Australian Railway Kits
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Incorporating Main West Models
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RF05 - TME Pipe Carrying Flat Wagon with Pipe Load

Prototype Data

The article in the August 1994 AMRM gives a concise history of the MLE flat wagons. In brief the MLE came into being as a result of war requirements between October and December 194. A further batch of MLE wagons were constructed between February and October 1943 and numbered from 24350 to 24449 inclusive. During the post war era further MLEs were constructed between September 1947 and February 1948 numbered 25650 to 25674. The final batch of MLEs was part of an order for 250 vehicles placed with Goninan & Co, Broadmeadow. 72 of those vehicles were delivered as MLEs numbered 26275 - 26346 inclusive with the 178 remaining wagons constructed as UME un-bolstered wagons numbered 26347 - 26524. Other modifications to these wagons have occurred during their service life which has recently covered in the model railway press.

Contents & Assembly Instructions

1 x floor, 2 x sides, 2 x ends, 2 x screws, 2 x bogies, 4 x wheel sets, decals and 1 brake detailing sprue, 1 x length brass wire and 1 pr Kadee #5 couplers, 16 x wheel chocks, 1 x length of chain.

1. Using your modellers tools carefully remove the parts from the sprue and clean up all the flash and ejector pin sprues..

2. All floors have been checked and corrected to be flat. Please recheck the floor for bowing. Depending on the direction of the bow if any occurs it can be corrected. Place your thumbs on the points of the fish belly under frame or the floor opposite the points of the bow and pull ends of the wagon away from the bow with the inside flats of your fingers. Re-check for a flat floor/body moulding.

3. Remove the draw angle from the top edge of the side sills and test fit to the floor. See **Diagram 1** for more specific detail. They may be slightly too long. If so remove equal amounts from both ends until they are both equal to the length of the floor. Using a reinforced backed razor blade carefully remove the brake slide from the side sill and transfer it to the other side and glue in position. See **Diagram 2**.

Diagram 1

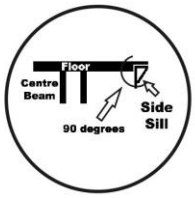
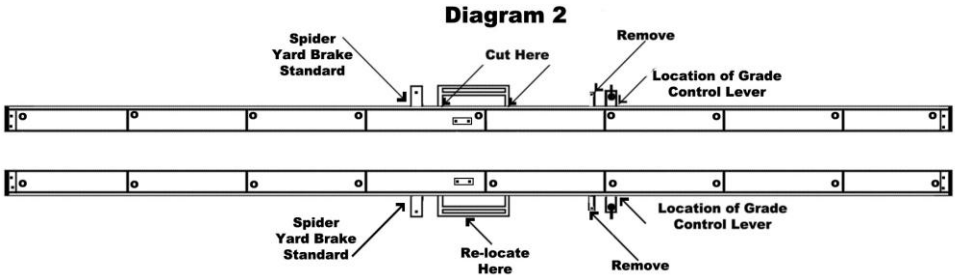
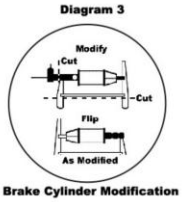


Diagram 2



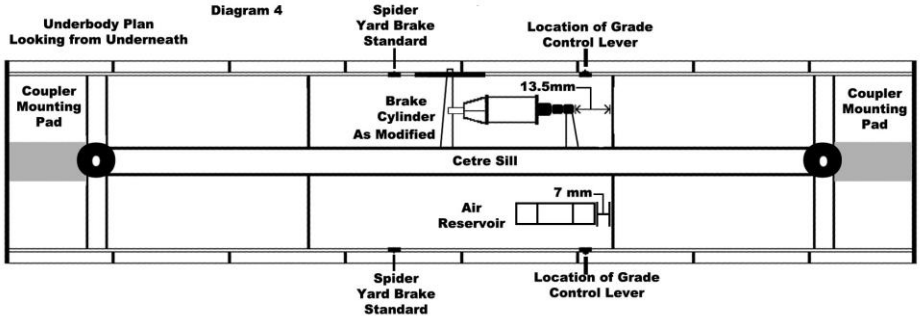
4. Modify the brake cylinder as described in the attached **Diagram 3**. Cement to the piece of plastic stock supplied, locate and glue in position. Using the air tank indicated glue to the other piece of plastic supplied, locate and glue in position. **Diagram 4** gives a comprehensive layout of the underbody looking from the bottom.

Diagram 3



Brake Cylinder Modification

Diagram 4



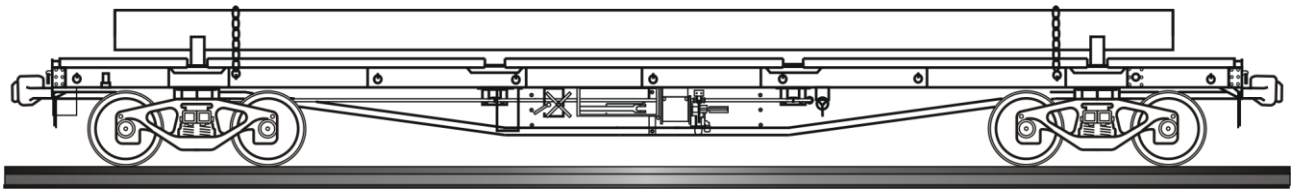
5. Drill a hole in the handbrake bracket with a #72 drill and fit the handbrake spiders, glue in place.

6. Carefully wash the complete kit with warm soapy water and paint gunmetal grey all over. The board floor and the tops of the metal floor plates may be painted a flat medium to dark grey with streaks of black to simulate distressed timber. Ensure the areas where the decals are to be applied have a gloss finish. Add decals and paint all over with a flat clear finish to seal the model.

7. Fit Kadee #5 couplers and adjust height by packing between the bogies and the floor if required.

8. **Important Note:** If you damage any part during the construction of this model please contact us by writing to the above address or through the email address. A replacement part is available free of charge.

9. After painting the two bolsters a suitable timber colour of dirty grey or dirty orange/brown use the diagram as a guide to set your two bolsters in position over the bogie centers and center them on the floor so that they are equidistant from each side.



10. Identify the tie down loops at the positions where the chains are attached to the side sill of the wagon. Drill a #71 drill hole through the center of the tie down loop.

11. Take a length of copper wire and form it into a U shape, Make four of these as they are used to attach the chain to the side sill. Paint you 40' pipes either Black or Grey for Water or Sewerage and a Cream Yellow for Gas. The research I have done at this time would indicate that these were the colours used but with suitable evidence I am willing to stand corrected.

14. Start lashing the pipes down by passing a u shape of copper wire through the end loop of the chain. Push the two open ends of the wire through the #71 drill hole and splay the ends on the inside of the side sill and cement in position with a small amount of super glue. Loop the chain over the pipes from one side to the other. By process of elimination pass the second loop of copper wire through loops in the chain and push them through the #71 drill hole in the other side sill until the chain is taught. When you have achieved this repeat the process for the remaining tie down until you have the pipes secured.

This should give you an authentic model of a TME flat wagon being used for the transport pipes to a major pipe construction. You could even attach a GLX/GLX van (AR Kits RV01 GLX Louvered Van) to the train to carry the associated hardware used in the construction of a pipeline.

15. Fit the bogies with the pins supplied. Alternatively the pins supplied can be glued into the bogie pin hole and later cut off level with the top of the bogie bolster. When the join has cured centre mark and drill with a 1.8mm drill. Attach the bogies with a screw.

16. A further article on attaching chains to flat wagons can be found at the resources page of our website at

http://www.arkits.com/page/Articles.

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