



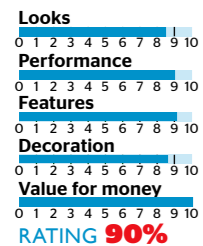
PRODUCT
Minerva Model Railways Kerr Stuart 'Victory' 0-6-0T, lined green

PERIOD
1917-1969

REGION
See text

AVAILABILITY
Minerva Model Railways.
Tel: 02920 531246.
Web: www.minervamodelrailways.co.uk

PRICE
rrp £282.50



+
Overall shape, choice of prototype, performance, value for money.
Seams on cab and chimney, otherwise nothing of note.



FACTFILE: KERR STUART 'VICTORY' 0-6-0T

The Directorate of Inland Water Transport ordered ten 0-6-0Ts from Kerr Stuart and they were delivered in 1917 but swiftly commandeered by the Railway Operating Division for shunting British Expeditionary Force depots in France, where they were shipped between June and September 1917. They all survived the Great War and six were sold to collieries. Alexandra (Newport & South Wales) Docks & Railways bought two, the Brecon & Merthyr Railway bought another and the fourth was purchased by the East Kent Light Railway, where it became EKLK No. 4.

The GWR inherited the Alexandra docks duo and the B&M example and numbered them 666, 667 and

2161 respectively; No. 2161 was sold to the Ashington Coal Company in 1929.

British Railways received Nos. 666 and 667 along with EKR No. 4. The latter became Southern Region No. 30948 but was withdrawn in 1949 without carrying its new number while the Western Region withdrew its two in 1954/55. The National Coal Board inherited seven and the last were not withdrawn until 1969. Sadly, none were saved.

MODEL OF THE MONTH

MINERVA KERR STUART 'VICTORY' 0-6-0T



Minerva's last model was a hit in the *Model Rail* office. Has it kept up the good work with its latest offering? **RICHARD FOSTER** finds out.

The philosophy that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' certainly applies to model manufacturer Minerva Model Railways. In case you've forgotten, Minerva was formed by Chris Klein, the British director of Anglo-Australian outfit Ixion, who joined forces with Dragon Models Wales' proprietor Chris Basten.

The 'Victory' follows the standards set by Minerva's Peckett 'E' 0-4-0ST (MR219), which combined good looks and a smooth mechanism with a reasonable price to provide the ideal 'O' gauge starter locomotive. You can see the same philosophy stamped all

over its latest offering. The 'Victory' is just a bit bigger.

These ten chunky Kerr Stuart six-coupled tanks were used in France during the First World War, and although four passed into 'main line' ownership, they're still considered 'industrial' locomotives. What this means is that there's a dearth of prototypical information and photographs to compare the model to. But it compares well to photographs and drawings in *A Pictorial Record of Great Western Absorbed Engines*, by J.H. Russell, and in H.C. Casserley's *Steam Locomotives of British Railways*.



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PLAIN AND SIMPLE

As with the Peckett, the 'Victory' looks basic at first glance, but that's not to suggest it's of poor quality. The finish is plain but the shape is accurate, the rivet details and the handrails are made from fine wire, but they're sturdy. The wire handrails on the water tank fillers are particularly refined, and the footplate features a very detailed backplate, with some superb fittings.

The one thing you'll notice is that the locomotive lacks a smokebox door dart. Don't worry,



it's not fallen off - it's supplied in a bag along with a number of other parts. You get GWR toolboxes, curved GWR front steps, tank vents, lamp irons and cylinder draincocks.

Some of these items have locating holes on the model which, once fitted, will improve the look no end. There are just a couple of minor visual criticisms: the indent across the cab appears to be a line of rivets on the prototype, and could perhaps have been better executed, while the joint where the chimney top joins the body really needs filling.



MINERVA KERR STUART 'VICTORY' 0-6-0T

OVERVIEW			
Manufacturer	Minerva Model Railways		
Ref. No.	N/A		
Unit No.	N/A		
Scale/gauge	1:43.5 scale, 32mm gauge 'O'		
Body	Plastic with metal parts		
Chassis	Metal with plastic parts		
Weight	1,051g		
Min. curve radius	3ft		
ELECTRICS			
Electrical system	12V DC two-rail		
Motor type	High-torque		
Lights?	No		
DCC ready?	Eight-pin socket		
CURRENT CONSUMPTION			
Max. speed	0.1A		
Stalled	0.6A		
MECHANISM			
Drive system	Worm drive to rear driving axle		
Flywheel(s)	One		
Traction tyres	No		
SERVICING			
How to dismantle	Four screws hold body to chassis		
Where to oil	Factory lubricated		
DIMENSIONS			
	PROTOTYPE	1:43 SCALE	MODEL
Length (over buffers)	31ft 6¼in	223mm	221mm
Height	12ft 10in	92mm	92mm
Width (over cylinders)	N/A	N/A	63.3mm
Wheel diameter (driving)	4ft 0in	28mm	28.2mm
Wheelbase	12ft 0in	85mm	84.1mm
Wheel back-to-backs	-	-	28.5mm

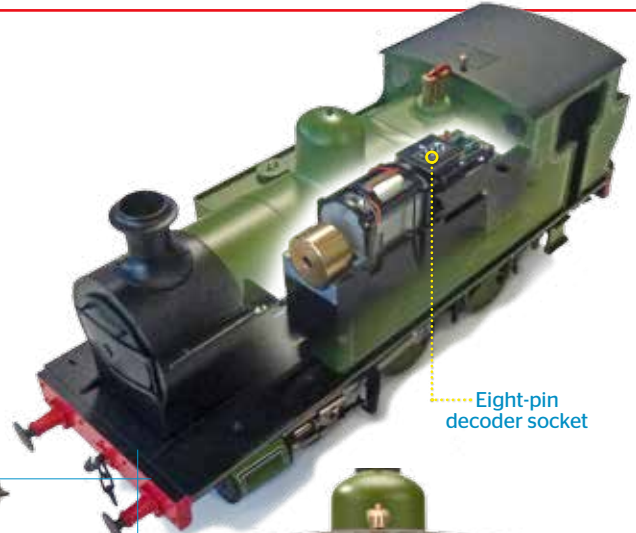
FINISHING TOUCHES

Three colours are offered: lined black, lined red and the lined green reviewed here. Although plain - and slightly plasticky looking - the finish is good and the lining is nice and fine. A brass etch of very fine workplates enables you to re-create any of the ten locomotives and will add an extra touch of finesse to the model.

Our short stretch of 'O' gauge test track doesn't allow us to stretch the 'Victory's' haulage capabilities, but the

weighty chassis should ensure that the model pulls a decent length train.

A brass flywheel ensures beautifully smooth and virtually silent performance straight from the box. In fact, performance was hugely realistic, as there was a very slight delay between shutting off the power and the model coming to a stop while, at the other end of the speed spectrum, the 'Victory' had the characteristic waddling gait of a short wheelbase



Eight-pin decoder socket

MINERVA KERR STUART 'VICTORY' 0-6-0T

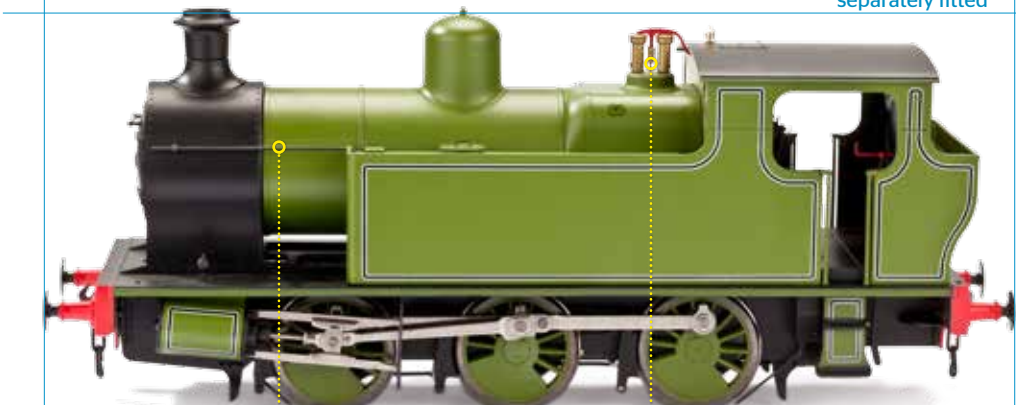


92mm

221mm

Fine backhead detail

Smokebox door dart separately fitted



Wire handrails

Salter safety valves



63.3mm

Fine chain coupling

Fine wire tank fillers



locomotive with big, outside cylinders.

Three-link couplings are factory-fitted and those big, turned metal buffers are sprung. There's a host of DCC options, too. Remove the four screws that secure the body and you'll find an eight-pin DCC socket. For £332.50, you can buy a 'Victory' with a factory-fitted DCC decoder, while £402.00 will buy you a sound-fitted locomotive.

What we have here is another ideal route into 'O' gauge but for those who want a locomotive a bit more substantial than an O-4-OST. We await Minerva's GWR pannier with baited breath! **MR**