

Ultima Diagram L.25 GWR Post Office Sorting Van

Instructions

Safety

This product is intended for adult modellers with reasonable skill in handling etched components. Brass components are sharp and often very small. They are not suitable for models handled by children. When cutting, gluing or soldering brass components take care to follow the instructions and safety guidance for your tools. Burned fingers and cuts can take much of the fun out of model building.

Contents

Etch set for the coach
One pair of white metal ends
One pair of wide gangways
One metal roof
White metal generator and vacuum cylinders
Plastic roof vents
Four buffers
Hawksworth roof water tank
Screws and washers

Prototype

The L.25 post office sorting vans were built post-war (1947) and represent the very end of GWR coach building. Five were built to Lot 1719 and bore the numbers 843 to 847. They just about made it into GWR post war chocolate and cream before acquiring British Rail colours.

The coaches ran on GWR pressed steel double bolster bogies (use Dapol Collett bogies, or 2mm SA bogies for the best match). If using Dapol bogies remove the plastic pin, invert it and use that with packing as the bogie mount.

Constructing The Floor: Soldering

Fold the pivot box corners up and fit and solder each pivot box into place. If you want maximum strength and weight then fill the box with milliput or das clay or similar and let it dry. Drill and tap the boxes to take the screws. If not just tap the boxes with the screws (if need be file them gently until the screw 'bites'). Solder the solebars to the underframe fitting the tabs into the slots provided. Fold up the sides to match the end profile.

Constructing The Floor: Glue

Fold up the main part of the etch as per the soldering instructions. Take the solebars and attach the truss rods inside with glue, all the time checking the position carefully. Fit the assembly into the slots and pack behind it at the ends with pieces of 1-1.5mm square plastic rod. Glue the packing rod to both parts and stick a dab of strong glue on each tab.

There are two ways to produce the bogie pivots. One is to file the top of the screws flatter (you don't need to remove the slots in the head just level it a bit) and glue the heads to the floor. Pack the top of the bogie with washers if need be so it clears the underframe. The other is to pack with plasticard and then use the excellent white metal bogie mounts available from Ian Stoute (www.ismodels.co.uk).

Underframe Detail

The kit is supplied with four sets of truss rods, these are marked so that they can be fitted in the correct order and location. Viewed from the sides you should have two V hangars on the nearest two trusses when they are the correct way around.

Fold up and glue the battery boxes together as well as the regulator box. Fit these as per the diagram behind the trussing. The white metal generator fits on its marked location as do the two vacuum cylinders.

Fitting Ends

Clean up the end castings if needed and fit the buffers and gangway casting to each end. In both cases pack the underside of the ends with a small piece of card or plasticard (eg from a cereal packet) up so that the top of the buffer beam aligns with the etched floor.

Note that the ends are handed. The gangways are on the side with the two sets of doors (two gaps in the fold up edge).

The Sides

This vehicle is somewhat more complex than most coaches as the sides are in several parts with additional etches for the doors. Fold the side parts of the doors forward over on themselves with the window detail facing. This provides the depth when assembling the shell.

Shape the sides panels to fit the ends and fit them to the raised underframe sides, adjusting both as necessary to get a good fit. Pay particular attention to the alignment of the parts (in particular the roof line should be level) and to the curve. Test the various panels against the ends not just the spots that must join.

With the sides assembled fit the doors. As the sides are slightly curved you will get a slight gap that can be filled later.

The Roof

Begin by cutting the roof down close to the correct length and then file the ends of the roof square and to fit the white metal coach ends. As you start to test fit you can file away the edges that support the side where they will foul the inset doors of the vehicle. Carefully adjust and test fit as you file. Remember the roof is aluminium so will file easily.

Sellotape the fitting guide over the roof and then drill and fit the shell vents in the locations marked. Fit the roof tank if desired (1953 repaint onwards).