

**ALCO**

# Actionline

**April 20th 1981**

\$75.00 deposit required; remainder due July 1; 369.00 total price plus post/insurance

## "S" SCALE

"S" CENERY UNLIMITED  
310 Lathrop Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305

Thank you for your patience - - - - to follow up your request for information, a major effort is herein made to answer all your questions.

MODEL SELECTED: At first the RS-2 was proposed, but many suggestions were directed towards the RS-3. It was an easy change because, as you know, many parts interchange between the RS-2, 3 & 4/5. The RSD 4/5 is scheduled for production about six months after the RS-3. The diesels being produced by Samhonga for ALCO will be presented in an orderly manner to provide you with fairly-priced and highly-detailed models of lasting value that you can afford.

ALCO "S": All models will be fully assembled and ready to operate.

POWER: A quality Japanese "can" motor (DC) will power enclosed cast gear boxes via above-floor drive shafts much in the same manner as our HO models. Extra power chassis will be available.

COUPLERS: Mountings for MKD-5/10 couplers will be standard on all models.

WHEELS: Wheel sets will be of the "RP" style, or prototype shape.

MIN. RADIUS: 24"

FINISH: A "satin finish" coated with a clear overspray for lasting beauty will also act as a super under-coat for your favorite paint scheme.

DETAILING: As usual, castings, coinings and high quality etchings.

DATE AVAILABLE: The projected delivery date is September 1981. "Sam" is usually accurate with scheduling.

DEALERS: All of the present ALCO Models Dealers and some new "S" scale suppliers will be able to fill your orders. Since we rely on dealers and support them, we will refrain from any direct sales. There will always be a dealer near you, if you don't already have your favorite. If you need a dealer, we can provide the names of the three nearest you, according to your zip code. Since only 100 of any model will be produced, your dealer may require a deposit, depending on his relationship with you. We will require dealers to confirm their orders to us with a \$30.00 deposit.

As we venture into providing fine brass scale models for you, please remember that fine scale models is our business. We will continue to provide models for you - - - with your support we'll succeed, and we realize it's a two-way street.

Bruce W. Giles & Charles D. Santoro  
ALCO MODELS

P. S. If we missed any important points, please let us know.

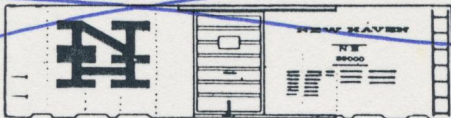
P.O. BOX 211 PORT JEFFERSON N.Y. 11777 PHONE (516) 689-9848

# Blue Ribbon Releases

Illinois residents please add 5% sales tax.

Our new S gauge custom-painted 40-foot American Flyer box car bodies are the bright New Haven with an orange body, and black and white HO decals—a real knockout!

NH 40-foot plastic molded American Flyer body, less trucks and couplers, underframe . . . \$10.95 plus \$1.25 postage.



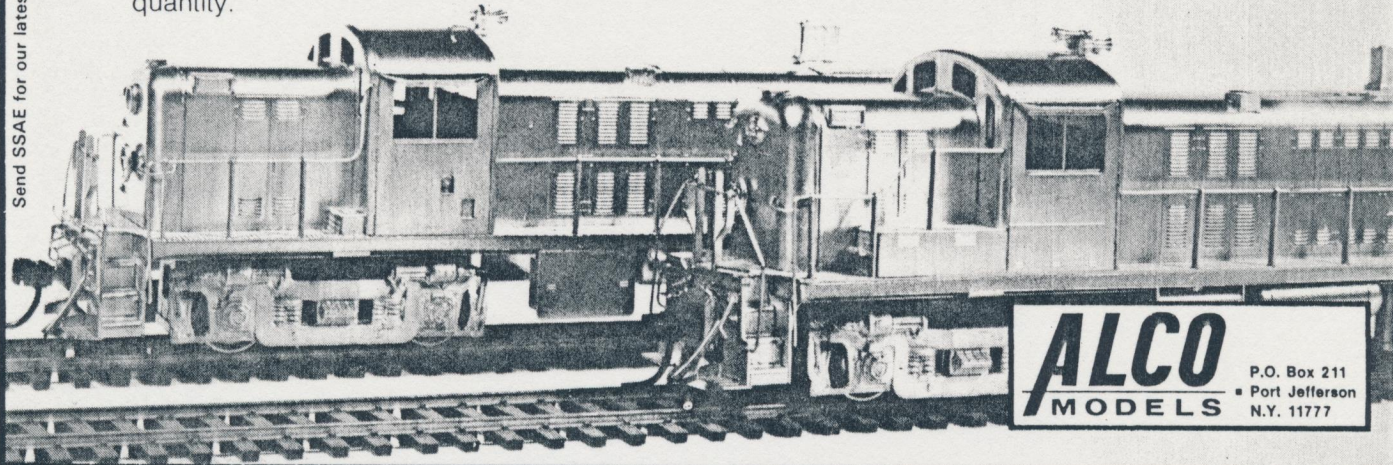
Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.

## "S"cenery Unlimited

310 Lathrop Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305

Send SSAE for our latest ACTIONLINE

**RS-2 IN S GAUGE** — Coming soon from Alco Models. It's too early to show our sample model, but the HO version will give you an idea of the craftsmanship you can expect. (The engine on the right is an RS-3.) If your authorized Alco dealer can't help you, order direct. Limited quantity.



**ALCO**  
MODELS  
P.O. Box 211  
Port Jefferson  
N.Y. 11777

# SALE

## 1. TRUCKS - SPRING TYPE

- #00200-10 Bettendorf 5"6" wheel base, black mirror finish Ace steel wheel sets, R. P. 25 design, one side insulated, one side pick-up, for use with code .70, .100, .125 and .172 rail with 36" steel wheels. \$3.95 pr.
- #00200-30 Same as #00200 except equipped with Ace nylon Hi Rail wheel sets. 2 pr./\$5.00
- #00250/10 Roller bearing truck, mirror finish Ace steel wheel sets, R. P. 25 design, one side insulated, one side pick-up, for use with code .70, .100, .125 and .172 rail, 36" steel wheels. \$3.95 pr.
- #00250/30 Same as #00250 except equipped with Ace nylon Hi Rail wheel sets. 2 pr./\$5.00

## 2. ACCESSORIES

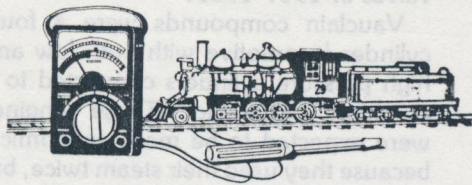
- #00010X 36" steel wheel, R. P. 25 design, one side insulated, one side pick-up, for use with code .70, .100, .125 and .172 rail. \$.75/axle
- #04011 Plug door box shell AF/type 2/\$2.50

\$5.00 minimum order. Add \$1.25 for shipping.

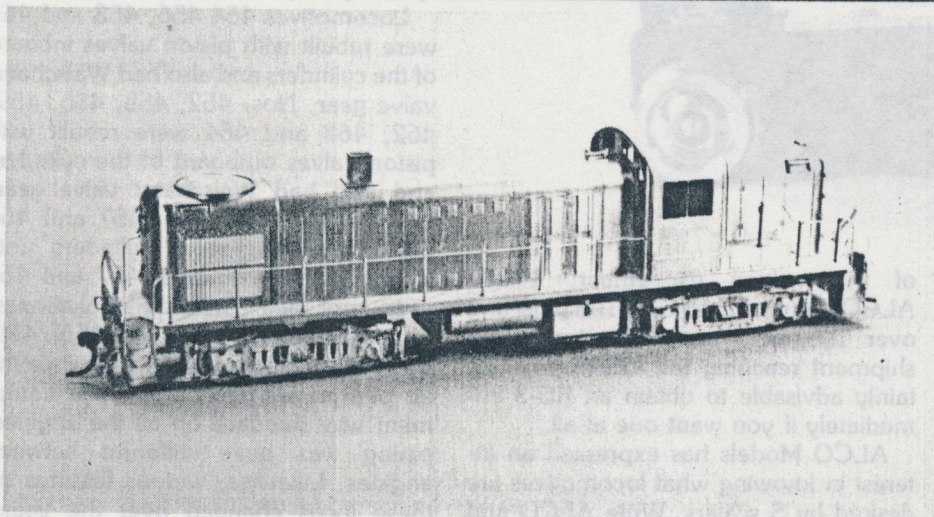
## Ace S Gauge Model Railroad Equipment Co.

1300 Florence St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042

# S Product Reviews



Manufacturers and suppliers are welcome to submit products for review. All items should be sent to the S Gauglan, 310 Lathrop Ave., River Forest, IL 60305.



**ALCO RS-3 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE.** Alco Models, P.O. Box 211, Port Jefferson, NY 11777. Available through: Scenery Unlimited, Hoquat Hobbies and other dealers. Price: \$369.00

A long-held dream of many S scale modelers has at last come true: an imported, brass, ready-to-run, standard gauge model railroad locomotive. ALCO models has evidenced faith in S gauge by their production of the first imported standard gauge locomotive in S scale history. Not only was the production run delivered essentially on time, but without the reservations and advance deposits commonly required by other importers who have, at times, promised more but delivered less.

The RS-3 locomotive was an excellent choice due to its widespread use from the early 1950's to the present. The RS-3 is equally at home on Class I mainlines as well as in branchline service on lesser roads. ALCO's competitor to the GP-7 could be found nearly everywhere and, most likely, would look right at home on your pike as well.

ALCO's model is well proportioned and accurately scaled in every major dimension. Comparing the model's dimensions to a prototype blueprint (provided by Walt Danylak) showed dimensions within just a few scale inches throughout. The brass body is very well formed and soldered extremely

neatly with virtually no traces of solder on the exterior. The body is embossed with louvers, doors, hinges, hatches, window frames, rivets and miscellaneous details. Wire door handles are installed on all doors. Castings include headlights, number boards, exhaust stack, radiator fan, grills, sand boxes, fuel cover, fuel gauge, horn and others.

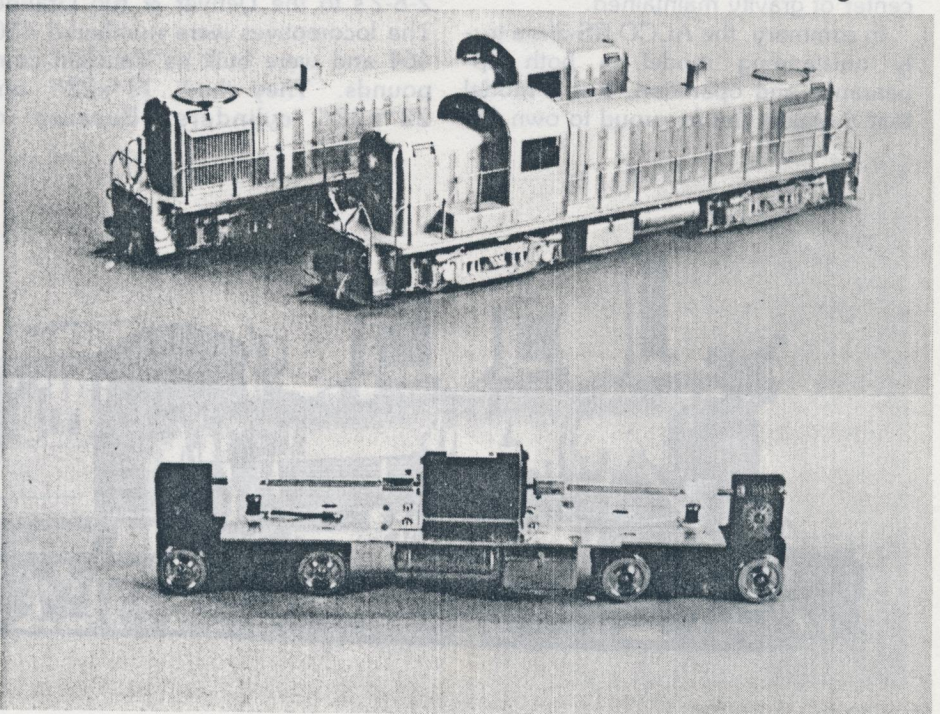
Railings and grabirons are well proportioned and stronger than expected.

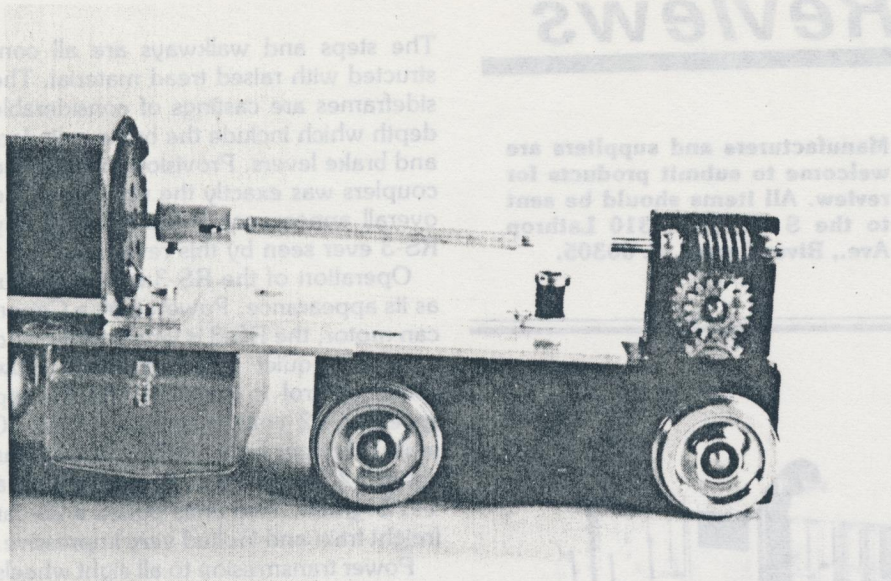
The steps and walkways are all constructed with raised tread material. The sideframes are castings of considerable depth which include the brake cylinders and brake levers. Provision for S Kadee couplers was exactly the right size. The overall appearance is the finest of any RS-3 ever seen by this reviewer.

Operation of the RS-3 is as beautiful as its appearance. Powered by a Canon can motor, the RS-3 is very smooth and extremely quiet when running. Slow speed control is excellent and the top speed at 12 volts is approximately 60 scale miles per hour. Pulling power was about 12 heavy (ACE floors) cars up a 1½% grade. Two units pulled a 25-car freight train and looked very impressive.

Power transmission to all eight wheels is via a worm gear mounted in brass bearings. A vertical gear train of spur gears carries power to one axle on each truck. Power is then transmitted to the other axle via a horizontal gear train of spur gears. With all the gears, considerable noise might have been expected. Due to the gear material alternating between brass and plastic (nylon?), the gears produced no noise whatsoever. Designing the transmission so that brass gears meshed only with plastic gears was commendable. Spring-loaded brass wipers on the pickup wheels also contributed to reliable electrical pickup.

No matter how perfect a model is, however, there is always room for some improvement. In the case of the ALCO RS-3, the only significant improvement that comes to mind is to rearrange a few





screws so that removal of the body from the chassis is easier. The only way to access these screws, at present, is by removal of the side frames. Unfortunately, in order to remove the sideframes, the gear box cover must be removed also. Thus, there are a total of 16 screws to unscrew in order to remove the body. Informing the buyer of the maximum current rating of the motor would be very helpful also.

The fastidious modeler will probably want to drill out the headlight and numberboard castings for illumination. Marker lights can easily be added and interior cab detail should also be considered since the cab has several large windows to permit easy viewing. In addition, the fuel tank is easily detachable so that weight can be added and a low center of gravity maintained.

In summary, the ALCO RS-3 is a truly outstanding model in both appearance and operation. It is a model that S scalers can be proud to own. As

of this writing (November, 1981), ALCO has produced only 108 units and over 100 were reserved prior to the shipment reaching the USA. It is certainly advisable to obtain an RS-3 immediately if you want one at all.

ALCO Models has expressed an interest in knowing what locomotives are desired by S scalers. Write ALCO and perhaps another brass import will soon be produced. -Ed Loizeaux

**K-27 STEAM LOCOMOTIVE.** Imported by Pacific Fast Mail, PO Box 57, Edmonds, WA 98020, and available through dealers. Price: \$515.00 (suggested retail).

In 1903, Baldwin delivered the first series of outside frame narrow gauge 2-8-2's to the Denver & Rio Grande. The locomotives were numbered 450-464 and were built as Vauclain compounds. They had 13"x22" and 22"x22" cylinders. Because of

maintenance problems, however, the railroad rebuilt them to simple with "D" valves in 1907-1909.

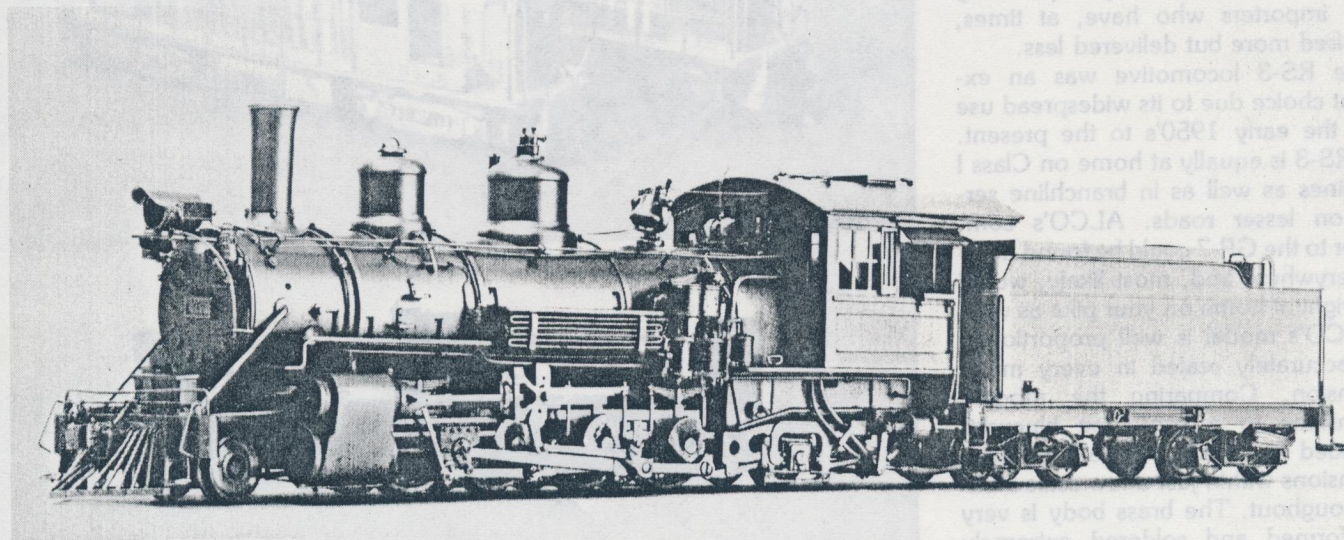
Vauclain compounds were a four-cylinder locomotive with both low and high pressure cylinders connected to a common crosshead. These engines were expected to be more economical because they used their steam twice, but maintaining the complex Vauclain system proved too costly.

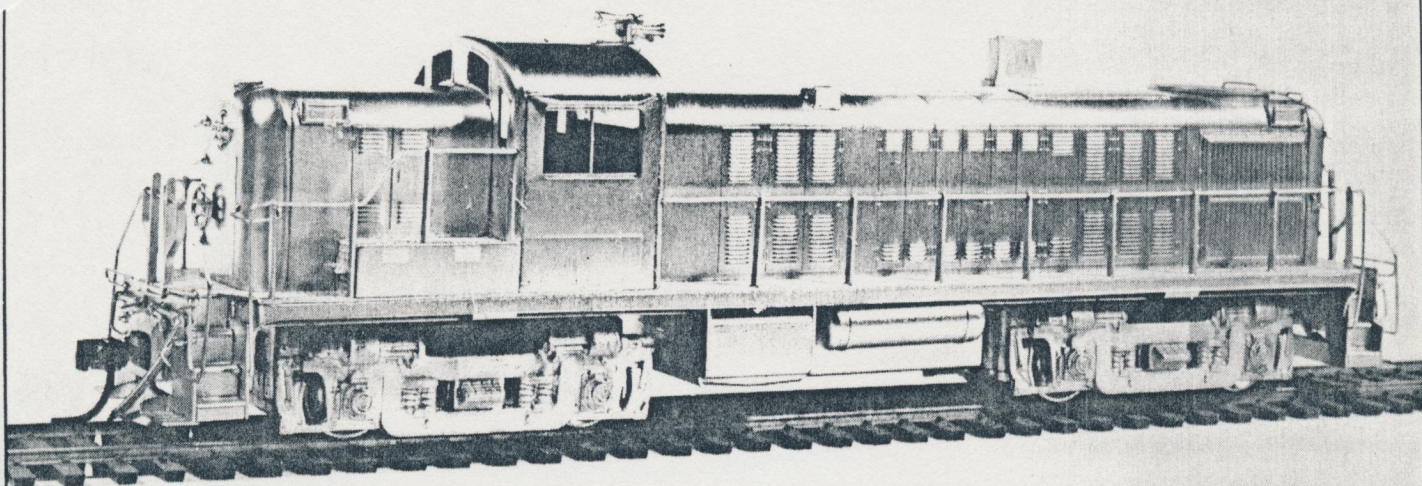
Locomotives 454-456, 458 and 461 were rebuilt with piston valves inboard of the cylinders and also had Walschaert valve gear. Nos. 452, 453, 455, 459, 462, 463 and 464 were rebuilt with piston valves outboard of the cylinders and also had Walschaert valve gear. Locomotives 450, 451, 457 and 460 kept their slide valve cylinders until scrapped in 1939. Nos. 457 and 460 even kept their extended smokeboxes. Superheaters were on 452-456, 458, 459, 461, 463 and 464. And while the air pumps, air tanks and brake equipment was standard on all the engines, piping was quite different between engines. Likewise, various features on these locos changed over the years. Tenders, for example, were changed to a more modern design, and various side panels were riveted to tender sides during repair work.

The success of the "Mudhens," as they were called by their crews, resulted in the purchase of 10 larger 2-8-2's from Alco in 1923. These were the K-28's Nos. 470-479. Later came the K-36 Class from Baldwin (Nos. 480-489) and the K-37's (Nos. 490-499) built by the railroad itself using standard gauge boilers and new running gear.

The Mudhens are very popular models, and Pacific Fast Mail has made

(Continued on page 14)





HO model of RS-3 provided by Alco Models.

## The RS-3's are coming! Reserve yours now!

*Another brass S scale model, ready-to-run!*

The RS-3 in S scale in ready-to-run brass is right around the bend! Alco Models will produce this beautiful locomotive in a *limited* quantity for S scalers very soon!

The model will be made by Samhongsu in Korea and will feature a double-shaft can motor, full details and RP25 wheels.

Since we made *our* first announcement of this locomotive, we've learned of the *great* interest in this particular locomotive (Alco Models changed the model number from an RS-2 to an RS-3 because of modeler response to an RS-3). We've already ordered our stock of these truly beautiful locomotives, but with the reservation response so far, *they won't last long!* Reservations are being taken *right now* and once the units are gone, we won't have any left. We don't expect to have any left when they arrive in the country either. So if you want one, order today. Our supply is limited and reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To order, send \$75.00 as your reservation. Total price is \$369.00, plus any state or local taxes and shipping and insurance. Remainder due when we notify you that model has been delivered to us. Order early to avoid disappointment.

We've also ordered extra chassis/power unit kits from the RS-3 which can be used as the basis for the RS-1, RS-2, (MLW)RS-10, RS-11, RS-36, (MLW) RS-18, RS-32 and even the rare RS-27's.

Other units that had these truck measurements were the Alco Century series C-420, 424, 425 and early 430's. Some C-415's also had the truck, as did the Alco cab and booster units such as the FA, FB, FPA, FPB and various models of each (FA-1, FA-2). Other units were the GE Universal Series such as the U-25B, U-28B, U-30B and some U-33B's, U-36B's and U-23B's. Thanks to Geoff Graeber for the information.

No price as yet on these chassis/power unit kits, so let us know if you're interested, and we'll let you know the price later. Send an SSAE for details.

**"S"cenery Unlimited**

310 Lathrop Ave.  
River Forest, IL 60305