

RIVAROSSO (POST 1993)

4-8-8-2 CAB FORWARD STEAM
LOCOMOTIVE

#33 PILOT AND #27 TENDER COUPLER CONVERSION

Pilot: Mounting a functional coupler in this pocket is rather challenging and you may want to reevaluate your reasons, never the less it can be completed with a certain amount of modeling skills, experience, and patience (perhaps some bravado also).

Remove the upperbody per the manufacturers instructions by removing the two hidden screws from the top, then the two screws from under the front corners. Carefully lift off the body, mind the front ladder handrails (cab handrails), they might have to be removed. Also be careful with the electric wires.

The pin holding the dummy coupler might be through the top or the bottom depending on the production of the locomotive. Carefully punch the pin out and remove the dummy coupler.

Assemble the spring side of the draft gear box of the #33 coupler to be used to check the size of the pocket.

Very carefully enlarge the pocket by first drilling the entire bottom out of the pocket. Drill several holes through the bottom and trim around the edges of the opening. Do not drill into the top for this is the mounting surface and needs to be level and smooth. Again very carefully cut or file the pocket sides and bottom until the draft gear box slips in and the holes match up. Make sure there is enough clearance that the coupler moves freely without binding.

Drill (#50 drill) and tap the pin hole for a 2-56 screw. Finish the coupler assembly with the spring side on the bottom and the lid on the top of the coupler. Slip it into the pocket and secure it with a 2-56 screw and check the fit and clearance again.

Check the coupler for the correct height, function, and clearance, use our #205 coupler height gauge. Replace and secure the body taking care with the wires and ladder handrails.

Tender: Some of these tenders, according to their production dates and manufacturing differences, may not be the same and might require different shim dimensions and locations, but the basic procedures should be as below.

Remove the rear truck and coupler. Assemble the #27 coupler in a #5 draft gear box (included in the #27 coupler package).

Make a shim from .030" thick styrene sheet stock (found in most hobby stores) 5/16" (.3125") wide by 7/16" (.4375") long. Place it along the centerline on the two underframe ribs, slide it against the inside of the end sill. Place the coupler on the shim and secure them with a rubber band around the body, replace the truck with the pocket towards the inside and check the coupler height and clearance, use a thinner or thicker shim if needed. When proper height and clearance is achieved mark the shim through the coupler hole.

For a securer mounting you may want to fill the space between the ribs with another shim. Cement the shim in place with a styrene compatible solvent cement.

Drill (#50 drill) and tap a hole through the shim and floor (where marked) for a 2-56 screw. Mount the coupler on the shim (platform) with a 2-56 screw

The coupler pocket on the truck needs to be trimmed off to clear the body mounted coupler.

Check both couplers for correct height, function, and clearance and make any necessary adjustments.

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