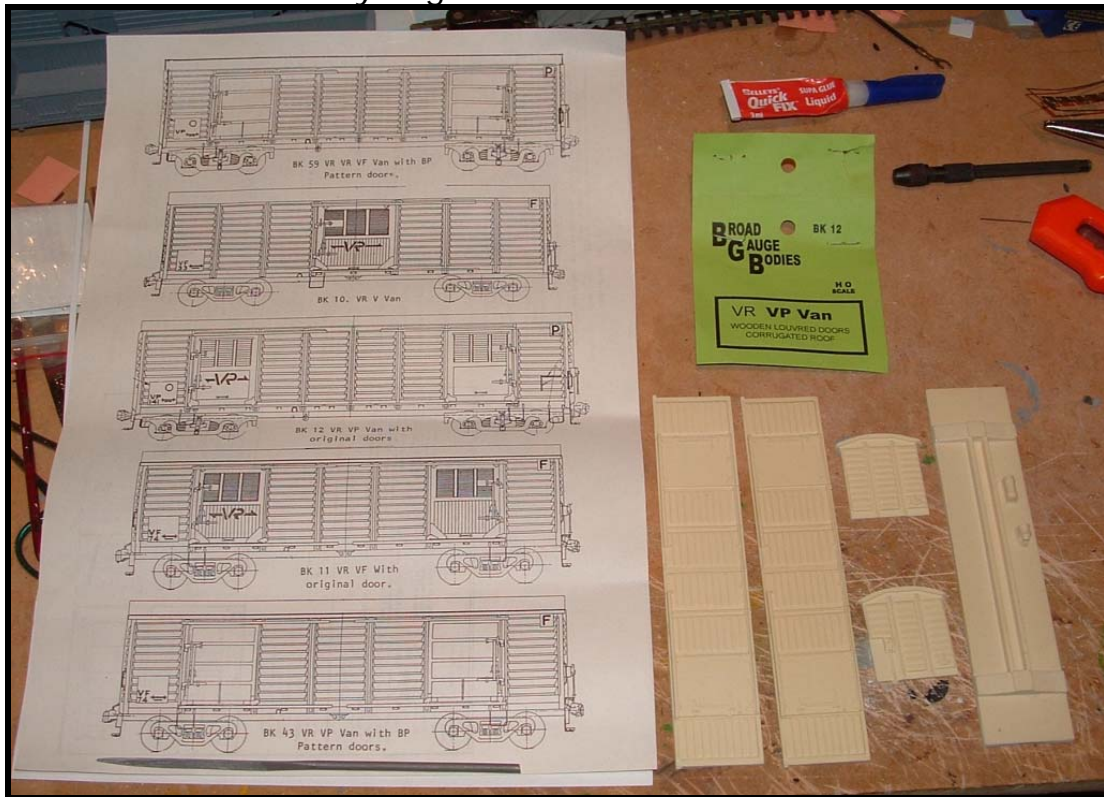
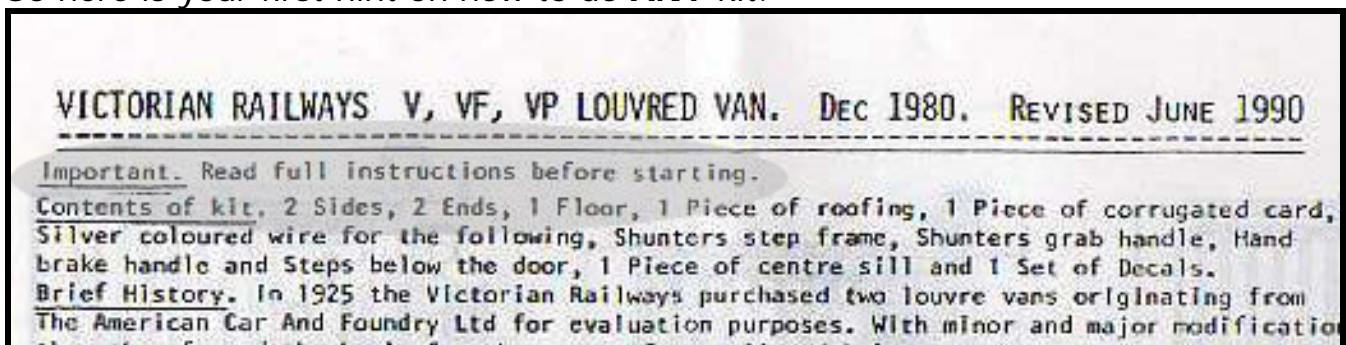


This kit is quite simple. It comes with five castings, material for the roof, wire for hand rails and hand brake and decals. You will need to purchase paint, couplers and bogies to complete the kit. I found the castings to be very good with little flash and nice and straight. This kit is made from a polyester resin as it is an older kit. BGB now make this model in polyurethane resin.

Here is an overview of what you get.



So here is your first hint on how to do **ANY** kit.



Yes **READ** the instructions **FIRST!** Make sure you **REALLY** understand the instructions and what you have to do. **ALSO**, look at the instructions and think of them critically. Look for little traps like items that will be hard to paint or decal when the kit is completed. The instructions may not mention that you can't paint an item once you have put it together. Think through each step in the instructions to avoid problems later.

Okay, we have our bits. We need to clean them up and get rid of any flash. This kit didn't really have much flash and **LIGHT SANDING** fixed it up. Here you can see me cleaning a side. I file top, bottom, ends and the back of the casting. Get all smooth and make sure you dust it all off. Careful how you dust, I'd recommend that you minimise getting a lot of this dust in the air and up your nose. I'm not saying it is dangerous, just prudent.



Now that the castings are ready we can hook into glueing. Polyester and polyurethane kits need to be glued with supa glue. BGB models recommends Zap supa glue, but I used selley's. You don't need very much glue. I make a little puddle of glue on my table, then use a small piece of wire to spread glue onto glued surfaces.



In this image, you can see my glue puddle and my wire to do the spreading. So get one side and one end and join them together! Firstly, test fit to make sure all edges meet properly. On the end of each side at the top there is a moulded edge (see side sanding pic). Make sure you a) don't sand it off! 😊 and b) use it to

ensure correct join with end. Spread a small amount of glue on one surface and bring together making sure they marry up together properly. Do the same with the other side and end **MAKING SURE** you get the order correct (ie; dont glue the end to the same end as the other piece!) when all set, bring both assemblies together and glue together. **REMEMBER to test fit BEFORE adding glue!**. Here is the result so far.

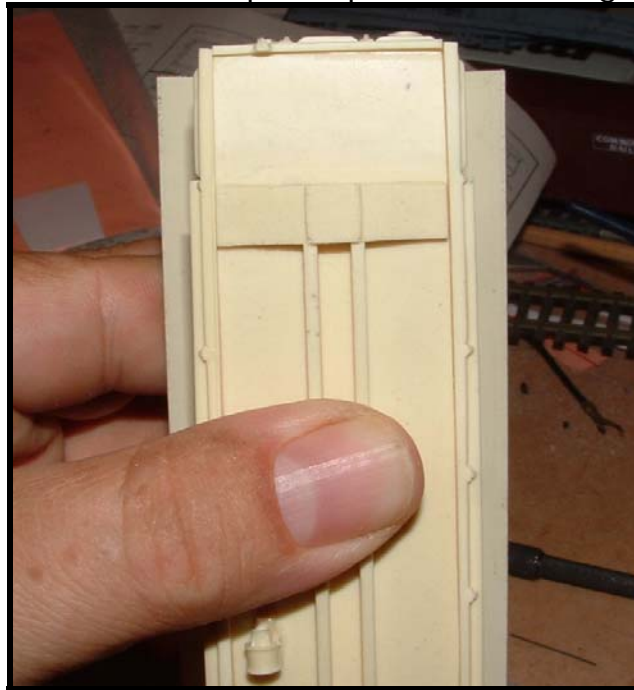


Next, the floor. Some sanding is likely. **ALWAYS** go slowly. If you remove too much, it will be a case of too bad, how sad. Sand a little from **BOTH** sides and test fit for width. When you have that right then sand **BOTH** ends for length and test fit. Ideally, you want a firm resistant fit that doesn't make any of the castings to bow or bulge. If this happens then identify the problem location, and sand it smooth. Check frequently and go slowly avoiding removing too much of the model! Here is the kit with the floor in place.



Now the tricky bit, the roof. The structural part of the roof is a bit of Venetian blind. The radius of the blind is too wide for a good fit. You need to tighten the radius so that you have a good fit with the moulded roof line. This is easy to do. Grab the broom (you know... for sweeping the floor!) and using the handle, use the roundness of the broom handle to roll the blind rounder. Again test fit often and bend (roll) a little at a time. This is a **LOT** easier than it sounds. Once the

right fit, then it needs to be cut to size. Cut from each edge, equal amounts so that the roof is square to the body. Cutting is done by marking where to cut, then scoring the blind with a Stanley knife (or similar) and using pliers to bend and brake off the excess. Here are a couple of pictures showing this.



Then glue on the "roof". Remember, the glue is to hold it in place. Do not rely on the glue to hold the shape. Once the glue has set, you can then cut to size, the corrugated iron and glue the "real roof" in place. Use a contact glue such as Selley's multi-grip. Here are a couple of more images.



Next, you need to add battens to the roof. The instructions called for thin strips of paper. I decided to use small strips of styrene from plastruct instead. These are likely NOT to be the correct size as I had to guess the size. Regretfully, the instructions did not say what size they needed to be. Check out the next image to see what I mean.

Here you can see the four strips of styrene cut to length. You get two battens from each strip of styrene with four or so centimetres left over. If I were to do this again, I'd cut the battens with 2cm each end, glue on then cut to length. WHY? Because when you add the supaglu, and put in place, it will give you something to hang onto without gluing yourself to the piece!

Once all battens are on, then your kit is structurally complete! Time for me to get to here, about 2.5 hours.



Next thing is to cut and file the coupler pockets, drill holes for hand rails, brake handle, and shunter's steps. The coupler pocket is made by measuring the width of your preferred coupler (me: Kadee #5) mark the end castings. Using a razor saw, cut vertical cuts at the edge of the pocket. Using a sharp knife carve out the pocket carefully. When in the shape, file everything smooth with a needle file. Bend up the hand rails using the supplied wire. I use the hand rail bending jig by Kieran Ryan. They are about \$5 posted and are ready to bend any handrail to just about any size! A very useful tool. The mouldings didn't have pre-moulded drill markings. Again from the supplied pictures and instructions, I guessed where everything had to go. Using a small drill (about 0.7mm) and a pin vice, I drill

holes where required and bent up the wire accordingly. When all is set, put wire into the correct locations and secure with a small drop of supa glue.

I do something different for the shunter's steps. Instead of making them up, I use pre-made steps etched in brass from Model Etch. I drill two holes in the bottom of the ends to suit the steps, bend the steps to shape and glue in place. Here are some pics. The first shows the coupler pockets cut to shape. I have pencilled in the gap in black to make it easier to see. The second shows the completed (structurally) kit with hand rails and shunter's steps.



In this image, you can also see the styrene number/code board that I had to make up. This was another omission from the instructions. Now, this is the kit structurally finished ready to be painted. To get to this stage, ready to paint took about three hours.

I have painted the kit VR red based on the instructions (Floquill - half tuscan/half box car red). I don't think this is really quite right. I think that I'll re-paint it with Floquill zinc chrome primer.



But I have come to a stand still. I will repaint and then I need to coat in a gloss clear finish. Why is this important? Well I am now ready to decal. It is recommended that you coat your model with gloss clear as decals adhere best to gloss. Once decaled, then coat in a matt clear finish.

Also note from the image that I am handling the model with gloves. Now that it is painted, I prefer to minimise contact between your skin and the paint as the grease and oils in your skin can be transferred to the model resulting in fingerprints etc being immortalised in your kit!

Hopefully, I have inspired people that **SOME** kits don't take too long to do and showed what I have done that results in what I think is a reasonable finish. Good luck to all and thanks for your attention.