

## Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy class



At the Gauge One Model Railway Association's 'Expo 2013' event on 15 - 16 June 2013, Aster Hobbies UK exhibited an early prototype of the forthcoming Rebuilt Merchant Navy class. First announced in July 2011, the new Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy was recognised by Expo visitors as another triumph for the Aster marque!

The plan is that Aster Hobby Co Inc will manufacture a run of about 200 units for Worldwide availability Spring 2014. This will follow the SNCF 241P which is currently the subject of much production activity in Yokohama. The cost of the Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy kit is not known today but we estimate in the region of £4250. A very limited number of Factory built-up models will be offered for about £1000 more. Alternatively customers may choose to use one of the expert UK Aster kit builders to make a useful saving on the factory built RTR price. A list of recommended builders is available on request.

We plan that kits and factory built-up models for the UK will be numbered and named 35028 Clan Line. Un-numbered kits without tender crests will also be available to special order. Please note the 3<sup>rd</sup> series Merchant Navy 6000 gallon cut-down tender will be featured in this Aster model.

### Draft Specification

**Scale and Gauge:** 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale for Gauge One - 45mm / 1.75" track..

**Wheel Arrangement:** 4 - 6 - 2 Pacific. Driving wheel Dia. 59.0mm, Bogie wheels Dia. 29.0mm.

Tender and rear pony wheel Dia. 34.0mm

**Axle Driven Pump;** Bore 5mm X Stroke 6mm

**Cylinders:** 3 cylinders, Bore 12mm x stroke 20mm. **Valve Gear:** 3 independent sets of Walschaert valve gear adjustable from cab.

**Boiler:** JvR multi-tube copper 'C type' boiler. Water capacity 255ml at 80%. Silver soldered throughout - working pressure 60psi - 4 Bar. Multiple jet blast pipe arrangement.

**Boiler Fittings:** Safety valves, pressure gauge, water gauge with blow-down valve, regulator valve, blower valve and superheater.

**Lubricator:** Roscoe displacement type

**Tender:** Hand pump - bore 11 mm x 12 mm. Water Tank Capacity 190cc. Fuel: Methylated alcohol. Fuel Capacity 180mls

**Minimum Radius:** TBA

Sadly we now have to mention something less pleasant. At the G1MRA Expo event in June we were disgusted to find that another UK supplier, whose products are manufactured by the Accucraft Company in the People's Republic of China, also announced their Rebuilt Merchant Navy. Frankly speaking with so many British models available, to deliberately duplicate the Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy, announced two year ago, is in our view, an act of cynical opportunism. To add insult to injury, these people now claim that there was an agreement between themselves and Aster that they would exclusively produce the Rebuilt Merchant Navy model. There was never any agreement made with these people about this or any other matter. [They can do their worst but we will do our best!](#)

Moving on to more agreeable matters. With the prospect of a new British Aster in the next six months or so, we would like to establish interest. It would be very helpful if you would kindly let us know if the Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy is an item you would consider purchasing. Could you therefore indicate your preference? Please use the form below or telephone or email as shown in the address panel. Thank you.

Some customers may wish to ensure their needs are met with an early serial number and may therefore wish to secure their interest with a deposit. A deposit of £250 would be appreciated. Deposits are refundable but we would always anticipate that customers who make a deposit will follow through with a purchase. All deposits will be acknowledged in writing.



[Other Aster News](#)

As already mentioned the next model from the Yokohama shops of the Aster Hobby Co Inc will be the SNCF 241P. A mighty monster three years in gestation! We do not have a UK retail price but estimate a kit to be in the region of £10,000 ! We would be happy to take expressions of interest! Following the 241P comes the Rebuilt Merchant Navy and that will be followed by a US prototype - the Union Pacific FEF3 #844.

Meanwhile the Aster Blue Duchess and UP Challenger are now entirely sold out with none left in Japan. Thanks to customers who have purchased these models. Talking of sold out, or nearly so, we are nearing the end of quite a few British outline Aster models. Remaining stocks are shown in brackets below. If you have been deliberating on a purchase then we would advise an early decision!

Liverpool & Manchester Railway 'Titfield Thunderbolt'	Kit £800.00 (10+)	RTR £920.00 (1)
GWR Castle class 5015 Kingswear Castle	Kit £4350.00 (8)	RTR £5260.00 (3)
Castle class in BR Livery (kit only)	Kit £4350.00 (9)	n/a
SR West Country / Battle of Britain class	Kit £3000.00 (6)	RTR Sold Out
BR West Country / Battle of Britain class	Kit Sold Out	RTR £3500.00 (2)

Finally, we hope you find the information in this news update useful and would as always be delighted to hear from our valued customers and friends. Andrew & Daphne Pullen – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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 Visitors welcome by appointment.      Visa & MasterCard accepted.

✂ -----  
 From: ..... Address .....

I may be interested in acquiring an Aster Rebuilt Merchant Navy class when they become available.  
 My preference would be (please tick)

- |   |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Kit 35028 Clan Line</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Kit un-numbered &amp; no tender crest</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Factory built-up RTR 35028 Clan Line</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No thank you</b>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |