



Wedge and Rotary Snowplows

FROM THE COLLECTION OF FRED VAN DER LUBBE

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2 Introduction



When the snow prevented the use of my garden railway I got the question whether a snowplow would not help. I however have no snowplow in any of the gauges I run in the garden. However I have some snowplows in H0 and 00 gauge and to spend the time I could not play outside I made pictures and a video of these plows. The pictures are collected in this booklet while the video can be seen on YouTube : <https://youtu.be/PEJdmbfccj0> .

This booklet is organised on type of plow and on model railway manufacturer brand. The type of plows recognized are wedge plow that just pushes the snow of the track and the rotary plow that has a large rotating cutter at the front that cuts through snow and throws it high and far from the tracks. Measurements in this catalogue are in centimetres.

This catalogue will not elaborate on the history of the snowplows. There are some books that go into this, especially on US rotary snowplows and also on British snow fighting equipment. There does not seem to be a book, except this one, on snowplows from around the world.

Again, another interesting but not covered area is the history of the makers or brands of the models described here.

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3 Wedge Snowplows

3.1 Märklin

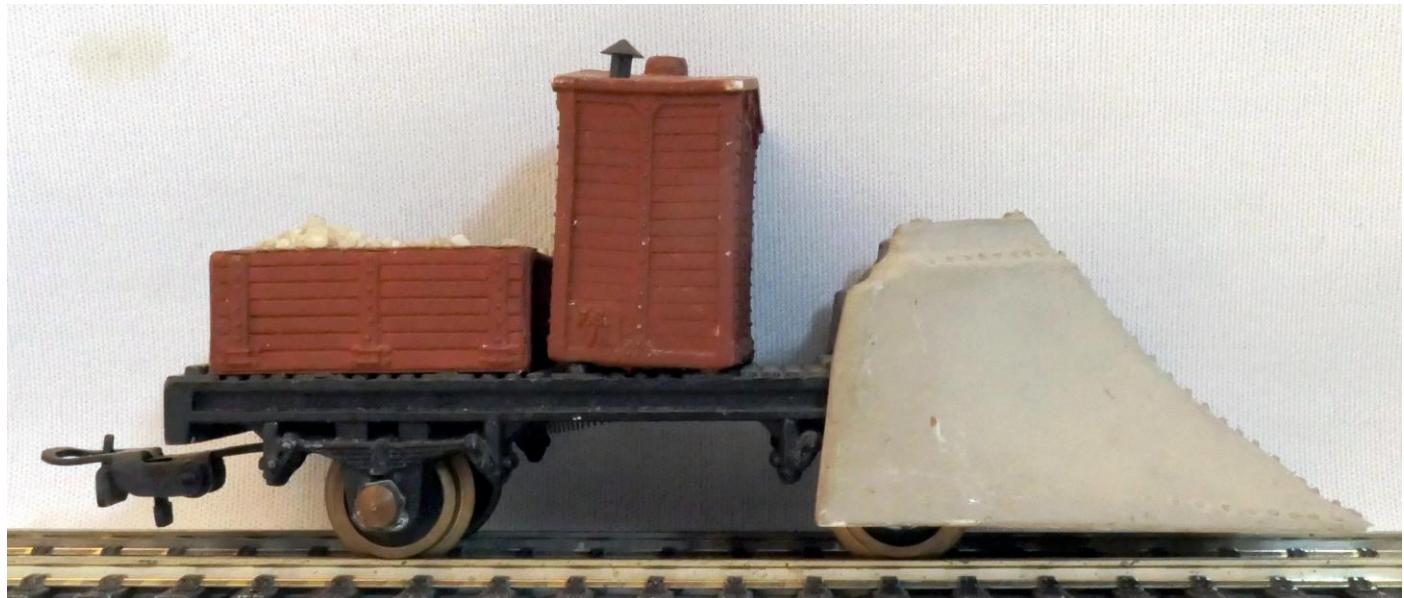
This wedge snowplow is a model of a Henschel "Klima" snowplow for the Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB), invented by the Austrian Rudolf Klima. This Märklin model, released from 2002 to 2007, has catalog number 46119. It is 12 cm long and has operating lights at the front.

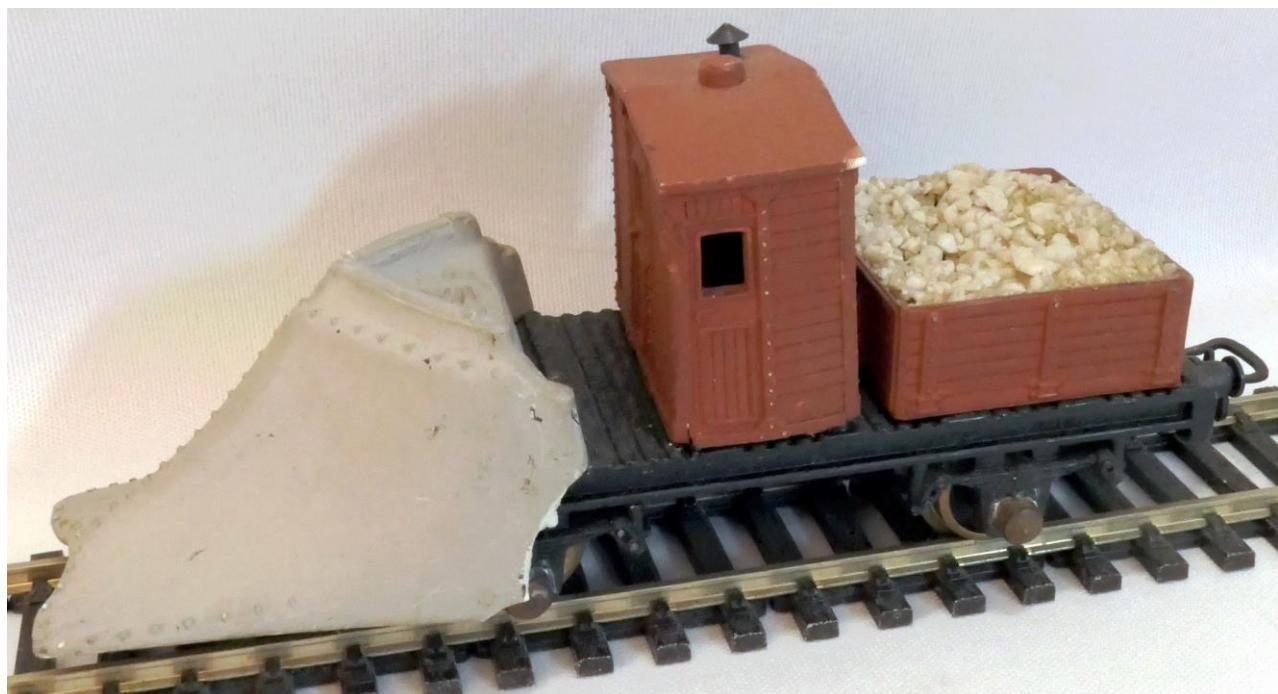




3.2 Pocher

The first wagon created by Maestro Arnaldo Pocher was a short flat wagon, made of metal, with a notable quantity of different loads to expand the range offered. There were many variations, especially in the early years, due to the practically manual production of each piece and the continuous remaking of the moulds. One variant was the flatbed wagon with wedge snowplow from 1955 and with catalogue number 163. It has a length of 11 cm. The model, which as far as I know is not based on a real Italian snowplow but is lettered for the Italian railway FS, is rather rare. So although my example is a bit damaged it is included anyway.

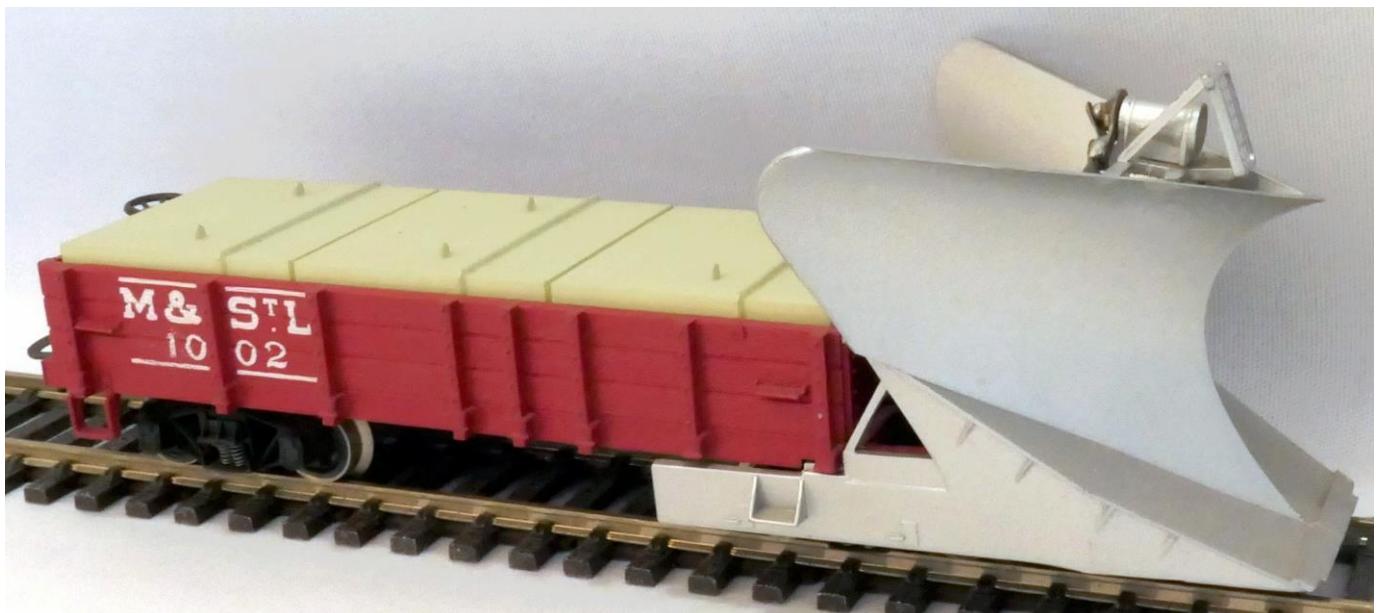
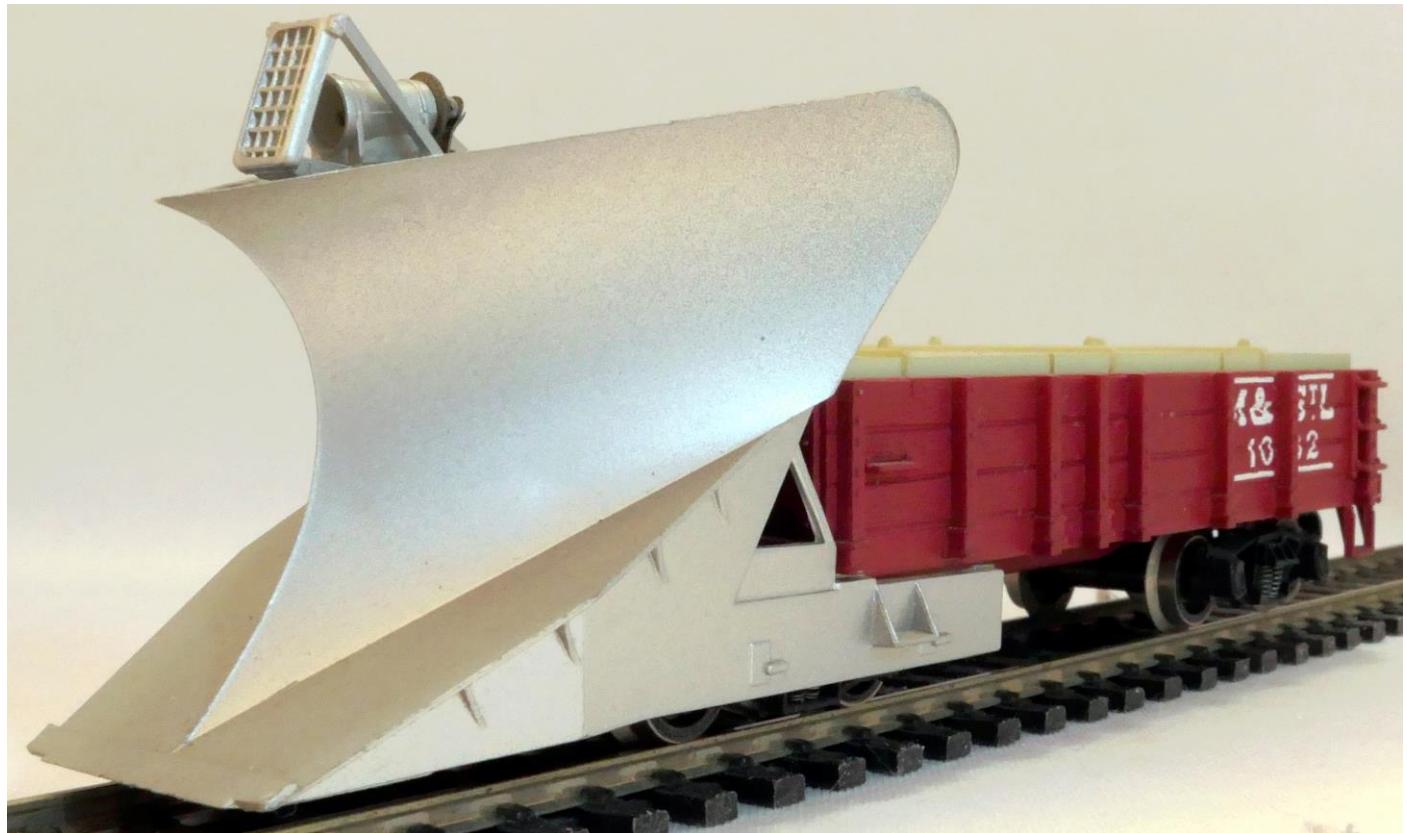




3.3 RivaRossi

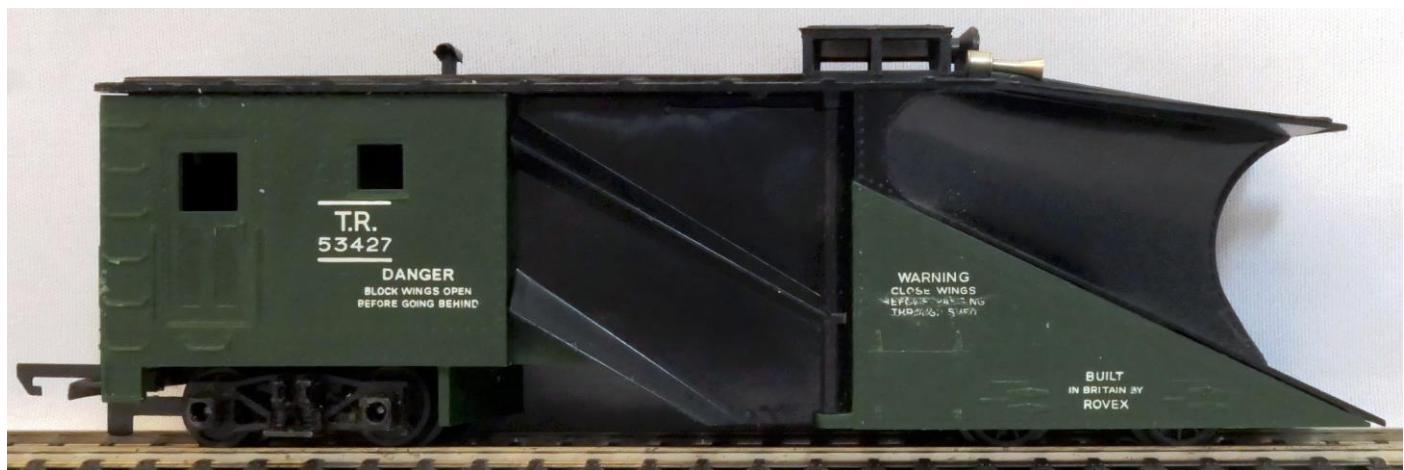
This is RivaRossi catalogue number 2258 from 1964, a “Minneapolis & St. Louis Snowplow Wagon with Illuminated Headlight”. The lighting system is powered by two AAA batteries, inserted into the wagon's body. RivaRossi made this snowplow also without lights and in a number of different liveries. Length of this plastic bodied snowplow is 14 cm.

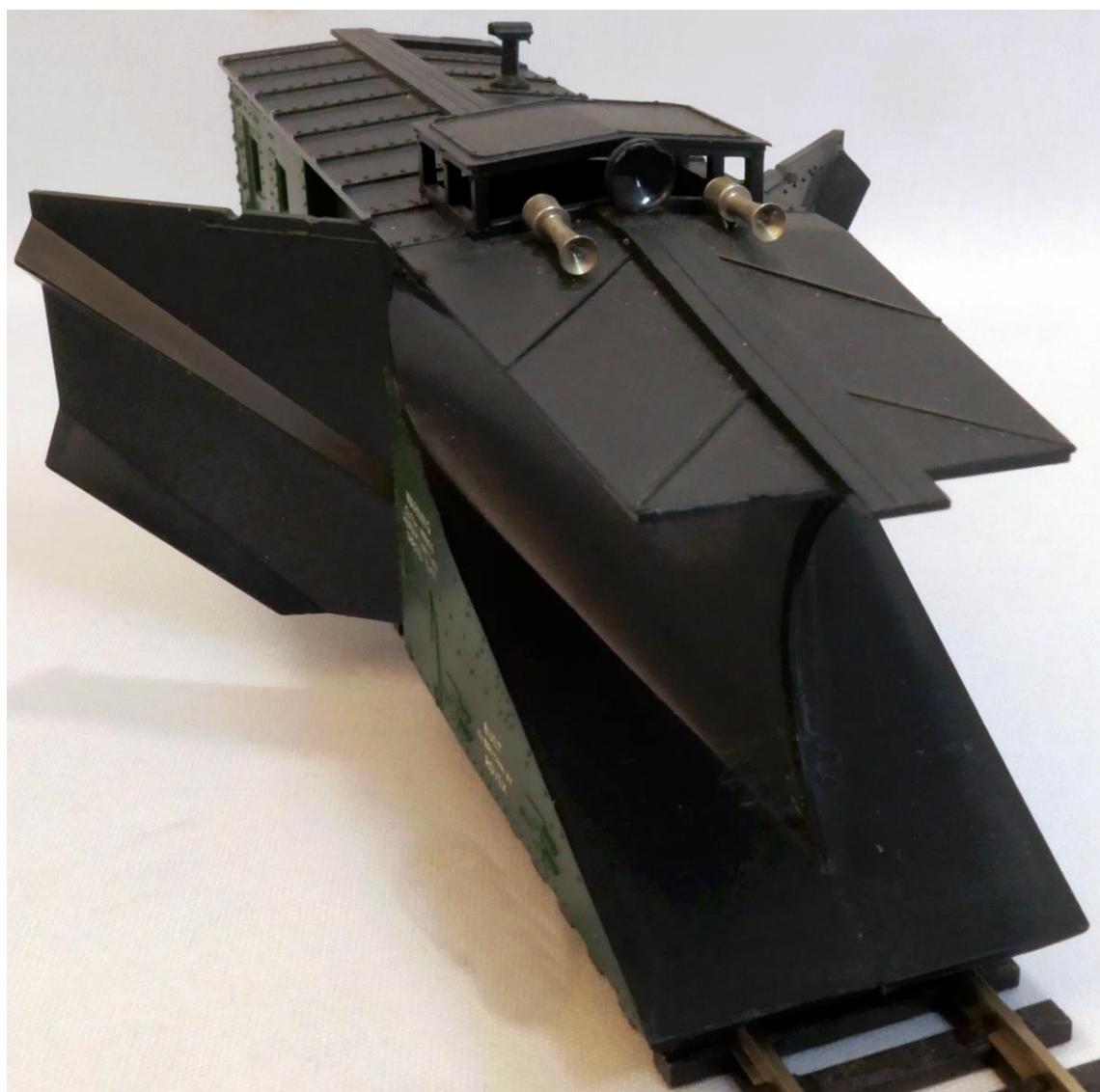
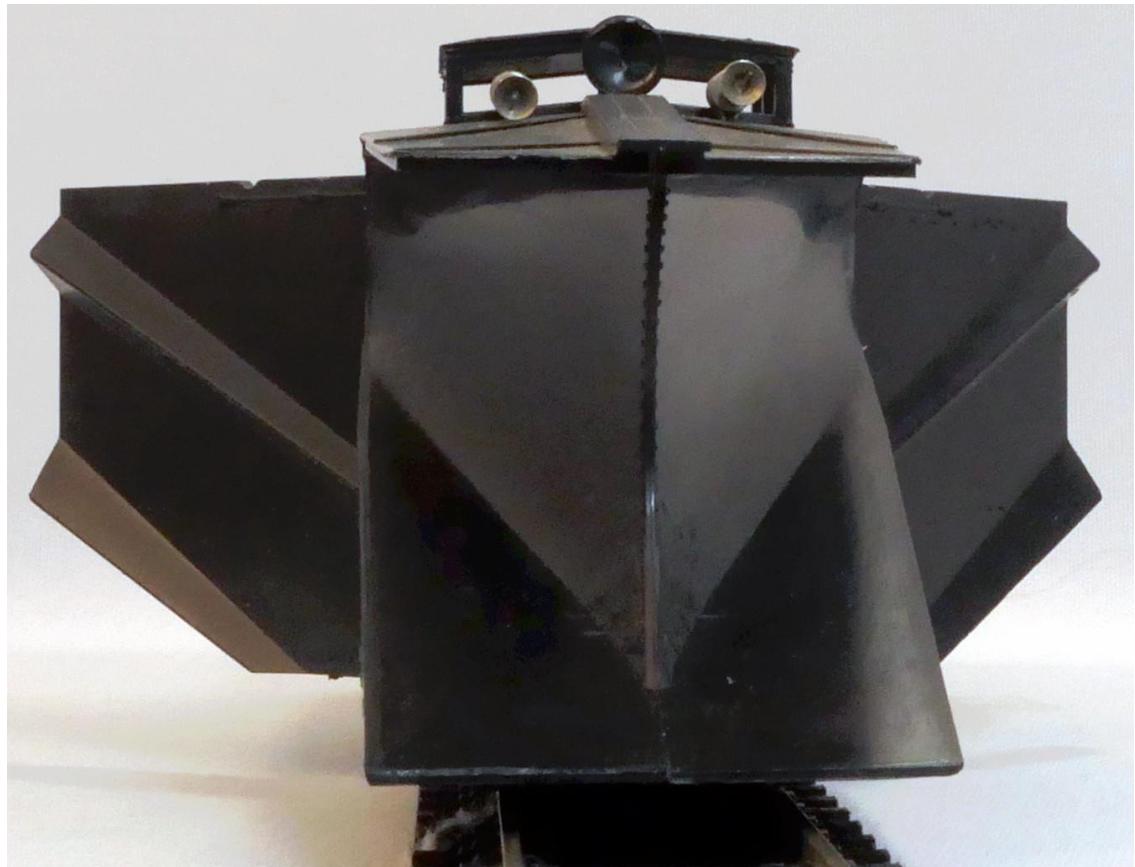




3.4 Triang

The Triang 00 gauge snowplow with catalogue number R138 and “Transcontinental Railway” running number TR53427 was made between 1957 and 1967. It has a length of 16 cm and has a body made of plastic. Notable are the two wings that can be folded out (and are sometimes missing or gone from a model).

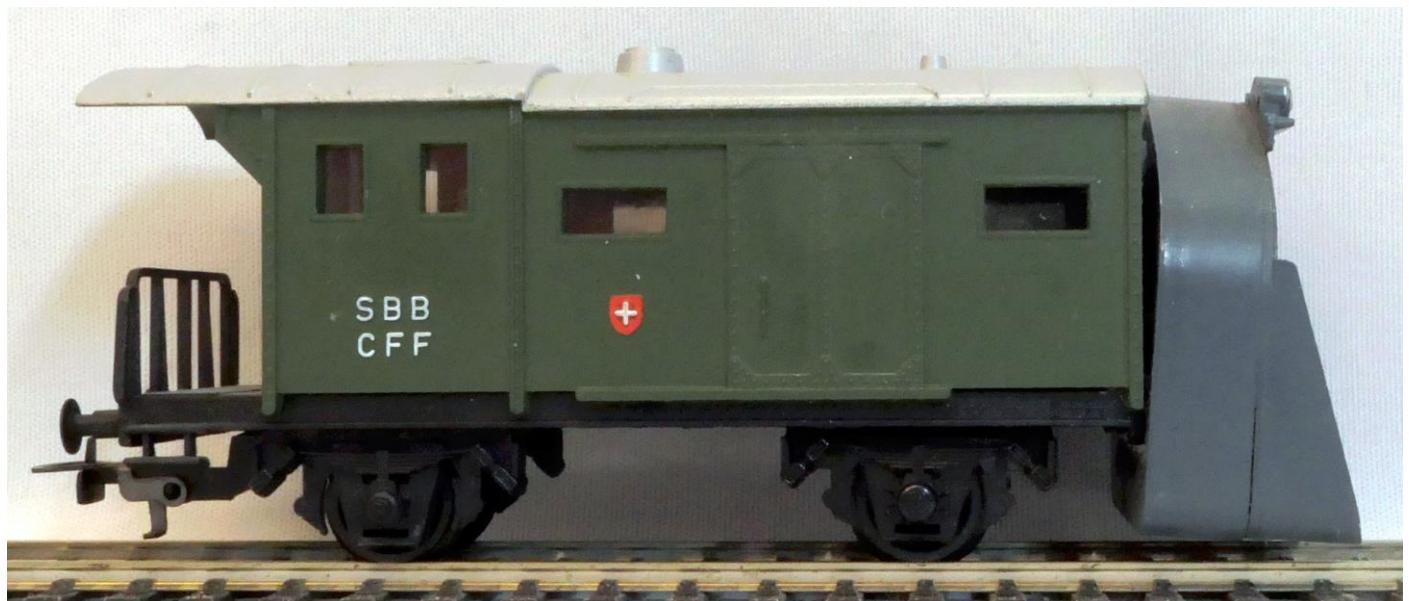


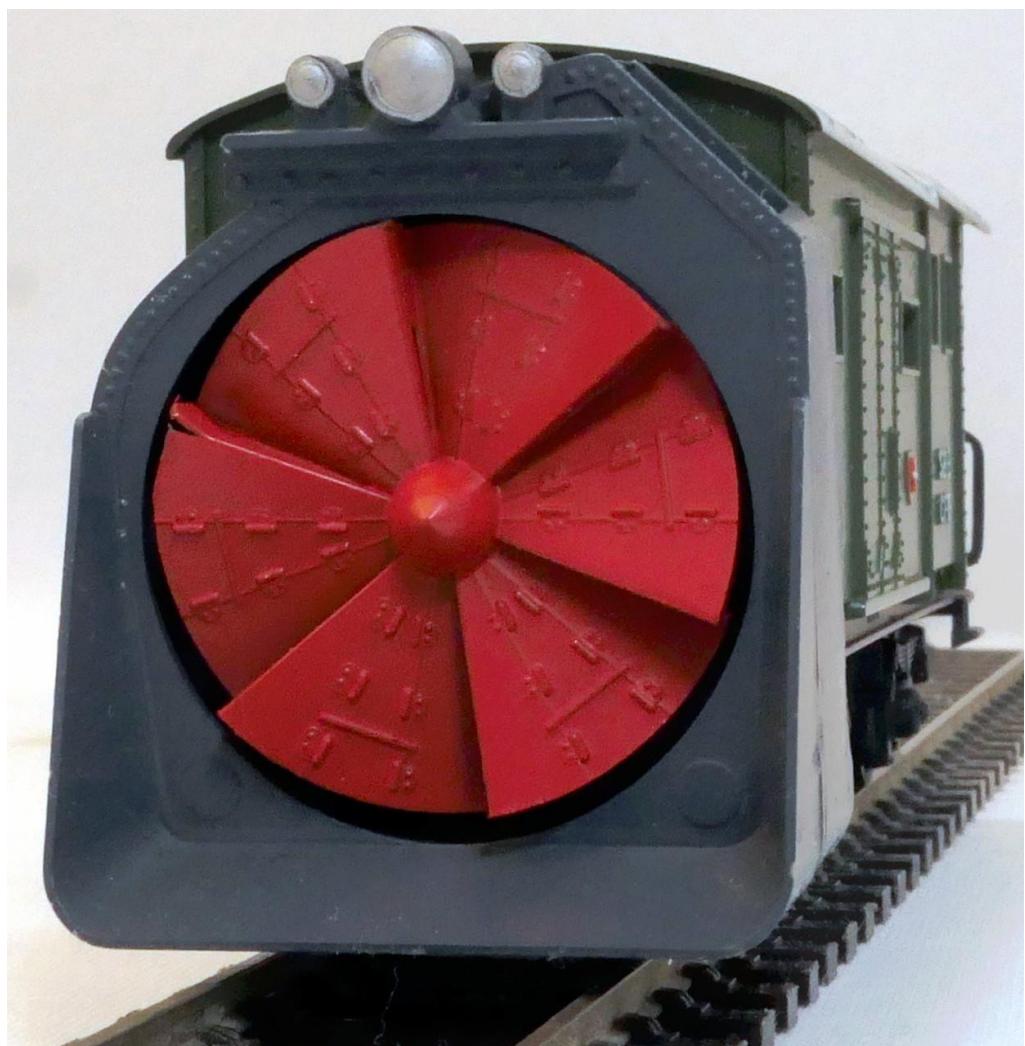
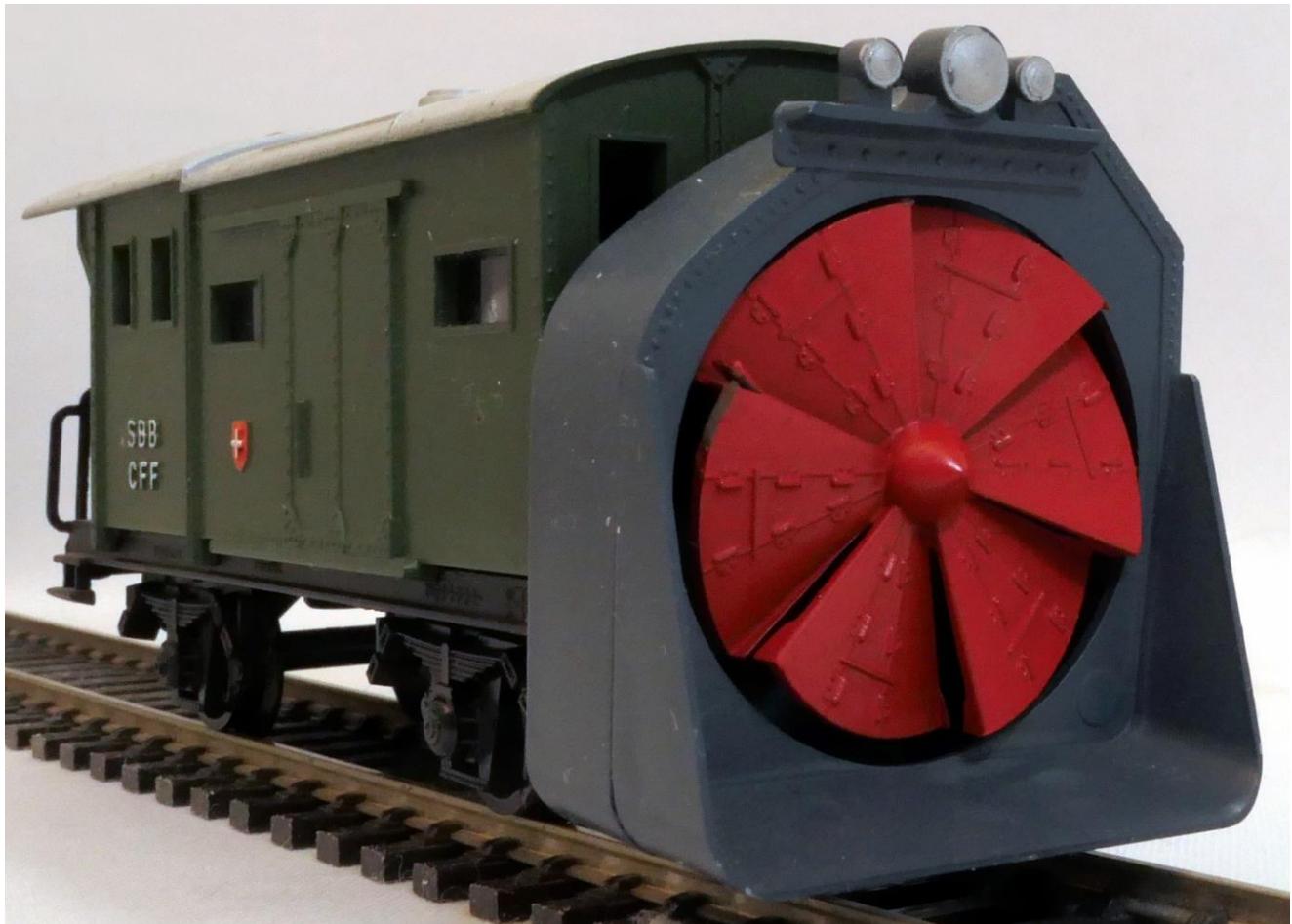


4 Rotary Snowplows

4.1 Kleinbahn

The Austrian company Kleinbahn made this Swiss (SBB) rotary snowplow, I assume by looking good to a model made by Pocher in 1955 of the same plow. I do not know when Kleinbahn introduced this model but it was available in the seventies. The rotary plow with a length of 11 cm is driven by an elastic band with a pulley on the front axle that powered a gear coaxial with the snowplow.

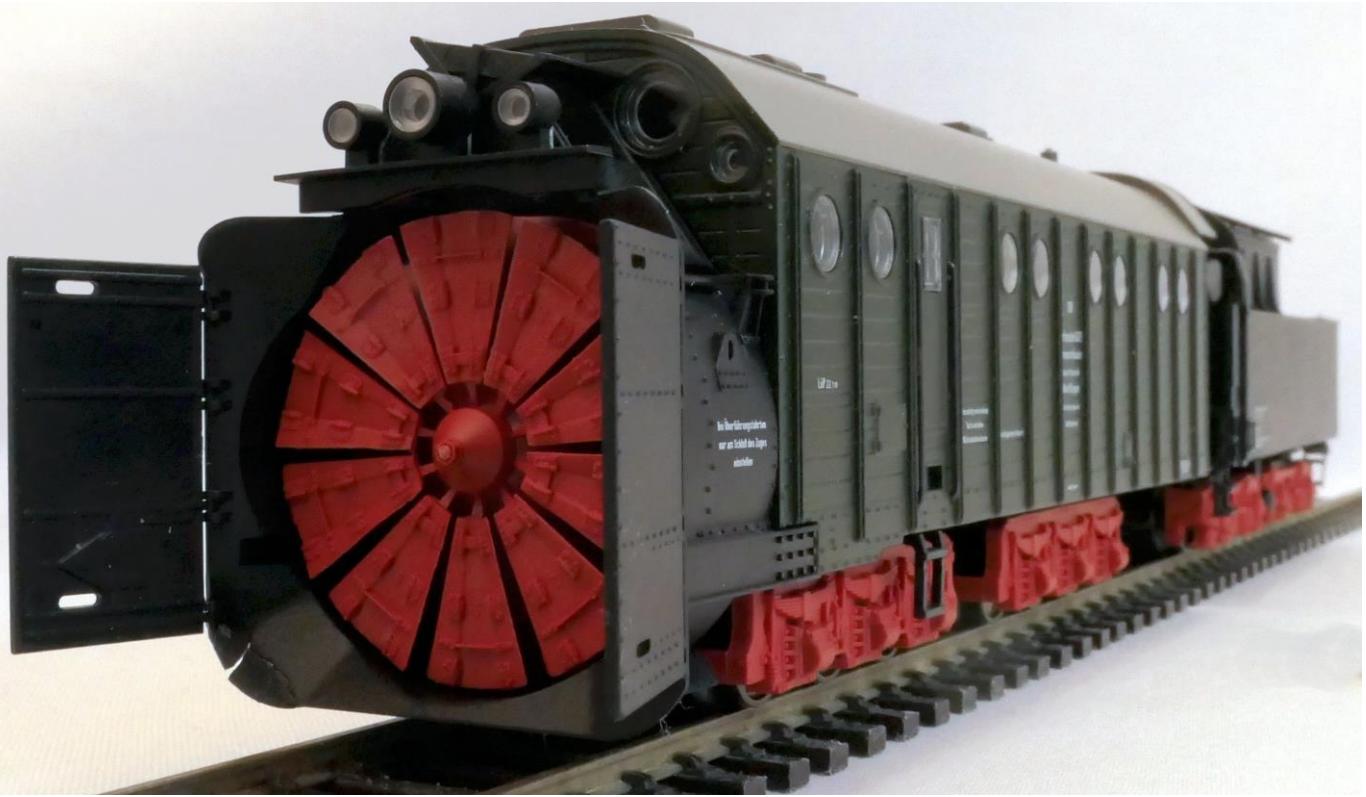




4.2 Märklin

Märklin made with catalogue number 26830 a set with a Baureihe 52 2-10-0 locomotive and a 6-axle rotary snowplow with a 4-axle tender. The blades of the snowplow are driven by a digitally controlled motor and the model has also light and sound including a whistle. Length of the snowplow with tender, which is based on a Henschel prototype, is 26 cm.





4.3 Pocher

Although the Pocher model range is not that large it contained three snowplows. This is the Great Northern rotating snowplow with catalogue number 184 that was introduced by Pocher in 1958. Later it appeared also in the RivaRossi catalogue. The plow of this 15 cm long model is, like the Kleinbahn rotary snowplow, driven by an elastic band, in this case on both the axles of the rear truck.





4.4 Walthers

Walthers made around 1995 this 25 cm long snowplow which is based on the same prototype as the Pocher one shown above. Walthers added a tender to it according to how it original ran. The blades of the rotating snowplow are motorized and run on DC 2-rail track power.





