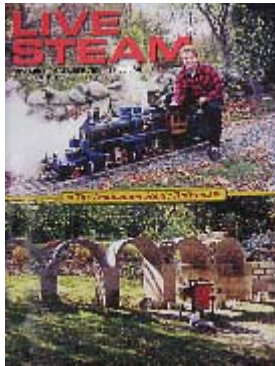


LIVE STEAM

The Steaming Bay



Product Review

By Steve Booth

Three-year Test Proves Fuel Catalyst Works

Most of the large-scale “diesels” in the outdoor railroad hobby use gasoline as fuel, and for this reason the continuing quality of the fuel, especially after long months of downtime each year due to the winter hiatus or the excessive heat down south in summer, is a big factor in locomotive performance. Even with good engine maintenance, the fuel in the tank can reduce power and even prevent starting at all. That’s what happened three years ago with my 1.6” scale two-unit Alco FA-2 – no go!

So I emptied the tank, replaced the gas lines and cleaned the carburetor on the 16 hp V-twin engine. With new fuel it started easily, but how long would that last? The guys at the track suggested I put some stabilizer in the tank. One man at a local mower and chain saw dealership disagreed, and he sold me a fuel catalyst instead. “Just drop the unit into the tank... it should last six years.” Now, three years later and with no running in the last 12 months, after a battery charge it started right up and ran perfectly – the locomotive pulling 63 cars effortlessly for much of the day at a recent meet.

Interested? It’s the Fitch Fuel Catalyst by Advanced Power Systems, International, Inc., Lakeville, Connecticut. The company now claims it will last the life of the engine and eliminates the need for stabilizers. Price: \$29.88 for the 6-gallon size.



Fitch Fuel Catalyst (approximately actual size) for a tank size up to six gallons.

Photo by Author