

# ATHEARN (GENESIS)

# USRA 2-8-2 LIGHT MAKADO

## STEPBOARD

### #34 PILOT COUPLER CONVERSION

#### No. 5® TENDER COUPLER CONVERSION "DROP IN"

1. Remove the dummy coupler, it will easily pull straight out. Remove the hoses next to the coupler pocket. They have press fit pins at the edge of the deck, use a thin blade under the hoses near the pins and carefully lift the hoses up. You need to move the hoses to the left to clear the swing of the new coupler. Drill a small hole next to the left hole the same distance as the hole on the right. (I could make this more confusing)

2. Trim out the original coupler pocket, the complete lower section, leaving the upper lip of the pocket as a level platform. The platform should extent out both sides to the vertical step braces (brackets).

3. Make a shim platform to fit between the frame rails behind the trimmed pocket. Use .060 thick styrene and trim a notch in the top left corner to fit around the stanchion pin (see the illustrations). The stanchions are the posts of the coupler lift bar on the upper deck. Place the shim between the rails and make sure it is level with the remaining pocket lip. Cement the shim in place with a liquid styrene cement.

4. Assemble the #34 coupler with the spring side of the draft gear box on the bottom of the coupler and without a lid on the top. Place the coupler onto the platform so the knuckle and trip pin clears the lip and steps. Then check that the frame of the pilot wheels clears the back of the draft gear box and the center hole clears the stanchion pin. Keep it as centered as possible, when it is lined up and have proper clearance mark the platform through the center hole. Make sure it is centered, drill and tap a hole through the shim and pilot deck. The hole will be very close to the stanchion pin but should not hit the pin.

5. Place the coupler on the platform and secure with a plastic 2-56 screw and trim it off flush to the upper deck surface, take care not to damage the stanchion.

6. Reattach the hoses in the two holes farthest to the left of the coupler.

7. Check for correct coupler height, function, and clearance and make any adjustments necessary.

