



**BACHMANN**  
Europe plc  
Quality Since 1833



## PRESS INFORMATION

### NEW LEYLAND ATLANTEAN 'SEA DOG' OPEN TOP BUSES FROM EFE ROAD

EFE Road is delighted to present the first five of its long-awaited new 1:76 scale diecast Leyland Atlantean 'Sea Dog' open top double decker buses as part of Bachmann Europe Plc's Spring 2025 British Railway Announcements.

The full-size 'Sea Dogs' were built for the well-known operator, Devon General, which had begun running regular open top bus tours of the Torbay area in the summer of 1955. However, in 1961 Devon General introduced a fleet of nine specially built Leyland Atlanteans with Metro-Cammell bodies, each seating 75 passengers. Each was named after an historical naval or maritime figure, which quickly earned them the nickname 'Sea Dogs'.

In their distinctive cream and red livery, they became a familiar sight on the 12A-12D routes serving Torquay, Paignton, Brixham, Babbacombe and Kingswear, and carried generations of holidaymakers for the next 20 years. They were built as convertibles, with detachable roofs, meaning that they could operate as normal double deckers during the low season.

In January 1971 Devon General became part of the Western National Omnibus Company (itself part of the National Bus Company), and during the next two years the Sea Dogs were repainted into NBC poppy red and white, and also converted to one-man operation. They initially carried Devon General branding under NBC ownership, but this was later superseded by Western National and other NBC liveries as their duties took them further afield into Cornwall and Dorset. Withdrawal commenced in 1982, and the Sea Dogs went their separate ways, finding use in places including London, Lancashire, East Yorkshire and Glasgow.

The five new EFE Road 'Sea Dogs' represent examples of the type during various stages of their post-Devon General careers. The models feature a newly tooled upper deck with metal handrails, separately fitted metal bodyside destination banner boards (where applicable), and the latter style of lower positioned, one man operation route blinds. Two patterns of rear engine bustle are also included in the tooling suite, and the models also carry wing mirrors for the first time on an EFE Leyland Atlantean.

The new models are:

#### ***E40601 – Leyland Atlantean Open Top Western National NBC 926 926GTA***

This model depicts registration 926GTA 'Sir Francis Drake' in its post-1973 condition as fleet number 926, complete with lower route blind. The model is finished in NBC Poppy Red and White with Western National branding, operating on service 514 to Penzance. It also features period advertising on the original-style rear engine bustle, and separately fitted destination banner boards on the body sides.

Contact: Gary Boyd-Hope – 01455 245583  
gary.boyd-hope@bachmann-europe.co.uk  
Bachmann Europe Plc, 13 Moat Way, Barwell, Leicestershire. LE9 8EY  
Registered in England No. 2392907



**BACHMANN**  
Europe plc  
*Quality Since 1833*



## PRESS INFORMATION

### ***E40602 – Leyland Atlantean Open Top Ribble 1927 927GTA***

Our model represents registration 927GTA (formerly ‘Sir Martin Frobisher’) in its circa 1986 condition as Ribble Motor Services fleet number 1927, complete with original engine bustle and lowered route blind. The model is finished in the distinctive Ribble white, red and grey striped livery, and carries excursion service 02 blinds.

### ***E40603 – Leyland Atlantean Open Top First Glasgow 39989 ABV669A***

Here we have 927GTA once again, this time depicted in its 2004-2007 condition as First Glasgow fleet number 39989 (registration ABV669A), complete with original engine bustle. The model is finished in the classic Glasgow Corporation orange, cream and green livery, but with Glasgow cityscape decals as working on the First City Tour sightseeing services.

### ***E40801 – Leyland Atlantean Open Top Round London Sightseeing 933GTA***

The model shows registration 933GTA (formerly ‘Sir Walter Raleigh’) in its post-1982 condition after transfer to Holman Bros. Coaches of Wood Green for use on London Transport sightseeing services around the Capital. It is finished in London Transport red livery, complete with solid white roundels, London cityscape decals and ‘Round London Sightseeing Tour’ branding. The lower position route blind and later style of replacement rear engine bustle complete the model.

### ***E40803 – Leyland Atlantean Open Top Red Bus NBC 925 925GTA***

Registration 925GTA (formerly ‘Admiral Blake’) is modelled in its post-1983 condition after transfer from Western National to North Devon Limited, a National Bus Company operator trading as Red Bus. The model is finished in NBC poppy red and white livery with Red Bus branding and full Western Counties Building Society advertising all round. The lower position route blind carries a service 301 to Westward Ho! Destination, while the later style of replacement rear engine bustle completes the model.

EFE Road spokesman, Gary Boyd-Hope, said: *“It is a great pleasure to finally bring the first of the ‘Sea Dogs’ to market after such a long time, and we thank collectors for their patience. The models make a very welcome addition to the expanding EFE Road range, offering striking colour schemes and geographical interest beyond their original West Country stamping ground, and help capture the joy of holidays gone by.”*

The five models are expected to reach retailers during Spring 2025, with an RRP of £44.95.

Continued . . .

Contact: Gary Boyd-Hope – 01455 245583  
gary.boyd-hope@bachmann-europe.co.uk  
Bachmann Europe Plc, 13 Moat Way, Barwell, Leicestershire. LE9 8EY  
Registered in England No. 2392907



**BACHMANN**  
Europe plc  
*Quality Since 1833*



## **PRESS INFORMATION**

Also announced in the Spring 2025 British Railway Announcements is the EFE Road Art Deco Bus Garage, which returns to the range by popular demand. The resin building (Item No. **E99660**) comes with a 'mystery' FREE bus included from the Exclusive First Editions back catalogue - each one being different - with the entire package having an RRP of £114.95.

- ENDS -

### ***NOTES FOR EDITORS:***

A selection of images showing pre-production decorated samples of the new models are enclosed with this press release. Please note that certain colours or details may vary slightly on the finished models.

EFE Road originates from the Exclusive First Editions range of diecast models and collectables established in 1989. It became part of Bachmann Europe Plc in 2016 and was rebranded as EFE Road in 2022.

Contact: Gary Boyd-Hope – 01455 245583  
gary.boyd-hope@bachmann-europe.co.uk  
Bachmann Europe Plc, 13 Moat Way, Barwell, Leicestershire. LE9 8EY  
Registered in England No. 2392907