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Updates from the 2005 Nürnberg Toy Fair



BRAWA's surprise at Nürnberg: Prototype of the RhB G4/5 108 in exact 1:22.5 scale

A huge SURPRISE from BRAWA!

BRAWA - the producer, who is well known for N and H0 Scale lines in both rolling stock and accessories, presented the definitive surprise at Nürnberg.

They unveiled the banners for the new product within minutes of the doors opening and placed the items in the display case on the same short notice: a complete historical RhB train headed up by the G4/5 108 (consolidation type).

But there was more to see at Nürnberg – what and from whom you read in this update. A supplement to our NTF pre-view in GBp2/05.

Please note: These “News and Trends” pages present only those manufacturers

which were represented at the NTF!

Aristo-Craft

As expected, Aristo-Craft displayed the two mallets, each measuring 1100mm and which should shortly be available in the USA. The well-detailed engines are equipped with two of the Mikado power units. Also on display were the 6-wheel trucks for the Vanderbilt tender. These will also be available for retro-fitting on the Mikado tender.

The prototype of the E8 (announced in GBp 2/05) looks promising and is scheduled for the Fall. The engine

measures 730mm which is precisely 1:29 scale.

In planning is a Y-turnout, a prototype was on display.

Development of the inexpensive sound unit will need to be redone since the Korean sound chip has to be sourced from a different manufacturer.

Planning for 2006 includes a GP-40 and a compact Consolidation. The moulds for the GG-1 have not been started yet and the freight cars are also still “in planning”.

As we alluded to in 2004, Aristo-Craft CEO Lewis Polk is considering a F7 model as an alternative to the LGB model which is overly large and not all that popular in the USA.



Prototype of the Aristo-Craft E8 (above) and Live Steam Mikado (below)

Just like the GP 40, the F7 will get new power units, rather than the ones from the FA.

The radio-controlled LiveSteam Mikado stood (not fired-up!) in a display case. Despite the plastic boiler jacket it made a solid impression. Production hasn't started yet. Lewis Polk emphasized that the engine will be delivered equipped with the R/C and a simple sound unit.

Bachmann Europe

As we had guessed, Bachmann announced a "Goose". Actually it will be "Motor 1" of the RGS. As Bachmann designer Lee Riley pointed out the moniker "Goose", for the "trucks on rails", was only adapted in the 1950s, mostly for and by tourists. Since the original was completely dilapidated, #1 was rebuilt following more or less the original design. The nice looking item, a prototype wasn't available at the show, should be available by the end of this year.

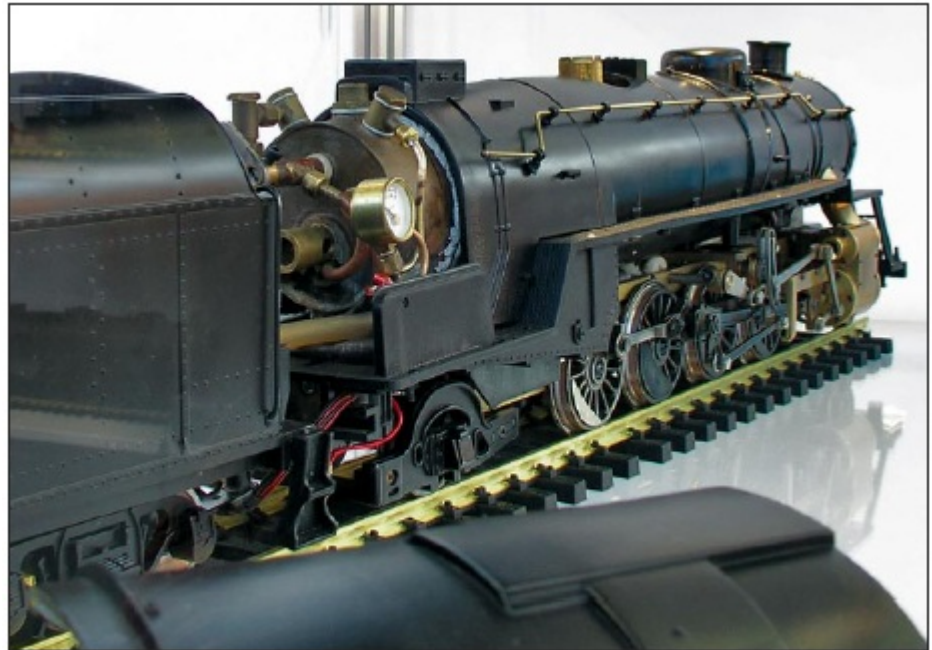
Interesting News is Bachmann's plan to re-issue the freight cars, which have been out of production for some time, with some modifications. That should make for inexpensive freight trains and good starting material for kitbashing.

An English prototype Class 66, in 1:29 scale, will be produced as an "Euro diesel" along with English freight cars (wagons). The Class 66 can be found in several other countries apart from the UK.

Baumann Modellspielwaren

Baumann presented a field railway in scale IIe at the cooperative display of the DVHM (German Association of Model Railway Equipment Producers). In addition to the engine they offer a peat car.

As an accessory for larger stations they have the model of an electrical baggage



cart in the program, which is available as a kit or assembled. The same applies to the two wheel handcart.

The DUHA line of accessories has been expanded with the addition of different pipe loads, as well as building materials on palettes.

Brawa

Surprise at Nürnberg: Even the sales personnel of the Swabian model railway producer - well known for accessories and HO rolling stock - were left in the dark until the start of the NTF about a very important "New Item": the RhB G4/5 together with 3 cars (AB21; C215 and F4051) will be available in Fall of this year in precise 1:22.5 scale. The pre-order price of the Consolidation engine is E1299 until May 15, after that E1369. A prototype model and a few production-moulded parts were on display at Nürnberg.

The engine and tender have metal frames, the 1st and 4th set of drivers is

powered via a short universal and gear arrangement. The motor has a flywheel, which should provide smooth operation.

The axles feature ball bearings and the metal wheels are die cast. The 1:22.5 scale cars are fitted with die cast, spoked wheels representing the double spoked version of the prototype in "see through" design, with press fitted wheel treads. Brawa builds the roofs and interiors according to the prototype's variations of those features. According to the designer even the variations in the brake hoses will be represented - following the producer's credo one can check even those details.

All of the rolling stock - despite exact scale size - is designed to negotiate 600mm radius track. Brawa achieves this by using a specific wheel tread which provides better geometry in tight curves. GARTENBAHN*profi* will present the specifics at a later date.

The RhB engine will be available in an analogue version, with a DCC interface. With this measure Brawa equalizes LGB -

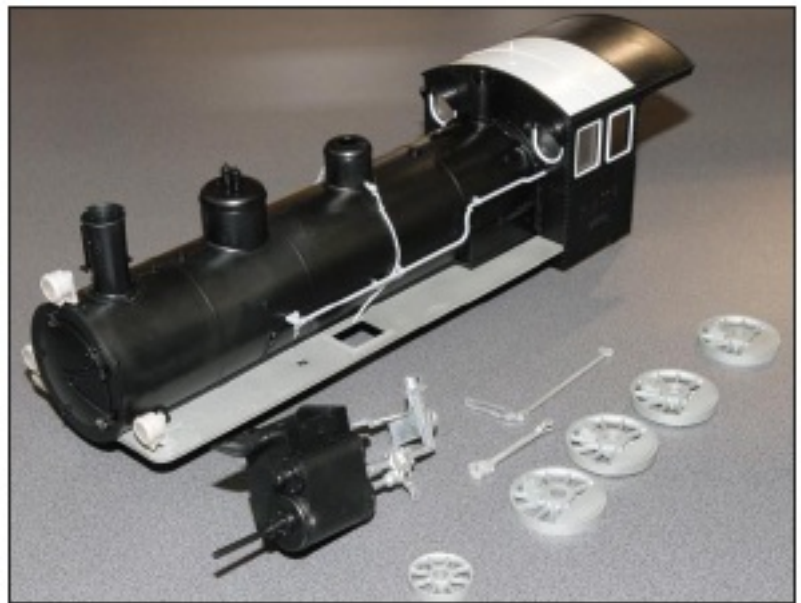
the leader in the German market - who this year announced the "Heidi", a RhB steam engine at a very reasonable price (see GBp 2/05), and also developed a new DCC interface. The 18 pin Brawa DCC interface is designed for the Dietz DLE 2M-S decoder.

The cab of the G4/5 will be fitted with the complete three dimensional back head detail. The lights are prototypical and assembled from injection moulded parts, the doors can be opened and have latches to keep them in place. Both engineer and fireman will be included. And to provide that extra bit of realism, the forward/reverse lever on the valve gear will move.

The coal fuel on the tender comes in fabric bags, the cab curtains are also fabric. The pilot end lacks a coupler - just like the prototype - but can be retro-fitted for double-heading (HJ's note: Any of my pictures show 107 and 108 with front buffer and draft gear.)

The power blocks will be sourced from Aristo-Craft, but the gearing has been adapted specifically to the G4/5. Thus the engine can be moved by hand (freewheeled), which is not possible with the standard Aristo-Craft drives.

The generously dimensioned smoke generator is also from Aristo and provides plenty of action from the stack. A smaller Seuthe smoke generator, in front of the cab, simulates the vacuum brake action.



This is how far along the moulds for the G 4/5 are. Wheels, boiler and cab assembly (top) Cylinder with partial valve gear (below)



Prototype of the C215 third-class coach.

Dietz

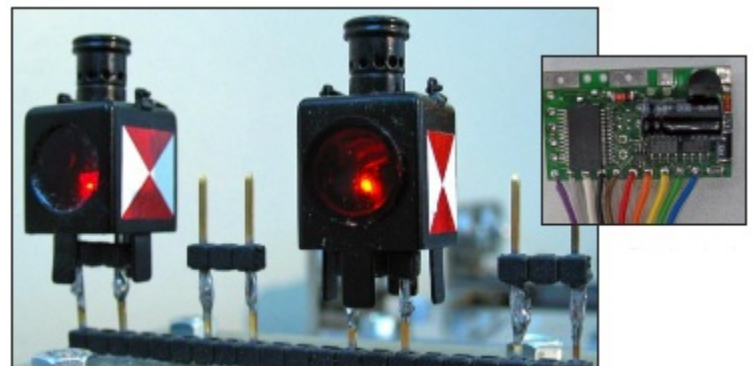
The DLE2m Large Scale decoder gained a few improvements and new functions. Included are larger speed range adjustments and the selection of optimized motor CVs according to motor manufacturer's specifications.

The "F" outputs can be adjusted in a time and direction dependent pattern e.g. for "end of train" indicators and uncouplers. Besides this the decoder is now capable of a brake and stop sequence on "red" signal indication by utilizing a simple reed contact input that is triggered by a magnet.

The RhB R-w flatcar and the Fau hopper were displayed as prototype models.

The Zillertal engines D10 and D13 will only go into production if sufficient orders are received by April 30.

Not inexpensive but interesting are the "End of Train" lights after German prototypes. The simulated kerosene light is generated by a mini-LED connected to a small buffered and rechargeable power module. Therefore it will work on cars that lack power pick-up since all circuitry is contained in the housing.



"End of Train" lights and DLE2M decoder

Kiss Modellbahnen

Kiss showed the well executed prototype of the RhB G3/4 "Rhätia" and the Harz Mallet in green livery.

The K 36 impressed with the wealth of detail and its size, despite the scale discrepancy (10% too small).

For RhB fans there was the announcement of a G2x2/2 Mallet, as well as new variations on the Gbk-v boxcar in "Lista-Eugenio" and "Waadt Versicherungen".

The samples of the RhB Ge4/4¹ and the Ge6/6^{II} were impressive. According to Kiss both engines will be available in Summer 2005.

LGB

LGB's "New Items", among them the new roadbed system and the DCC decoder interface, we presented in GbP 2/05. During the NTF LGB decided to also present a two axle coach to go with the "Heidi". The open-platform coach is lettered as RhB C2012 and was supposed to be a surprise for unveiling in the Fall - now it is supposed to arrive in early Summer.

Lotus Lokstation

As a companion to the Salzburger railcar Tca 672 (announced last year) a mail/baggage combine was shown, modelled after a prototype which saw wide use in Austria during the 1930s. The small series production model can also be lettered for different railways. The prototype which was displayed at the NTF still used some of LGB's stock parts, but those will be replaced with Lotus' own parts. The wood siding on the car had extensive weathering.



Lotus Lokstation: Austrian Mail/Baggage combine lettered for the SKGLB



Kiss K 36 (top) and prototype model of RhB G3/4 "Rhätia" (bottom)



Massoth

The handheld "DiMax Navigator" controller, which was announced last year, has almost reached the production stage and now features a more pleasing and more ergonomic case. A rotary dial and the adjacent large push buttons allow simultaneous control of two engines. Actuation of turnouts and as many as 17 "F" functions are possible. Programming is possible using the DiMax control unit or a computer. The integrated display measures 54 x 27 mm. The Massoth system is now also capable of 128 speed steps. As LGB's OEM provider for the MTS Massoth offers an adaptor to connect the existing LGB MTS controllers to the DiMax.

The tethered "DiMax Navigator" should be available by April, to be followed later on by the R/C version.

In April Massoth will also offer a smaller control unit without an integrated transformer and a reduced capacity of 8A.



Noch

During the second quarter of 2005 Noch plans to deliver an assortment of 14 figures in 1:22.5 scale, which will feature realistic poses and finely painted detailing. These will include such items as a child on a scooter, business people and an old lady with a walker.

Regner Dampftechnik

Regner shared Brawa's idea and presented the RhB G4/5 104. However this engine features Live Steam in compound fashion. The beautiful Consolidation will be available as a kit or completely assembled.

Steamed up, the small "Willi" and "Konrad" convinced with their long running time (45min) and the easy operation.

We will present these Live Steam Starter engines in more detail at a later date.

Preiser

After a longer period of subdued activity Preiser presented several figures in 1:22.5 scale. To go with the typical 50s chairs Preiser delivers three groups of four seated people. The same figures are also the only addition to the #1 scale line. We

liked the couple dressed in jeans, which recalls the Rock 'n Roll era of the 50s. "Glad to be back" is the title of the mini scene at the station, which features a lady leaping into her partner's arms. The slightly chubby lady in the bathing suit can't go for a swim since the sign says "swimming prohibited". To go with a phone booth anytime in the 60s through 80s are two people: she's "on the phone" and he's knocking on the glass enclosure to have her hurry up.

The man cleaning the railway car windows could just as easily be used as a store window cleaner. A middle aged mother and daughter are going on a trip. A billboard supplies era specific advertising for the garden railway. The control cabin personnel of the DB (Deutsche Bundesbahn) could be substituting as conductor or other railway personnel.

Train Control

The digital system which works strictly on a R/C basis will also get a function decoder, to be used for illumination etc. The decoder has 8 outputs and is weatherproof like the turnout decoder.

A new decoder for small engines is approximately the size of a H0 decoder and intended for engines with limited room i.e. the "Stainz". Apart from the motor connections it features an output for directional lighting as well as two auxiliary outputs and two digital inputs.

Fw/gil

