

Truck and Coupler Assembly

In the test builds of my kits I have put together a number of the trucks and couplers. I thought it might be helpful to give some tips on this for your consideration.

The T-2 trucks that I sell are actually Tichy heavy archbar HO truck kits that scale at a 3' wheelbase in 1:48. The wheelsets are Intermountain 36" HO insulated wheelsets that scale to 19½" in 1:48. The couplers are Kadee #148 with the #242 draft gearbox. These are the same as the #5 coupler except they have the whisker spring attached.

Truck Assembly:

1. Remove the side frames from the sprue and clean off any flash.
2. On the white nylon bearings, remove any excess flash and then cut them off the sprue
3. Insert a nylon bearing into each axle hole in the side frame. Use the point of a #11 Xacto in the bearing hole and place it into the side frame hole. I then use a pair of pliers to squeeze the bearing tight into the hole. Make sure it goes in straight and it will go all the way in and snap in place.
4. Remove the journal box covers from the sprue and clean off any flash.
5. Place the side frames on a flat surface and apply plastic solvent (MEK or similar) to one of the journal box surfaces. Use you #11 blade to stab and pick up the cover and place it onto the journal box flat surface. Carefully position the cover and hold in place until set. A dab more of the solvent can be added around the cover edge later to assure it is firmly attached. Do this for all 8 journal boxes.
6. Remove the truck bolster from the sprue and clean off any flash.
7. Put a drop of solvent into the square recess on the back of the side frame. This is the top of the frame. Insert one end of the bolster into the recess with the flat bolster surface facing up. Hold in place making sure it is square to the frame and fully into the recess. Hold until solvent is set up.
8. Repeat glue procedure for the other side frame, again making sure the bolster and frame are square to each other. Set aside to dry while you assemble the other truck.
9. If you are going to paint your trucks and wheels, now is the time to do it while they are separated.
10. After dry, take one wheelset and insert the pointed axle into the nylon bearing on one frame and then carefully spread the frame to insert the other axle end into the bearing.
11. Now insert the other axle point into the other nylon bearings. After putting one axle end into the bearing, very carefully spread the truck assembly and slip the other end into the other nylon bearing. Be VERY careful here and do NOT spread the assembly too far or it may break apart. And make sure the pointed axle end goes completely into the bearing hole.
12. You can do any paint or weathering touch up now and then screw the trucks to the frame of the kit.

Coupler Assembly

1. Remove the gearbox and lid from the sprue and clean up any flash.
2. Place the gearbox on a flat surface and slip the coupler over the center pin with the curved "hose" facing up towards you and the whisker springs inside the box. It is recommended that the lid be facing down when installed on the finished car.
3. Snap the cover over the coupler and into the sides of the gearbox. It will definitely snap into place when properly squeezed together with you fingers.
4. Install the coupler assembly into your car frame at the desired height, with the lid and "hose" facing down. I use CA glue but a screw can also be used.

Hopefully these tips are helpful to you.