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Railway Modellers ...and a KISS!



Liliput 511 unit on a diorama built with catenary to display such models. The pantographs on the units can collect current and the carriages are close coupled. Each driving carriage has two pole motors fitted over the bogies. Stock number L133920. The add-on pack of two extra centre coaches is L133921.

All photos: Peter Marriott

Peter Marriott introduces new products specifically for modellers of the Swiss scene

Liliput HO-scale SBB CLASS 511

KISS is a double-deck electric multiple unit manufactured by the Swiss company Stadler Rail. Just where does the term KISS come from? It stands for 'komfortabler innovativer spurtstarker S-Bahn-Zug' which when translated roughly means 'comfortable, innovative, sprint capable, suburban train'. Stadler manufactured the KISS units after its success with the single deck Flirt units of which over 190 units have already been sold. The KISS units were known as DOSTO in their development stage representing "double decker rolling stock".

The HO-scale KISS EMU models feature Liliput's first double-deck carriages. Along with the Liliput Flirt EMUs they are another useful model for the modern Swiss railway scene. The SBB, and Austrian Westbahn, KISS units are sold as four car sets plus add on packs of two additional centre carriages. The units feature on/off LED interior lighting and changing LED lights on the cab fronts. The models come with a 12 page instruction leaflet in English including advice as to where to install a loudspeaker and decoder and third rail operation for the AC version. A spare parts leaflet is also supplied. The model comes nicely detailed and the lettering and livery is superbly applied.

Whilst the SBB and Austrian Westbahn versions are available in the UK from Liliput dealers, the BLS "Mutz" models are Swiss special models that are usually only available through Liliput retailers in Switzerland. Liliput has been owned by Bachmann Europe since 1992 and there are a number of Liliput retailers in the UK of which a list can be found at www.bachmann.co.uk.

There is a wealth of information about Stadler's railway vehicles at www.stadlerail.com.

For pictures of the real SBB Class 511 trains go to: www.railfaneurope.net/pix/ch/SBB_CFF_FFS/electric/emu/RABe511/pix.html



1. On the top of the cab the light and destination display are very well reproduced. Interior lights are fitted in the carriages.
2. The Zurich public transport logos are displayed on the doors.
3. There is one pantograph on each of the two driving carriages.
4. All of the details are very well produced.



Swiss station personnel by Noch.

Noch latest HO-scale figures

Noch is well known for producing a large range of figures for modellers in all of the popular scales but these two packs are a little different. One is a set of railway modellers and the other is of Swiss station personnel, one of whom carries an illuminated train despatch disc. There are seven railway modelling figures including two children. Four of the figures are wearing glasses and three of them are holding controllers.



Railway modellers by Noch!

Two of the figures are seated presumably doing some modelling. The layout on legs has some brightly coloured buildings and these figures show how others see us modellers! The station personnel would be a welcome addition on every model of a Swiss railway platform. Available from www.gauge-master.com and other Noch dealers the figures cost £10.25 for the seven railway modeller figures plus part of a layout, and £21 for six station personnel figures including one with an illuminated despatch disc. 

SOCIETY PAGES

AGM Update

Roger Ellis writes: 'Members are reminded that by the time they read this magazine the 2015 AGM Event at the Hallmark Hotel in Derby on 14th March will almost be upon us. In addition to the trade support mentioned in previous magazines, I am pleased to note that NScaleCH will now also be there. Alan Wardman is bringing his new Italian layout to the AGM and this will be accompanied by the Stand of the Italian Railway Society. They are welcome as many members have 'a foot in both camps'. At noon in a side room Duncan McKay will be giving an illustrated presentation that covers 15-years of observing the railways of Genève. This will be followed by a showing of some Swiss railway DVDs. Do please try and make the journey to Derby if you can, as it is always an enjoyable day and it is good to meet-up with people who may only be a name in your magazine. Better still it is not too late to join us at the Hallmark for the whole weekend. You can never see too much of your Publicity and Exhibitions Officer!'

Members Area of the Society Website.

The Username to access the "Members Area" of the Society website is 2015@swissrailsoc.org.uk, this will be valid throughout 2015. You will find the password on your 2015 Society Membership Card.

Malcolm Hardy Randall

The Society – through the Editor - would like to receive any information about Malcolm Hardy Randall, at one time the Editor of this magazine, as correspondence to his last known address in Aberdeenshire has been returned "Not Known".

SRS at Exhibitions

The SRS will be represented at the following events in the next three months: London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace – 28th/29th March; Derby Model Railway Exhibition at The Roundhouse – 9th/10th May; and Mirfield

(Yorkshire) Model Railway Show at the Parish Church – 16th May. If one of these is in your area please come along and support Roger Ellis and his team.

The Kithead Trust

Martin Fisher writes: "Members engaged in historical research may wish to know of this Trust. It grew out of concerns that records of the UK bus industry would be lost when the National Bus Company was about to be privatised. Based on two privately held archives, in 1990 it became a Charity (328257) and has gained the confidence of some notable organisations. The records include those of the Association of Public Passenger Transport Operators; the Birmingham Transport Historical Group; the Signalling Record Society; the Library formerly held by the Department for Transport (which contained material from 1800 onwards) and a lot of information relating to motor vehicles held by Local Vehicle Taxation Offices that passed to the Department when Vehicle Registration Offices took over that work. The Trust received financial assistance from National Express and Stagecoach Holdings, to ensure the correct heating and air conditioning for preserving the archives. There is more background at www.kitheadtrust.org.uk The Trust is relevant to SRS members as it holds a lot of historical publications – mainly timetables and promotional material – for many European countries, particularly Germany, Italy and France. So far as Switzerland is concerned there is material relating to post buses plus old copies of the Kursbuch going back to 1949 and other Swiss documents. It is based in Droitwich Spa and run by a small group of volunteers (at least one of whom is an SRS member). The site is manned on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 4pm. To arrange a visit, ring 01905 776681; email kitheadtrust@live.co.uk; or send a SAE to the Trust at De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, WR9 0QE, explaining what you would like to see. Documents are not released, but photocopies can be taken on payment of a contribution to costs".