

BACHMANN SPECTRUM

4-6-2 PACIFIC

PILOT #32 COUPLER CONVERSION

TENDER NO.5" COUPLER CONVERSION

PILOT: Invert the loco and remove the lead wheels, take care not to loose the screw, spring, or washer.

Remove the original coupler. File or trim the coupler opening large enough to slip the #32 draft gear box into the front and over the hole.

Assemble the coupler with the spring side of the draft gear box on the bottom and "without" a lid on the top of the coupler.

You may wish to drill and tap the original hole for a 2-56 screw. If you are careful you can drill the hole without breaking through the upper deck of the pilot. Trim a plastic screw to fit the hole. Also you can use a metal 2-56 screw to tap the threads to the bottom of the hole, the normal tap is tapered on the end so it will not cut the threads to the bottom.

Trim the two points (nubs) on the end of the draft gear box that the lid would fit against. This will let the box set flat on the platform. There is an open space at the back of the hole. This may cause the coupler to droop or the box to point down when you tighten the screw. You will need to modify the "thick" lid (.025") to act as a shim. Cut the lid just in front of the hole and place the back portion on the hole in the platform then mount the assembled coupler and tighten the screw. If the coupler still droops or has too much play, continue to add thin shims until the coupler is level and at the correct height.

Replace the wheels and check the coupler height and clearance.

TENDER: Invert the tender, it is easier to work on if you remove the floor and trucks. Remove the original coupler.

The cast on coupler pocket is too shallow and the post too large for the #5 centering spring to fit properly. Using the Bachmann lid will bind the spring.

Scrape the paint and plastic from the post until the spring fit flat on the bottom of the pocket. Use the lid from the #5 draft gear box and cut the side lugs (ears) off. Trim off (shorten) the post on the lid to .025". This will make the post in the Bachmann box deep enough.

Place the spring into the pocket then the coupler, set the modified lid on and hold it in place and flex the coupler back and forth. Use the original screw and secure the lid but do not tighten too much, just snug. Check the centering action of the coupler again.

Replace the trucks and check the coupler height then reassemble the tender.

Check both couplers for the correct height (use our #205 coupler height gauge), clearance, and function and make any necessary adjustments.