

Locotracteur Billard T80D (Jan van Mourik)



Oe scale model of a locotracteur Billard T80D (1:43,5).

As a donor locomotive and chassis for the 1:87 H0e scale model, I used a Fleischmann Piccolo type 7218 diesel shunting locomotive. This is a six-wheel model that corresponds reasonably well to the axle layout of the desired prototype. However, the axleboxes and springs on the frames of this model do not correspond very well with those of the T80D.



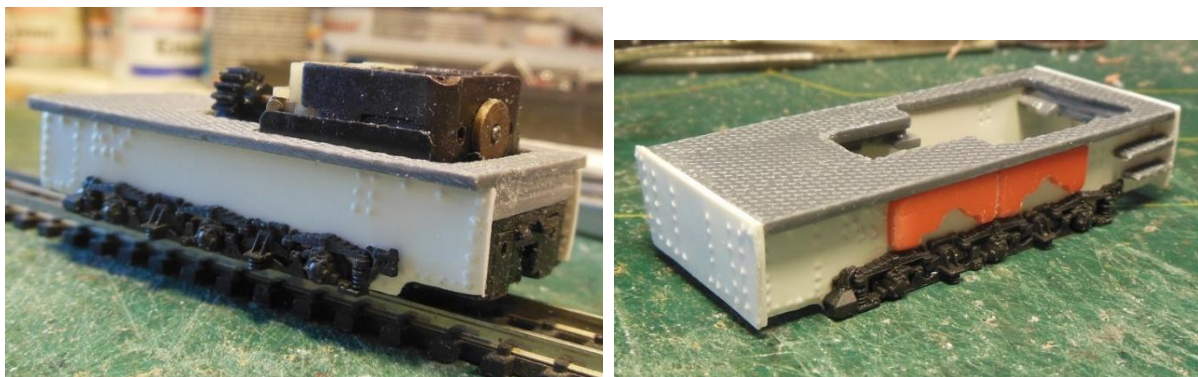
Fleischmann Piccolo shunting loco, type 7218.

Instead I made new frames which together with the front and rear buffer beams form a box that is fitted over the Fleischmann chassis. After removing the existing body and frames, and removing the buffers - which also removes the handrails on the ends - I had a bare chassis.

To make the new outside frames, I use various thicknesses of plastic sheet. The chassis has 2 lugs at the front and rear. These make the new frame box a clip-on assembly. In the scrapbox I found a six-wheel locomotive bogie without wheels, but with a better representation of the springs and axle boxes than those of Fleischmann; I fitted them upside down, so that the spring packs are at the top, although that is certainly not correct, but hardly visible from a distance.



The rivets were made by embossing from the rear. The front and rear buffer beam are made up of two layers of 0.25 mm sheet for strength, at the same time making apertures on the inside to engage the lugs. The frame is a push fit onto the chassis.



The cab and bonnet were made from plastic scrap and sheet material. The windows and door apertures were fitted with a thin strip (Evergreen). The front of the cab presses down on the motor, see photo. The motor remains removable and is pushed into in the contact clips; the connections for the LED lamps are soldered to the clips, including the 1 k Ω (= 1000 ohm) series resistor.

