

A Review of Current Hong Kong Commercial Tram Models - 2022

By John Prentice

Over the years there have been many models of Hong Kong trams produced. Earlier ones tended to be toys, but in recent years there have been some very accurate ones made. Some, such as Peak Horse, Bachmann and Atlas are now out of production and not easy to source, but at the date of this publication (2022) there are three main small-scale types that can be easily obtained: Majestic Trams, 80M and Tiny. Both 80M and Tiny have retail shop outlets in Hong Kong, while Majestic Trams are by post only from the UK.

Majestic Trams are white metal kits, formerly sold under the Tramalan trade name, and are made in Scotland, UK. They are to 4mm to one foot scale, i.e. 1:76, the most common scale in the United Kingdom and countries that have been associated with the UK. White metal kits are fairly straightforward to assemble, with minimal previous skill required. They represent the "Post-war" type of tramcar that ran between 1949 and 1991. They can be motorized with KW (BEC) ME34D09 motor units for running on 16.5mm gauge track or mounted on KW's un-motorised ME34U09 chassis. The kits can make up into three period types and are provided with different staircases for the different eras. Being kits they are easy to modify into your chosen form. These kits can be obtained from www.tramwayinfo.com/majestic.

The **80M** Bus Model Shop, based in Hong Kong, has die-cast metal models made specifi-



Majestic

Top:

The kit made up as car 55 in the earliest form with the original green livery and with just one staircase; first class passengers on the top deck, third class on the lower.

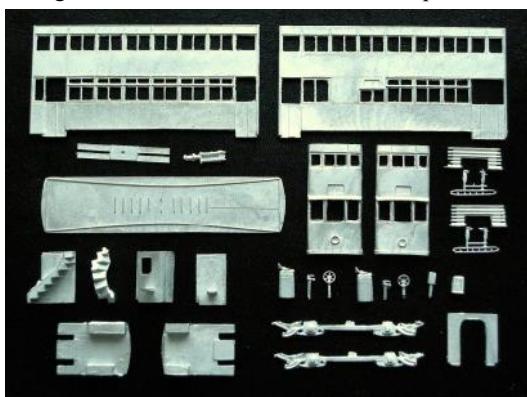
(Model and photo by Helmut Gieramm)

Above:

Car 88 in the short-lived part-orange livery of the late 1960s and in single staircase condition.

Left:

These are the white metal parts supplied in the Majestic Trams Hong Kong tram kit.



Majestic

Left:

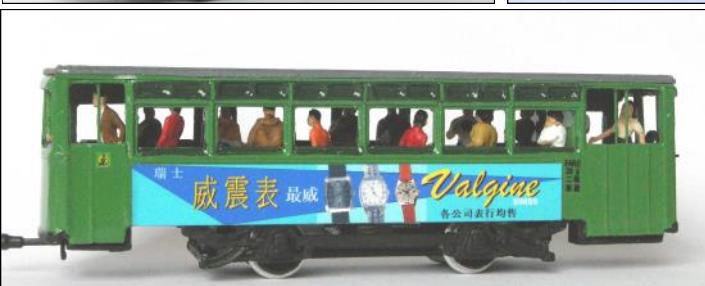
Car 120 was the original prototype for the post-war class and had minor differences to the production run. This model represents the tram as it was in the early 1980s.

Lower left:

Here is 145 as it appeared towards the end of its days. The front has been modified to appear as most trams were by then, and with lifeguards replaced by an extension to the bumpers.

Below:

Car 163 had been rebuilt from trailer car 1 in 1979. There were minor differences from the standard tram and this model is how it looked in 1981.



Left: A representation of trailer car 1 has been created here using parts from the Majestic kit, together with some scratch-built modifications. The original was rebuilt into car 163 in 1979.

Below: The 80M model of special hire car 28. The Hong Kong original was rebuilt from post-war tramcar 119 in 1985.

cally for them but also market those from other manufacturers. The 80M trams are also to 1:76 scale. They come in several different tram types and a wide range of liveries. They are static models supplied in plastic display boxes but, with skill, they can be modified to take various motor units including the KW (BEC) ME34D09 and the Tenshodo 35WB10.5D. Models can be obtained from www.80mbusmodel.com.





80M Bus Model Shop

Opposite top left:

Special hire car 128. The original/prototype tram was rebuilt from post-war car 59 in 1987.

Opposite top right:

Special car 68, built in 2016 to operate the "Tramoramic" tour.

Opposite, second row:

Post-war car 160 and trailer car 17. The motor car is available separately and both are can be obtained in an earlier livery.

Opposite, third row, left:

The standard Hong Kong 1987 style bodied tram. This special livery represents various destination blinds celebrating the tramway's entry in Guinness World Records as "the largest double-decker tram fleet in service".

Opposite, third row, right:

Millennium tram 170 in its original livery and condition.

Opposite bottom left:

Air-conditioned tram 88 in its original livery.

Opposite bottom right:

Car 1 is an example of the new, all-metal bodied cars, seen here as built in its initial or original green livery.

Tiny trams are manufactured by ToyEast in Hong Kong. They are die-cast metal models to the smaller 1:120 scale. Again, there is a variety of types and liveries, but some liveries are fictitious and have been produced for specific buyers. They can be motorized using Kato motor unit 11-109 for running on 9mm gauge track.

Models can be obtained from:

www.tiny.com.hk.

The photographs in this article simply show



Tiny Trams

Above: Car 168 here was the first of the all-metal bodied cars and was rebuilt from a millennium car. It is seen here in a Sanrio Characters livery.

Left: Tiny's smaller version of Special hire car 28.

Below left: Tiny's smaller version of 'Tramoramic' tour car 68.

Below: Tiny's smaller version of Special hire car 128.





More Tiny Trams

Above: The standard Hong Kong 1987 style bodied tram. This livery advertises the widely-known Pearl River Bridge soy sauce.

Above right: Air-conditioned tram 88 in a livery celebrating Pantone naming a colour as Hong Kong Tram Green.

Right: At one time Tiny produced an unpainted version of their tram for constructors. Here, John Prentice has produced a model of tram 33 advertising Tsingtao beer. It is motorised with a 9mm gauge Kato unit.



examples of the various tram types made, but most can be purchased in a variety of different liveries.

With the exception of the first image on page

16, all the photographs in this section are by the author John Prentice, who also constructed the Majestic models.

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