

# Book reviews

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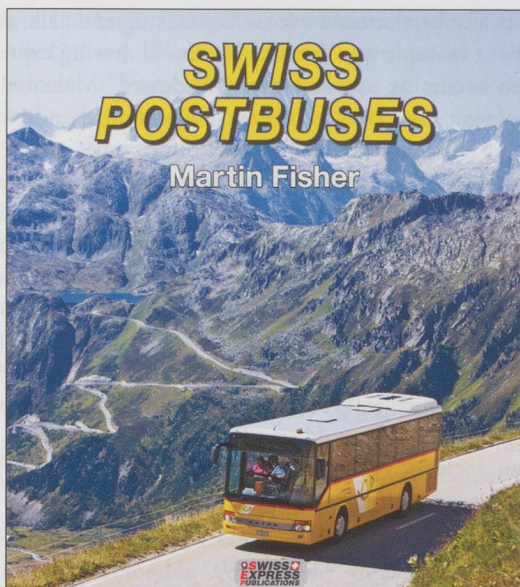
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## Swiss Postbuses

Author: Martin Fisher.


Published by: Swiss Express Publications.

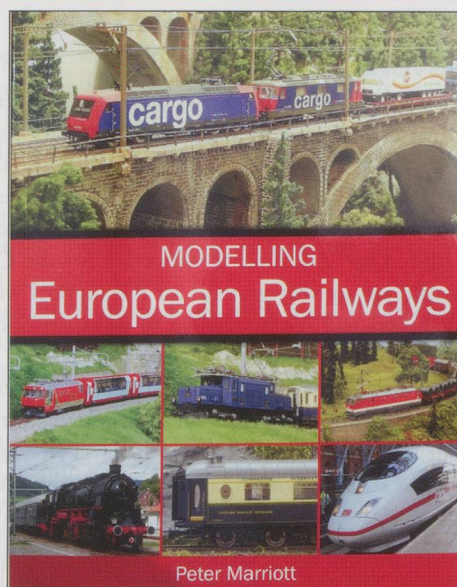
ISBN: 978-0-9926812-4-1.

Full colour, 108 pages, 210mm x 210mm.

Price £14.50 by mail order from SRS Sales.

This latest addition to the range of Swiss Express Publications provides a history and review of the Swiss Postbus system that has long been a fundamental part of the fabric of Swiss life throughout the country. The book features guidance on ticketing and journey planning, the latter being essential as regional service patterns, seasonal variations and a possible need for seat reservations, for example, are typical aspects to be researched in detail prior to travelling. The history of the organised transport of mail in Switzerland dates back to the late 17th century and the development of a network of horse-drawn passenger carrying post coaches commenced in the mid-19th century. With the first motor services being introduced in 1906, the author provides a well researched summary history through the following decades of development and restructuring that catered for the ever changing needs of the business through to the present day. Using information derived from various sources, a systematic review of the regional Postbus structure is then undertaken, the informative text being supported by sketch maps and tables, as required. Information on night buses, heritage vehicles, the modern day fleet along with Postbus routes in Liechtenstein and France, is also provided. The appendices include a schedule of Swiss bus and coach operators and a useful Bibliography. The 108 pages are packed with information including travel tips and are very well illustrated with a portfolio of quality images suitably captioned to support the script. The Postbus network covers over 7,400 route miles, deploying some 2,200 vehicles and provides travellers and tourists with a splendid means of accessing areas with pastoral landscape, delightful hamlets, Alpine Passes and dramatic scenery, which even the Swiss railways are unable to reach. This book will no doubt prove to be a welcome addition to the range of travel guides and the books on tram and trolleybus systems and railway motive power, published by the SRS. Purchase a copy and enjoy.

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## Modelling European Railways

Author: Peter Marriott.

Published by: The Crowood Press, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2HR. Tel. 01672 520320.

ISBN: 978 1 78500 126 0

Softback: 224 pages 24.5cm x 19 cm.

Full Colour: £19.95.

SRS member Peter Marriott's 'Modelling European Railways' is the companion volume to his 'Railway Modelling Skills' that was published last year and reviewed in last September's magazine. Peter is one of our best-known modellers and his knowledge and expertise in this area are second-to-none. As a frequent contributor to this magazine readers will be aware that he is totally 'at home' with the Swiss railway scene and this comes across in this volume. For those who are completely new to railway modelling it would perhaps be wise to study Peter's earlier volume, as it deals with many of the basics of getting into the hobby and building a layout. Where this book scores is in the way it takes these basic skills and leads the reader into the world of European Railways, both full size and at the usual modelling scales. There is an enormous amount of information regarding the products available to build your own little corner of an imaginary Swiss, German or Austrian community served by either a main line or a rural branch line. If the book has a fault it is that it does concentrate on these three countries, probably because of the author's personal interests, and practically due to the fact that the majority of commercially available rolling stock and building kits feature aspects these nation's railways and their environment. However, the book is none the worse for that. It is lavishly illustrated with photographs that demonstrate as many aspects of what-can-be-done as you could possibly imagine. In its fifteen chapters there are items on modelling on a budget; on building different types of kit; on detailing the layout; on road vehicles and one that I especially liked on modelling timber-by-rail operations. This is a book I have no reservation in recommending to anyone modelling the Swiss (or more general European) railway scene.

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