

Class 45 Crewe Works Overhauls



*45124 undergoing a Heavy General Overhaul at Crewe Works in May 1982.
Photo: Martin Addison*

At the end of 1981, a re-organisation at British Rail Engineering Ltd (BREL) saw the remaining Class 45/1 Heavy General Overhaul work transferred from Derby to Crewe Locomotive Work, which resulted in the final eleven locos being dealt with there. The first was 45124, as depicted above, which was removed from traffic on 19/11/81 and sent to Crewe. However, work on the overhaul did not commence until January. A handful of Class 45/0s also passed through Crewe, some of these also receiving major overhauls. A summary of the locos dealt with there is as follows...

Loco	Classification	Date In	Date Out	Notes
45124	Heavy General	Jan 82	Sep 82	
45146	Heavy General	Mar 82	Nov 82	
45147*	Heavy General	May 82	Jan 83	Returned for rectification
45123	Heavy General	Aug 82	Apr 83	Returned for rectification
45141	Heavy General	Oct 82	Mar 83	Returned for rectification
45026	Light	Nov 82	Mar 83	
45134*	Heavy General	Nov 82	Apr 83	Returned for rectification
45009	Light	Feb 83	May 83	
45066*	General	Feb 83	Jun 83	
45101	Light	Mar 83	Jul 83	Returned for rectification
45033	General	Apr 83	Sep 83	Returned for rectification
45062	General	Apr 83	Oct 83	
45138	Heavy General	Apr 83	Nov 83	
45139	Heavy General	Apr 83	Jul 83	
45076	Intermediate	May 83	Nov 83	
45128*	Heavy General	Jul 83	Dec 83	
45058	General	Aug 83	Jan 84	
45142	Heavy General	Sep 83	Feb 84	
45144*	Heavy General	Oct 83	Mar 84	

The locos marked with an asterisk in the table above still carried nose end headcode boxes when they entered Crewe and these were removed as part of the overhaul, replaced by the standard flush nose front and marker lights. Unlike Derby, it appears that Crewe did not remove the nose front from the locos during overhaul. The photos on the next page show the major surgery performed on the nose end of 45066 to remove the split centre headcode boxes and re-skin to fit marker lights, all with the nose front remaining in situ.



The locos overhauled at Crewe emerged with quite a few distinguishing features. When painted, BR logos were only applied to two cab sides, generally under the driver's side window (45009, 45128 and 144 were exceptions, receiving them under the secondman's side windows!). Some locos had blue star multiple working stickers under the tail lights, even though no multiple working equipment was fitted. The numbers on some locos (notably 45066, 138 and 146) were applied very high up the body side, similar in style to Class 47s.

It also appears that Crewe were not sure how to deal with the headcode box fitted locos that came in; 45134 had the boxes removed but the upper lamp brackets and headboard clips left in place. The upper lamp brackets were also left on 45147, but the lower hand rails were removed!

In addition to overhaul work, some unclassified repairs were also completed on 45113, 116, 145 and our own 45133. Another interesting twist was that split box fitted 45053, stored unserviceable at Swindon Works, was transferred to Crewe in 1983 for overhaul. However, on arrival the overhaul was cancelled and the loco used to provide spares for other overhauls instead. It languished at the works until being cut up in 1988.

The reign of Crewe Works was short lived however, as following the departure of 45144 in March 1984 (the final Heavy General Overhaul), all Class 45 work was transferred back to Derby.



45134 in Crewe Works, 26/02/83, showing upper lamp bracket and headboard clips left in place after removal of headcode boxes.

Steve Dexter