

A New Model from Aster – Accucraft

The hot news is that the next new model from Aster-Accucraft will be a re-run of the BR Standard class 5MT. This will be available in both lined green and lined black liveries in late October 2018.

It was back in 2010 (can it really be that long?) that Aster Hobbies (UK) introduced this most popular of models. Only 170 units were made for Worldwide distribution and soon sold out. However, by not announcing a fixed Limited-Edition run, Aster Hobby Co Inc left the door open for a follow-up and this is what we are announcing now.

However, it is not a straightforward re-run of the earlier BR 5MT, the new edition will feature a high-sided BR 1C tender which will alter considerably the overall appearance of the model. Certainly, the lined black version will be very reminiscent of an LMS Black 5. The green version will be very interesting too.



At the moment, I don't actually have example photographs of the new models to show. So here is a picture of the earlier models. Some good YouTube video can be found if you search "Aster BR 5MT"

Kits will be sold by Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP will not have cabside numbers for your choice. Ready to Run models will be the preserved – 73096 in lined green and the Bluebell Railway's – 73082 'Camelot' for the lined black version. A set of bespoke Fox Transfers will be provided with each kit sold by Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP. Please note that Black tenders carried either early or late BR crests; green tenders had only late era BR crests. So green tenders will have late era crests applied at the factory.

Price and availability. Kits kit (black or green) will be **£3200.00**. The RTR version will come in at **£4200.00**. Promised delivery from end October 2018. (Prices subject to Forex rates changes).



Specification

Dimensions: Weight 4.5kg. Length OB: 602 mm, Height 123mm, Width 87mm

Cylinders: 2 cylinders - bore 13mm x stroke 22mm with working drain valves controlled from cab.

Valves: Piston type valves - bore 6mm, stroke 6mm. Valve Gear: Walschaert.

Wheels: Main Driving Wheels 58mm, Pilot Wheels 28mm, tender wheels 31mm. All wheels cast iron.

Axle Driven Pump: Fitted to second driven axle, bore 5mm X 6mm stroke.

Boiler: C type with two smoke tubes, water capacity 210cc at 80% full. Working pressure: 4kg/cm². Superheater.

Boiler Fittings: 2 safety valves, pressure gauge, regulator valve, blower valve, check valve, blowdown on watergauge,

Lubrication: Roscoe Displacement type lubricator. Burner: Alcohol type burner with three vertical tubes

BR 1C Tender: Removable alcohol tank capacity - 180cc. Stainless steel water tank 250cc with hand pump

Minimum Radius: 2 metres.

The Aster – Accucraft Partnership

I am getting questions from customers on exactly what is happening with Aster and so I hope that these few notes will make everything clear with the new Accucraft – Aster partnership.

- The design of the new BR 5MT (and recent BR 9F) are original designs from the Aster Hobby Co Inc which were commissioned by Aster Hobbies (UK) in 2010 and 2007 respectively.
- Since the summer of 2016, Aster Hobby Co Inc have been working in a partnership with Accucraft Trains Inc. Initial productions will be reruns of previous Aster models like the BR 5MT and BR 9F and the soon to be released USRA Mikados. However, some 'all new' designs are in progress in Japan and will be manufactured and supplied by the new partnership. Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP are co-ordinating these projects.
- Most but not all components for Accucraft–Aster partnership products are now made in China by Accucraft Trains Inc. Accucraft have shown themselves entirely capable of making to and improving on Aster quality with the BR 9F model.
- From 1st August 2018 sales and distribution in the United Kingdom of Aster–Accucraft partnership products will be from two outlets - Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP and Accucraft UK Ltd. Neither company will offer sales via dealers
- We earnestly hope that all our valued customers both old and new will make their purchases from Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP. With 20 years' experience of supplying Aster kits and models and delivering first class products and service the best choice is clear.
- Having built all 12 UK locomotives commissioned by Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP and worked side-by-side with Aster Hobby Co Inc through every step of the design process, we understand the Aster philosophy in depth.
- Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP have expert builders on hand to construct a kit to your personal requirements and to give advice if you have difficulties building the kit or running your finished loco.

In Summary, you have a choice, but we look forward to your continued support. With your support new models commissioned by Aster Hobbies (UK) LLP and designed by Aster Hobby Co Inc will continue – we are already busily engaged on new UK loco projects. Manufacturing by the Aster-Accucraft partnership will ensure traditional Aster quality and value.

Other new models for 2018

In September we expect a reissue of the very successful Aster USRA light Mikado. This was one of the most successful and popular models dating from 2000. However, the 2018 will have a number of detailed improvements and will be available in both unlettered and 'road named' versions. Pricing to be **£3550.00** for the kits and **£4550.00** for the RTR both subject to Forex variation. Run size of 60 pieces only

This is a powerful and easily constructed kit based on one of Aster Hobby Co's most successful designs for the North American market

Following the new BR 5MT in October, will be the Aster USRA Heavy Mikado 2-8-2, with delivery planned for December. This model will share many of the same improved features as the Light Mikado but with the larger boiler casing, larger smokebox and cab of the Heavy Mikado. Production quantity limited to 160 units. Pricing to follow.

If you are interested in either of the Mikados or the BR 5MT (or all three!) then please record your interest with Aster Hobbies (UK) at the usual email address – asteruk@gmail.com – or phone on **01985 851221**. You are under no obligation to purchase but your name will be added to my list for priority updates as they occur.

Not forgetting the BR Standard class 9F



And finally, let's not forget the BR Standard class 9F introduced in January 2018. We have kits available from stock at **£3950.00** and although we don't normally stock factory-built models, we will gladly obtain one upon request.

Customer reaction to this new kit with parts made in both Japan and in China has been good. Any construction or part issues have been dealt with quickly and we now hold a good supply of kit parts to deal with any issues or emergencies.

Your faith in Aster will never be misplaced.

Best wishes – Andrew & Daphne Pullen 7 August 2018

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