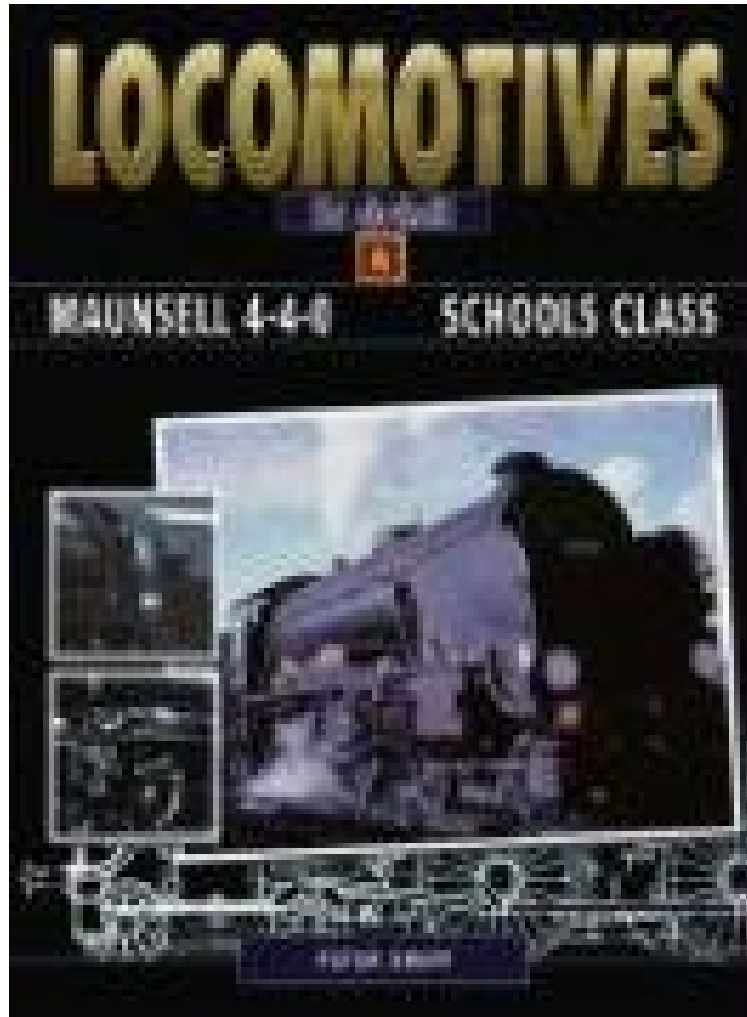


Locomotives In Detail 6: Maunsell Schools Class 4-4-0

Peter Swift

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Peter Swift : Locomotives In Detail 6: Maunsell Schools Class 4-4-0 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Locomotives In Detail 6: Maunsell Schools Class 4-4-0:

Widely considered to be the greatest locomotive design produced by Maunsell and often regarded as the finest 4-4-0 ever designed and built in Britain, the first of the 40-strong 'Schools' class emerged from Eastleigh Works in 1930. Named after famous British public schools, the origin of the class was a requirement, following the development of the 'Lord Nelson' and 'King Arthur' classes, for a locomotive of similar performance for secondary services. Initially, Maunsell's idea was to create a smaller version of the 'Lord Nelson' class. However, the new locomotives had to be

able to run on the Tunbridge Wells to Hastings route. The restricted loading gauge imposed by a tunnel on this line precluded the use of a 4-6-0 and led to the building of a 4-4-0 instead. The distinctive shape of the cab of the 'Schools' class engines was also necessitated by restrictions imposed by the loading gauge on this route. The 'Schools' class proved to be highly successful in service remaining in front line service until their withdrawal in 1961-62. In their latter years, members of the class were often used on Royal Train duties on the Southern Region, providing an immaculate spectacle to those who witnessed these services. On withdrawal, three were preserved. One of these initially was sent to the United States but has been subsequently repatriated to the United Kingdom. With the model railway market growing and with the proprietary manufacturers producing ever better and more finely-detailed models, the needs of the enthusiast and modeller for ever more detailed information grows in parallel. The titles already published in this series have sold well. This new volume on a much admired SR class will not prove to be an exception to this pattern.