Steam Era Models

C/- P.O. Rhyll, Victoria, 3923.

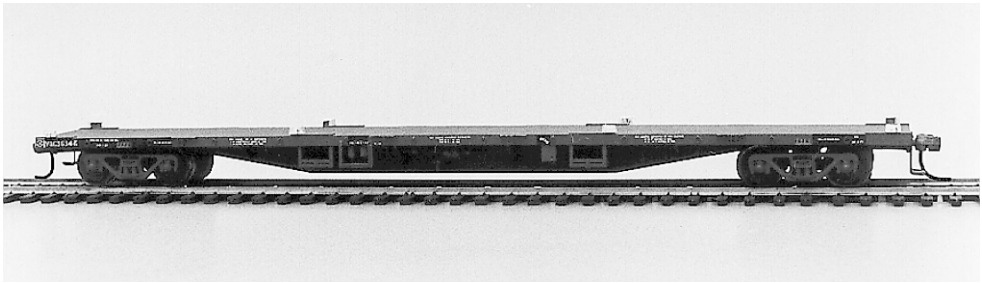
VICRAIL-V/LINE FQX (VQCX) CONTAINER FLAT WAGON

Prototype Notes.

Introduced to service from 1969, the four hundred and thirty five FQX (VQCX) wagons comprise the bulk of V/Line's container wagon fleet. With provision for loading three 20'-0" or one 20'-0" and one 40'-0" ISO containers, these wagons see wide service throughout the Broad and Standard Gauge systems. FQX (VQCX) wagons are, however, not restricted to just container traffic and can be seen in general service as flat wagons transporting anything from concrete poles to Army vehicles.

The then South Australian Railways and New South Wales Government Railways also utilised the same basic design for their FQX (AQCX) and OCX (NQOX) wagons respectively.

The model represents a vehicle which has not been fitted with lashings rails; if the lashing rail fitted version is required, refer to Australian Model Railway Magazine, Issue 99, November/December 1979, page 33, for details.



Necessary Equipment.

Tools required are a sharp knife such as X-acto or surgeons scalpel, an assortment of needle files, a pair of fine pointed tweezers for applying small parts and your choice of a liquid plastic cement, such as MEK or Testors, with a #1 brush for application.

Preparation of Parts.

Figure 1 identifies the components on the wagon sprue.

Figure 2 identifies the brake gear components on the brake parts sprue.

Parts can be removed from sprues by carefully cutting through the moulding gates, then cleaning up parting lines and flash with small files and a sharp knife. Moulding pips on the non-detail side of sides and headstock should be similarly removed.

Assembly of floor and under frame.

1. Remove sides, headstocks and floor from sprue and clean up as detailed above. Cut off all moulding pips; and the stirrup steps and brackets shown in Figure 1. Test fit the sides and headstock to the floor, trimming if necessary for the best fit. The headstock and floor fit between the sides. Refer to Figure 3 for the way in which the parts fit together. Glue the parts together when a satisfactory fit has been achieved.

2. Remove the fronts of the stowage bins from the sprue, clean up and trim if necessary and glue to the fronts of the stowage bins, using Figure 4 as a reference.

   Cut four rectangles 9mm x 10mm from the styrene strip provided. Glue to the bottoms of the stowage lockers to form the locker floor.

Assembly and positioning of brake gear.

1. Remove the following parts from the brake gear fret, using Figure 2 for reference.

   9. Brake cylinder.
   6. Triple valve.
   2. Spider handbrake wheels (2)
   5. Grade control (2)
   8. Load compensating control (2)
   15. Brake cylinder base.
   14. Load compensating device.
   11. Load compensating device brase.
   10. Auxiliary reservoir.

   Glue the triple valve to the brake cylinder as shown in Figure 7 and glue the brake cylinder and load compensating device to their respective bases. Glue the brake components onto the underframe and glue the rolled steel angle protection frames to the wagon sides, as shown in Figure 5.

Fitting containers.

Remove the container anchors from the sprue. Locate the four end anchors as per Figure 6. The remaining anchors can be located using the containers as a jig.

Note: Different manufacturers of HO scale model containers have, apparently, different ideas as to how long and wide a 20'-0" ISO should be. Accordingly, containers other than those used to position the anchors may not fit.

Bogies, Couplers and Shunters steps.

Attach the bogies with the screws provided. Attach the couplers of your choice; the kit is designed to accept Kadee No. 5 or No 58 couplers. Shunters steps from the S.E.M. detail kit E6 can be fitted to the headstocks if desired.

Painting and lettering.

The wagon is painted VR wagon red overall, although the bogies may be a different colour if the wagon is running interstate. Recommended paints are S.E.M. Wagon Red spraying enamel or Humbrol HR110 enamel.

Four alternative codes are supplied on the decal sheet. The wagons were coded FQX/FQF pre 1980 and VQCX/VQCY post 1980. It should be noted that FQF/VQCY coded wagons cannot be bogie exchanged and would only be seen running on Victorian and South Australian broad gauge lines.

The lettering diagram indicates the positioning of the various codes etc.

- Trim decals close to lettering to remove excess film.
- Immerse in water for ten to fifteen seconds, then set aside on a tissue until decal straightens out.
- Slide decal into position. If it is necessary to adjust the final position, use a small brush that has been dipped in water.
- Use a tissue to soak up excess water.
- The use of a decal setting agent such as a Solvaset is recommended to assist decals in snuggling down over rivets etc.
- A flat finish such as DDV or estapol matt applied to the entire model will provide a uniform dull finish.

NOTE DECALS ADHERE BEST TO A GLOSS SURFACE.

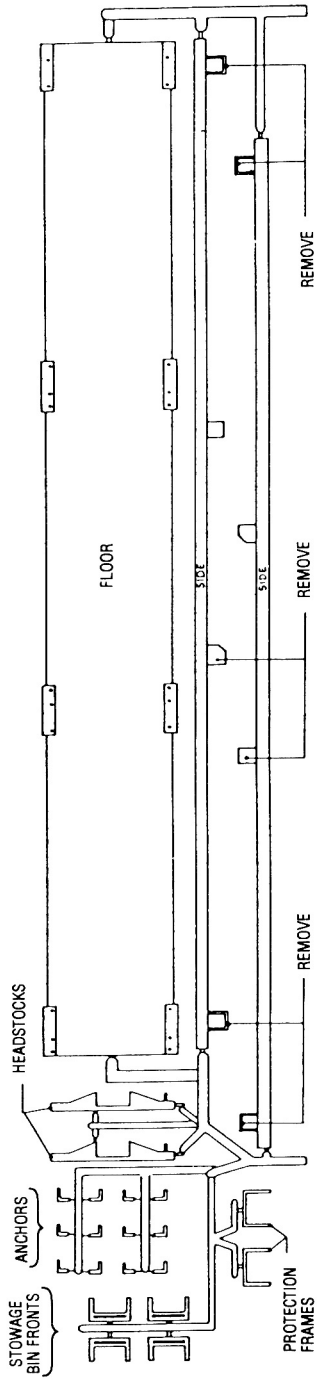


Figure 1

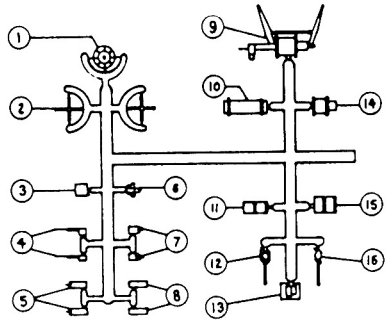


Figure 2

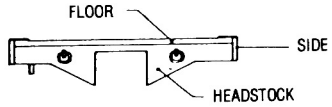


Figure 3

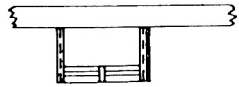


Figure 4

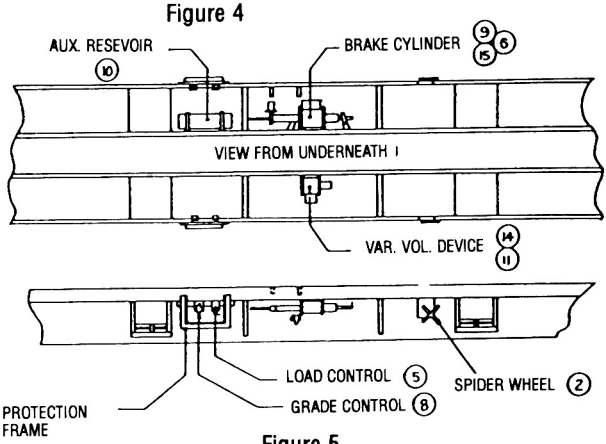


Figure 5

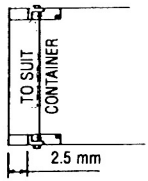


Figure 6

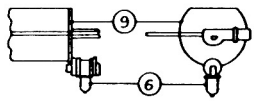
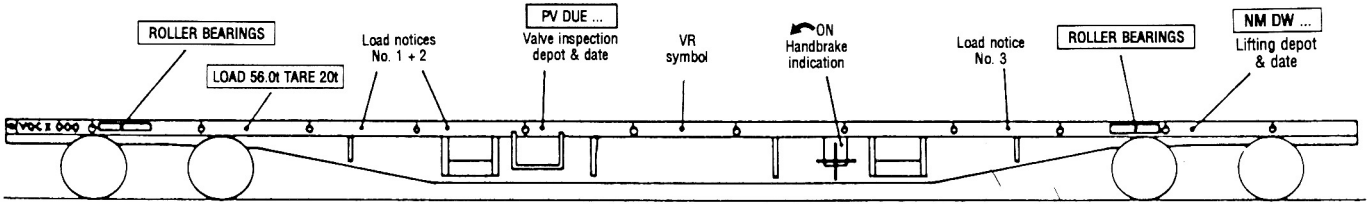
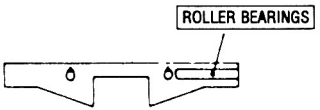


Figure 7

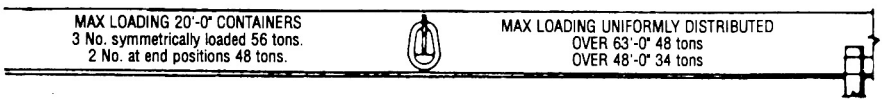


Container anchors painted white



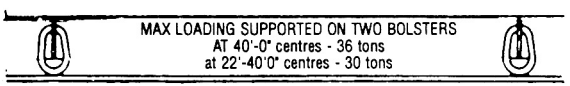
Wagon number range: 501-935

Lettering Plate to be painted black.



NOTICE No. 1

NOTICE No. 2



NOTICE No. 3