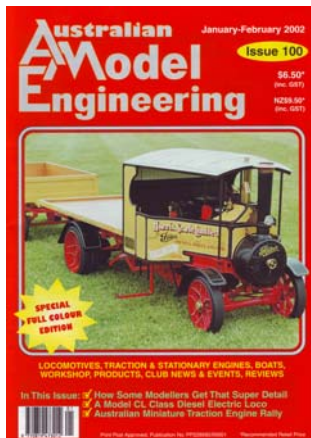


## AME Issue 100 Review of Miniature Steam castings by Brian Carter:



### Stationary Steam Engine Castings By Miniature Steam Pty. Ltd.

This review only covers the casting set and documentation as supplied. Over the years I have built a few stationary engines because they are an historical feature of the art of model engineering and their place is firmly fixed in the preservation of industrial processes as a reminder of the times before electric motors. I would encourage anyone considering a first-time locomotive or traction engine style project to have a go at a stationary engine first. The reason is that they are usually quick to make and contain all the elements of the locomotive/traction engine running gear. The thrill of running the stationary engine for the first and subsequent times is a great incentive to give us that nudge we so often need to persevere with long-term projects like locomotives or traction engines.

You could build a stationary model like these and put them to work powering your steam launch or other marine model. Or just start a collection of stationary engines; there are many types available to enhance your display.

Getting back to the story... I have the Mildura twin cylinder vertical model with Stephenson's reversing gear 3/4" bore and 3/4" stroke. The kit comes supplied with all castings in lost wax cast bronze and a cast crankshaft in SG iron. The packaging was not what I am used to; each part lives in a specially cutout foam insert in a sturdy cardboard box. Small parts are in plastic packets to keep them together. The presentation and packaging is first class, they have gone to great lengths to ensure the contents arrive in excellent condition. There are several engines types in their range and I am assured that each product is presented in the same fashion.

The castings have the best finish of any castings I have ever seen for an engine of this type. Most manufacturers still rely on sand castings, but the lost wax process is ideal for these smaller engines. The only machined surfaces required are on the mounting, operating and mating parts; exterior surfaces need no work at all. The crankshaft for Mildura requires little machining to bring to the finished size. An excellent product for the beginner to experience the sensation of steam power.

See the ad on page 4 for a photo of a finished Mildura kit.

Price: Mildura as reviewed \$404 (Engines in range start at \$185) incl. GST.

Available from: Miniature Steam Pty. Ltd. 65 Canterbury Rd. Montrose, Victoria, 3765

Brian Carter

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