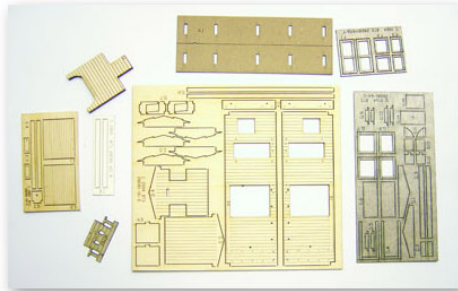


McCABE BOXCAB SPEEDER

From this ...



... to this!



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Introduction:

What started out as a small narrow gauge boxcar, John McCabe turned into a little boxcab speeder for use around his lumber mill. Eventually after McCabe passed away the mill changed hands and was renamed Lone Pine Lumber Co. Being the frugal man McCabe was, the new owners showed him that same “respect” and never repainted the speeder. Thus it still bears the name McCabe on it’s side.

I started building the BTS kit about 2005. I decided with a mostly free space in the back half that there would be room to add a DCC decoder for control as well as sound. At the time DCC was fairly new and I had picked up a sound only decoder which I decided to take advantage of. I used micro plugs so I could disconnect the sound decoder and motion decoder and program them separately. It also only had power pick-up from the front two driving wheels. I immediately requested additional wipers that were the same as those included in the kit. Even though I didn’t install them for more than ten years, this proved beneficial because it made the job easier when the time came.

Construction:

In 2017 I took what I had done in 2005, which was build the basic shell and add DCC, and tested it. It didn’t run – I think something had burned up or shorted out. I stripped off all the electronics down to just the motor and tested that on the tracks. Eventually I got it to work and upon finding a new sound decoder on my bench I installed it testing it with each connection. I also added the additional wipers as mentioned above and made sure the brass frame was insulated everywhere there might be a possibility of shorting out. After testing the decoder with the wires long, I then reattached after removing excess wire. I quickly decided that even though the wires were very small, a lot of them could take up too much room. What seemed like a lot of space inside the speeder really wasn’t much after I started adding things back in. I got everything to fit and able to hide the decoder and speaker with still having the doors partially open to show cargo.

The speaker is in the rear and I added clay to not only help keep it in place but also to seal it to get better sound. The decoder, believe it or not, fits up in the roof cavity. I cut away some of the roof supports so it would fit up better then painted what could still be seen black.

Detail:

I added lights, both front and back, which were not part of the kit. By using a decoder, it had outputs for the forward and reverse lights. I painted the surrounding wood to help it not “glow” but there is still a small amount which is acceptable considering the alternative – no lights at all! I had to drill out the holes in the wood as well as the brass castings, which was no easy task with such small delicate parts.

I also added the decoder and speaker that adds to the audio stimulus, not just the visual as most details do. It sounds great rumbling down the tracks! Barrels and crates are also seen inside the cargo area. This not only adds to the details of the speeder but also helps hide the motor and the speaker when viewed from certain angles. There is also a driver inside! In addition there are lots of details outside the model as well.

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Conformity:

The kit is pretty unique when it comes to this type of speeder. I did find a few variations that were similar when searching the Internet. See the included pictures. Modeled is the radiator outside the front and an exhaust stack on the top as an engine of this type would need.

One thing I did that was not part of the kit was to add light bulbs for the front and back. I wanted them operational. The kit included castings but not a way to have them working. It was very difficult drilling out the tiny holes needed in the brass castings.

I also added additional numbers when it came time to decaling the model. The instructions showed the sides but had front and back blank. I made sure the numbers were on both the front and the back.

Finish & Lettering:

Yellow spray paint requires multiple, multiple coats to get a good finish. My lesson learned is that I will start with a grey primer next time that will hopefully allow for better adhesion. The kit included slide transfer decals. I used the Micro Sol and Set solutions to get the decals to really form to the surface. After they were dry I carefully used a knife to slice where the grooves in the wood are then applied more Micro Set. I like how it turned out and gives a more painted on effect.

The speeder has been in many years of service so I weathered it appropriately using chalks and powders. It is still in good working condition so it wasn't so much to look like it was run-down but enough to see that it is well used yet still taken care of.

Scratchbuilt:

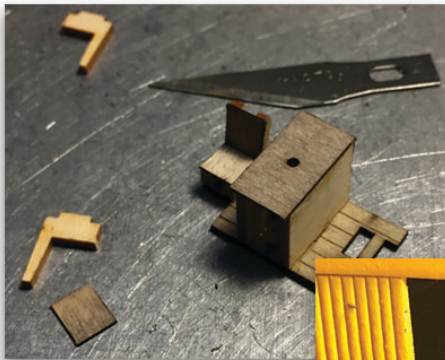
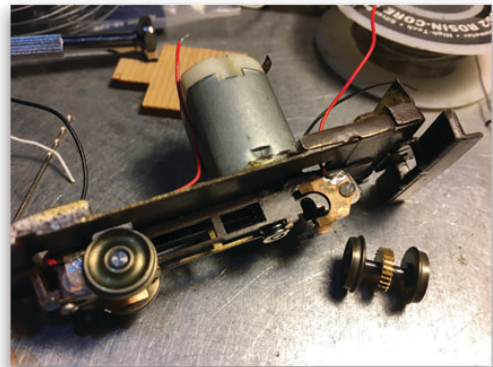
This is a craftsman kit so most of everything needed was included. I did scratch build the baffle for the speaker out of clay so that it would sound better and the speaker would stay in place.

The roof, rather than regular tar paper method I usually use, was made using tissue paper spray painted and then cut to 3 foot widths. It was applied with diluted white glue brushed on after the roof was attached to the body.

The exhaust stack is .55 wire bent over, painted, weathered and glued in place after the roof material applied.



MCCABE BOXCAB SPEEDER — EXTRA PICTS



MCCABE BOXCAB SPEEDER — FINAL PICTS

