

Bachmann Acela Set

Lomotives and Passenger Cars

This set is equipped with an uncommon swinging arm with a snap in draw bar pocket similar to the European NEM 362 coupler pocket. Unfortunately, these pockets are mounted too high for the use of our NEM snap in couplers. Also, the mounting arms are much too flexible and unstable to use the standard HO scale knuckle couplers. Fortunately, we have our #118 Type SF Shelf Coupler which has top and bottom shelves on the head that keeps the knuckles from slipping up or down or slipping out of each other.

Along with the #118 coupler we recommend using our #454 Swing Bracket on the locomotives and if the modeler wishes using it on the passenger car too. The following conversion will allow the models to negotiate 18" radius curves while being pulled but because of the spacing and flexible arms they may have problems with backing up. Therefore we recommend running these models on 24" or larger radius track.

Items needed: 1 package of #454 Swing Brackets, 2 packages of #118 SF couplers (8 couplers is enough for three cars and two locomotives), enough (six) 1/4" 0-80 screws and washers for the couplers on the passenger cars, 0-80 Tap and Drill set (Kadee #780), small Phillips and common screw drivers.

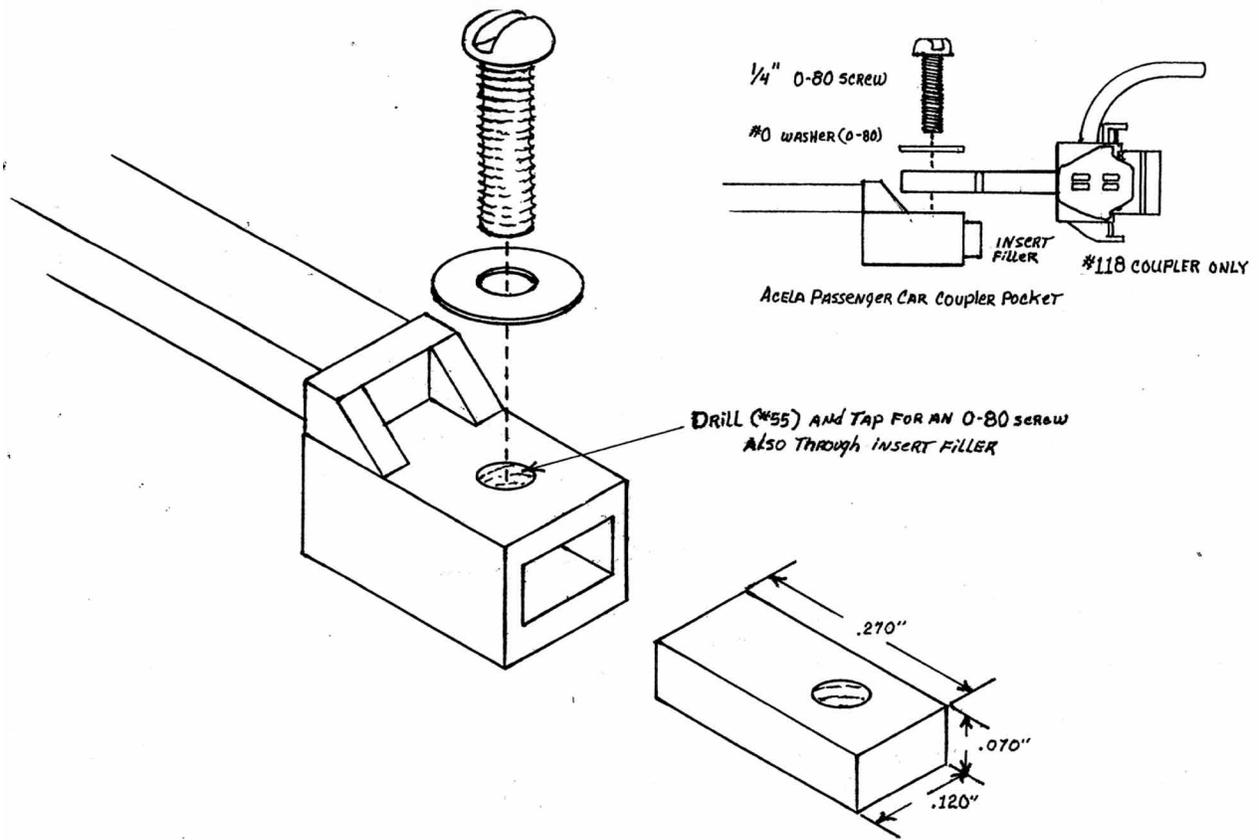
On the passenger cars first invert them and remove the draw bars by firmly but carefully pulling them out of the pockets. Make a filler to fit into the pocket (see the illustrations). Slip the filler into the pocket and hold it securely, use a #55 drill and drill and tap a hole all the way through the pocket and filler, about dead center. Use a 1/4" 0-80 screw and washer and the #118 coupler only. Set the coupler into the pocket and insert the screw with the washer through the coupler pivoting hole. The hole is quite large for the screw but the washer will hold, tighten the screw just firm enough to hold the coupler in place. make sure the screw end does not protrude through the pocket, use an extra washer if needed.

On the locomotives, carefully spread the body end sills enough to remove the four screws and remove the entire swing arm and draw bar assembly. Drill and tap a hole for an 0-80 screw about center between the arm guide groove and end tab hole (see the illustrations). The powered locomotive has a die cast metal (zinc) underframe and the dummy locomotive has a plastic underframe. So the powered loco will need extra care and patients when drilling and tapping the hole.

Assemble the #454 Swing Bracket according to its' instructions and the #118 coupler into the 30 series draft gear boxes assembled with the spring side of the box on the bottom of the coupler and the "thin" lid on top (when right side up). Set the assembled coupler onto the #454 with the thin lid against the bracket. Make sure the coupler set down against the bracket so the pivoting post is just above the coupler box surface. Set the assembly onto the locomotive and insert the 3/8" 0-80 screw with one of the die cast washers from the #454 package. Tighten the screws snugly while holding the bracket in alignment so it does not twist out of position. Make sure the coupler pivots freely, it should have almost a 108° swing.

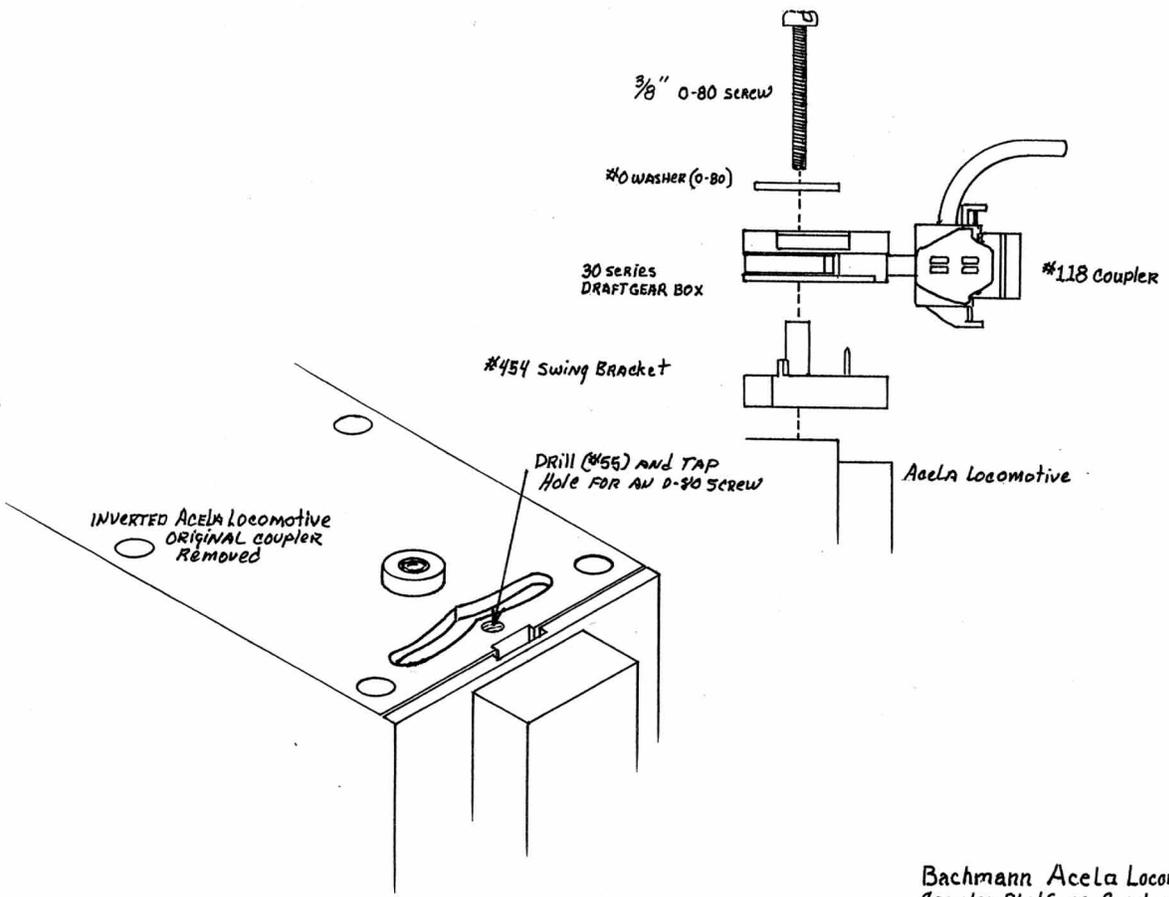
Check all the couplers against our #205 coupler height gauge and make any adjustments necessary.

This coupler conversion does not meet Kadee normal standards with the type of draw bar Bachmann uses and the issues with the swinging arms. However, we do recommend using the #454 with the #118 couplers on the passenger cars as well as the locomotives for the best overall coupler performance. As it is, this conversion will perform just fine as long as you consider that the Acela Trains never were intended to do any switching and as long as the operational issues are kept within the limitations of these models then with an occasional check of the couplers you should have no problems.



DRILL (#55) AND TAP FOR AN O-80 SCREW
ALSO THROUGH INSERT FILLER

BACHMANN ACELA SET
PASSENGER CAR SNAP IN POCKET
©Kadee Sam Clarke B-2006 XT



DRILL (#55) AND TAP
Hole FOR AN O-80 SCREW

Bachmann Acela Locomotive
Coupler Platform - Coupler Removed
©Kadee Sam 9-06 2x