model coaches and buses (**www.rietze.de**). Their range includes a number of Swiss Post Buses that are seen at some BLS stations such as Spiez, Interlaken and Kandersteg, plus BLS buses that are recent introductions to the range. These models are available from Winco.

● Microscale of Switzerland (**www.microscale.ch**) makes a good range of detailing accessories including advertising boards, illuminated station signs and 'Do Not Cross The Line' notices. In addition they produce signals and other accessories.

● Ticket validation machines, Selecta vending machines, PTT post boxes, waste bins, BLS tunnel portals and more accessories are available from Modellbau Atielier (**www.mbapriro.ch**).

● Prototypical catenary for the BLS network is available from Sommerfeldt (**www.sommerfeldt.de**) and Barin Modell (**www.barin modell.com**).



Kibri produced a non-working model of a Robel track maintenance vehicle in HO scale, which is a good way to display BLS colours in a siding!

Scratchbuilt timber shed based on Boltigen featuring posters made from BLS leaflets.