



Australian Railway Kits
ABN: 27 416 246 418

Incorporating Main West Models
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44 Class Pilot Filler Article

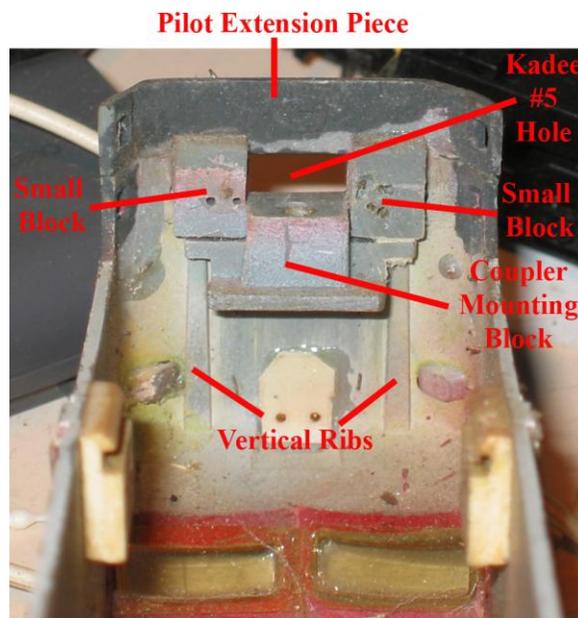
This is a bit of a blast from the past and the article was written to assist a modeller who came to me for help.

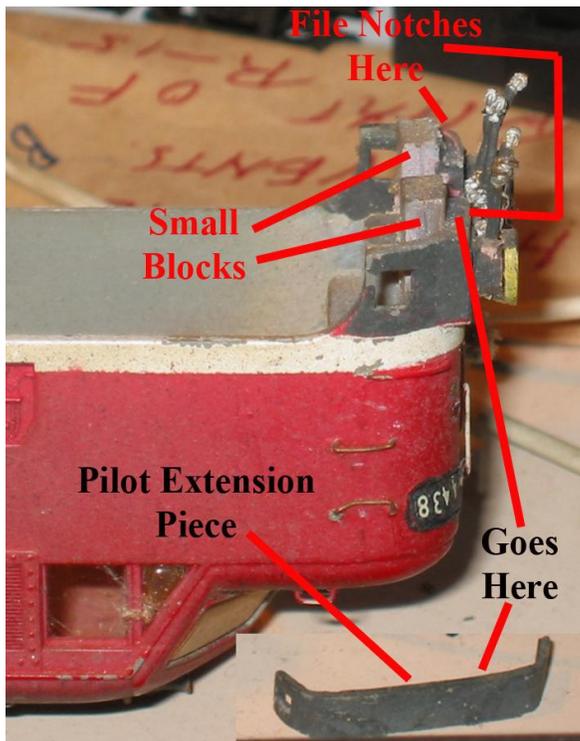
This goes back before my time as Main West Models. They were done by Bob Birdsey and were the force behind the pattern I made for L&C Kits we currently sell. The set we currently sell were incorporated into the Main West Models line and replaced these items. I do not own the patterns for the Main West Pilot Filler.

Diagram one indicates that you have to remove some of the plastic from the front pilot to the level of the bottom of the Buffer Plate mounting bottle beam. That should make the front pilot level right across the front.

Take the couple mounting block that looks like a T shape and superglue the two small castings to it so that they will fit into the remaining pilot in the gap between the Buffer Plate mounting bottles. They fill in the gap that remains. Once you have test fitted these and they are a good fit you can mount this whole unit on the inside of the front of the body so that the top of the casting sits against the two vertical ribs on the inside of the body.

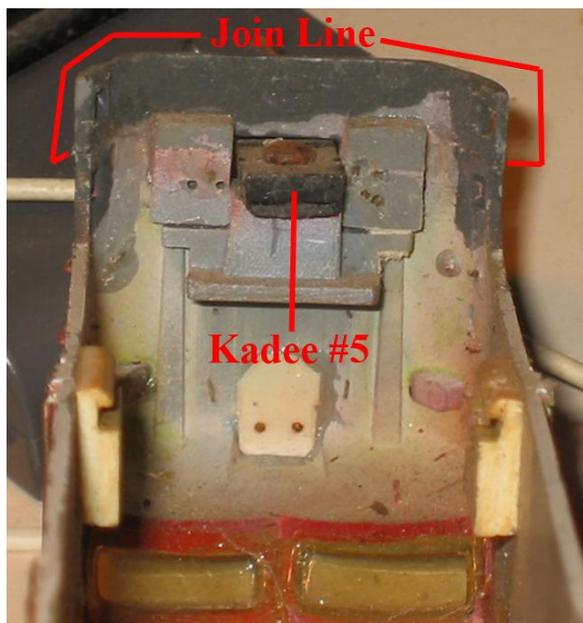
File away the plastic in the front pilot of the body to make the Kadee #5 coupler pocket hole.





You now have to file a notch in the two small side fillers so that they act as a rear support for the pilot extension piece. Glue the pilot extension piece in place and fill the joins with body putty

This next photo will show an uncluttered view of the inside of the nose of the 44 Class with a Kadee #5 coupler fitted. Please remember that I am going back a long way and this body is one that I have in a box and it is not the best example I could find.

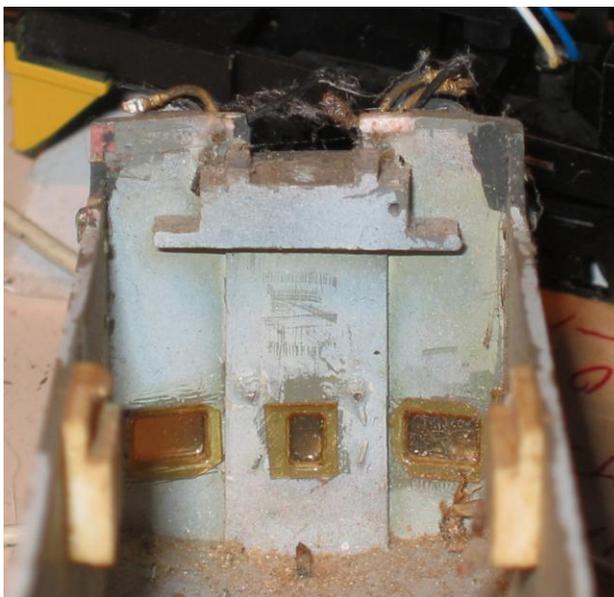
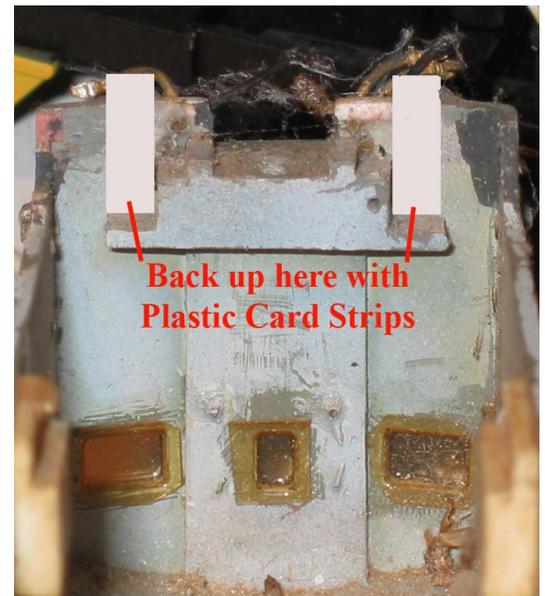


the pilot extension piece added and you can clearly see the additional plastic you need to remove for the Kadee #5 Coupler.

The next two photographs will show all I can give you of the rear of the inside of the 44 body with the pieces installed.



The 'front on photo' now shows



These photographs show the inside of the rear of the 44 body Note that the rear pilot has been cut off level in the first photo and then the coupler mounting block has been mounted central and up against the bottom of the door housing. When they talk about backing up the inside of the body at the back of the buffer pockets with plastic they mean by adding a couple of piece of plastic so that the pilot extension piece has some rear support. I do not have the extension piece as it is missing somewhere in this factory and really is of no consequence as you add the pilot extension piece that you have in a similar manner to the front one

I really think that there is not much more I can add at present. I hope that this helps you get it all sorted.

The following is the contents of the instruction that came with the kit and an overall scan of the whole kit to make it more easily identified as well as a black and white rendition of the contents.

MAIN WEST MODELS

Accessory kit for Lima 44 Class

PRELIMINARY Kit is designed to fill in pilots & provide mounting system for Kadee No 5 couplers. Clean flash off castings & separate into 2 categories, those for front (4 castings marked F) & rear (2 marked R) Remove body from chassis, buffing plates, air horns & glazing from body. Test fit each component before gluing into position.

BODY - FRONT (No 1 END) 1. File small amount off existing pilot (DIAG 1).

2. Glue coupler mount in place between 2 moulded lugs inside body shell with coupler screw pip up & "F" facing toward rear of body shell. 3. Glue 2 small castings in place, 1 each side of coupler platform, "F" toward front of shell. These designed to fill gap under buffer stock, provide guide for cutting out existing pilot for Kadee & provide small backing for skirt extension moulding. When glue is set, file "filler" extensions down to level of existing skirt. (DIAG 2).

4. Using previously glued castings as guide, remove existing skirt moulding to allow mounting of Kadee. (DIAG 3).

5. Glue skirt extension moulding into place. When set fill seams etc with body filler and file/sand contours smooth.

CHASSIS - FRONT (No 1 END) 6. Remove Lima coupling - a good set of side cutters will do the trick - do both ends while you are at it.

7. Remove step in front part of chassis platform. (DIAG 4(a)).

8. Lay chassis into body & mark to enable removal of chassis material to clear coupler mount platform - refer DIAG 4(b) also.

BODY - REAR (No 2 END) 9. File existing pilot level with underside of buffer shanks, i.e. level with existing Lima coupler cut out.

10. Glue coupler mount block in place. Locates over protrusion behind door, "R" facing towards rear & coupler screw pip upwards.

11. Using the 2 rails on top of coupler mount block as guide, remove existing skirt moulding to allow mounting of Kadee (Similar to operation on front).

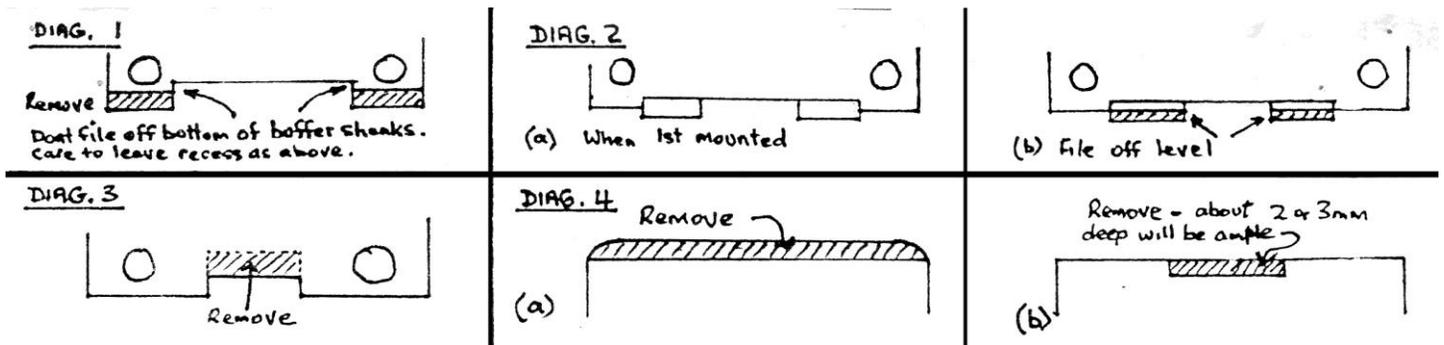
12. Glue a thin (say about .040") piece of scrap plastic, about 3mm wide, behind each buffer shank to assist locate & backing of skirt extension.

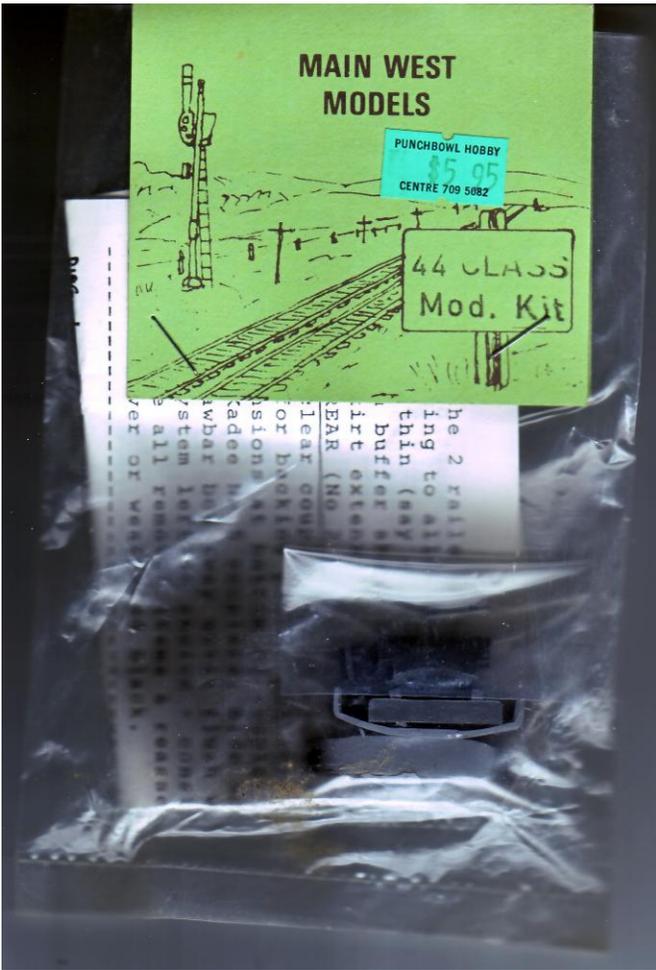
13. Glue skirt extension in place, fill seams etc as described for front.

CHASSIS - REAR (No 2 END) 14. Lay chassis in body & mark out to remove just enough to clear coupler mount block - similar to front operation. Allow clearance for backing pieces but leave enough of chassis intact to bear onto short extensions at bottom of coupler mount.

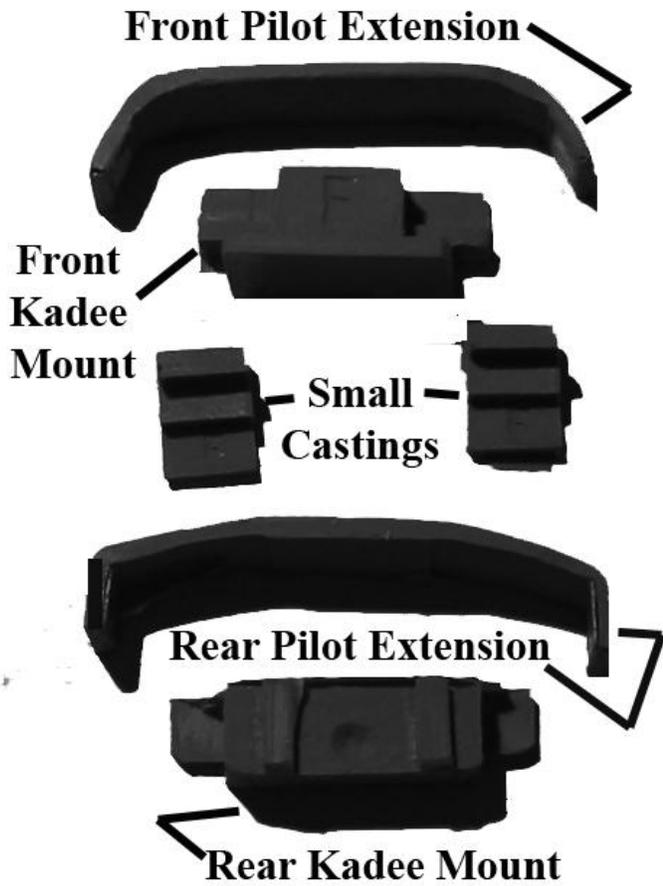
FINAL Fit Kadee No 5 couplers. Side mounting lugs to be removed, also cut rear of drawbar box away until flush with rear of centering spring plate. Mounting system left to choice - consider screwing better than gluing.

16. Replace all removed items & reassemble loco. Paint around skirt area, either silver or weathered black.





Kit View



Kit Contents

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