BULLEID 'LEADER' Assembly instructions





The BULLEID 'LEADER' was the last truly experimental steam locomotive built in Britain, it may also have been one of the least successful....Built in Brighton in 1949, the loco ran trial trips from there, and from Eastleigh until 1951, when the project was abandoned. No. 36001 was the only example completed, though four others were partially assembled, and appeared in works grey livery, with red & black lining. For more information about this loco, we recommend the book "Leader, steam's last chance" by Kevin Robertson, which contains just about all the information you will ever need on this subject.

BODY ASSEMBLY

Having thoroughly familiarised yourself with all the components, first fill any visible air bubbles in the resin body components with car body filler or 'Milliput'. File off any moulding flash from around the part lines & window areas. Next take a 2mm drill and clear all screw holes in the body & main bogie blocks; Drill the handrail holes .45mm, and whistle holes .8mm, where indicated by dimples in the cab fronts. Make up the handrails from wire and secure these & the tank vents with 'Superglue'. It is best to paint the body & interior details at this stage; The mouldings should be thoroughly cleaned to remove all traces of grease etc.;- we suggest a good scrub in hot water & detergent, followed by a light keying with fine wet & dry paper or wire wool, finishing off by wiping over with paint thinner. Use a good quality primer, followed by a top coat of your choice. You may now fit the glazing (test for fit first, the ends are not identical (sorry)) followed by the internal details. You can use epoxy or hot melt glue for this purpose.

BOGIE CONSTRUCTION

Firstly, please note that this model was designed to be constructed 'in house', using assembly jigs. It is important to acheive good running that the gear meshing is adjusted to near perfection by packing the motor in its housing, (We use strips of thin card for this). If you seek a more powerful runner, we have included one suggestion on the diagram page which may provide improved propulsion.

Having drilled out the screw holes at the front of the main block (16), the screw block(24), and the motor retainer(30), fix the screw block into position in its recesses in the underside of the main block stand the main block on a strip of material (card or plastic) 2.5mm thick, in order to raise it above a flat working surface. Add front (18) & rear beams, followed by motion cover (19). Now fit the cab steps (22,23) to the sideframes (20,21), then fix these to the main block resting on its packing, while their bottom edges rest on your work surface.(I.E. 2.5mm lower than base of main block)

Fit 'ROMFORD' 40:1 gears to 2 axles of your chosen wheelsets, along with 1/8" brass bearings on each axle.Drop the wheels into position in the main block, ensuring that the insulated wheels are all on the same side (make both bogies identical in this respect). Try the baseplate (25) in position:- a little filing will be required to clear the gears & register the pegs in the axle slots. Fit the romford worms to the motor, turn the silver tag to one side, so as to form the earth connection to the block, then drop the motor into its recess & check the gear meshing with the whole unit standing

on a flat surface. You can add strips of thin card under the motor if the mesh is too tight; what you need to acheive is the tiniest amount of free play between the gears & worms. Once satisfied, fix the motor retainer(30), filing or packing as required to hold the motor firmly in place. The remaining detail parts may now be fitted, remembering that front & rear differ in the fitting of parts 33, 34, & 35. The bogies may now be fitted to pivot plates(31), using washers(32) & the short screws. Link the washer on the un-powered bogie to the upper motor tag with a length of thin flex, & test on a length of track. If any problems are encountered, first check the wheels, reversing them if the loco runs the rong way. Finally, fit the pivot plates to the body with the long screws (fiddly) ,followed by the ashpan(6), trapping the pickup wire out of sight in the process. Fit couplings to choice - Airfix & Dapol types fit straight in.

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