

TROLLEY TIPS

THINGS TO CONSIDER DURING MODEL BUILDING

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The following lists a few important items to consider when building your model trolley cars. The right decision about these items during construction will contribute to reliable operation, allow easy maintenance and allow upgrades such as installing windows and interior detail later. A little thought and planning allows these items to be easily addressed during the building process and thus avoid having to hack up the finished model to make it run reliably.

1) Sand and paint all interior surfaces

This small amount of additional work is necessary for a number of important reasons. It will protect the car from moisture, result in a much better appearance for the finished model and allow you to add glazing and interior detail easily at a later date if you wish.

2) Make either the floor or roof removable

This feature of model construction is necessary because it allows easy access for maintenance that will have to be done. (See TT for Tips on various ways of making removable roofs.) Incorporating this feature involves only a small amount of additional work during construction. The feature is necessary if you want to add glazing and interior detail easily at a later date.

3) Follow manufacturer's instruction for mounting trucks

Following the manufacturer's instruction for mounting trucks is necessary for reliable operation. This is also the time to check that both ends of the car sit at the correct height, the truck swing is adequate and that the car does not lean.

4) Install weight in the car as required

Model trolley cars are underweight in many instances. A double truck 'O' scale car should weight about 16 ounces. Meeting this weight with a cast metal car is normally not a problem but many finished plastic, cardboard and brass cars are light weights. Light weights may operate OK on easy grades and wide curves but problems are waiting to happen when you encounter stiff grades and tight curves. The proper amount of weight is necessary for reliable operations under various track and grade conditions.

5) Wire the can neatly

This is one of the most important steps in model building. Short cuts here will haunt you forever. Run the wires neatly in out of the way places. Use soldered or screw type mechanical connections. If the wiring is complicated make a sketch and file it away where you can find it so you won't have to figure things out from scratch. If your memory is perfect and you remember everything you don't need the sketch.

6) Test run car

The only way to check out the performance of a new car is to test run it. Clean the wheels and pole shoe and test before painting. The testing should include a variety of track and grade conditions. There is a small amount of effort involved but you will know that the car runs well before it is painted and finished.