

Thrall Caboose instructions

For visual instruction go to the Lines West Products page on Youtube and look for the assembling the Thrall caboose video.

The supports have been removed from the body, however where they attached to the body will need to be cleaned up. A 600+ sanding stick is sufficient for this as there is little cleanup required.

The bottom of the body will have to be sanded with 600, or higher, paper laid on a flat surface. There are four keys, to ensure the underframe is installed the correct way, visible when looking that the bottom of the shell. Those keys are also used as a sanding guide. It should only take a few strokes to clean up the bottom sill. I suggest moving the shell over the sand paper at an angle for a couple strokes and then the same from the opposite angle. Check the keys to be sure you are even on all four.

There are tiny, .2mm, supports behind the grab irons on the side and the end rails. Remove these with a hobby knife, being sure to cut against the grab first, not the body. This is because the grab being unsupported will try and move, while the body will not. *Cut the end against the grab first*, then just flick out the support from it's attachment to the body. It shouldn't leave any remnant.

To remove the platforms from the supports. use side cutters with the flat side towards the platform part. ***Do NOT try to cut the part away from the supports.*** Instead, cut more towards the support's base. Once free of the base, the supports will just come off the part with some light bending. Do not pull on the supports, but rather bend/flex them at the joint or "twist" them between your thumb and forefinger.

Note; The platforms are shipped on the supports to protect them from being bent.

There are four brass inserts and four 2-56 screws in a parts bag. Two of the inserts go

into the shell, one on each end, and one in each bolster into the underframe. The shell inserts should be a press fit but you can carefully use a pliers to fully seat them. If using pliers, do NOT put a lot of force into the end wall of the shell as it will break. In other words, make sure you are not applying a twisting force into the end wall. Pliers can be used to seat the bolster inserts with no real concern. Make sure they are fully inserted and flat so the trucks have a flat surface to mate to.

Do not mate the underframe to the shell prior to final assembly as the platforms are also attached at this step. The 2-56 screw holding the underframe to the body also holds the platform, so paint and detail, including adding couplers to the platforms prior to final assembly.

The coupler covers are press fit, however I do suggest a small dab of canopy glue on the pin towards the car. Not the pin for the coupler as if a little gets squeezed out it will hinder coupler operation. Note, there is a small hole in the coupler covers. This is for inserting one end of the coupler cut levers. The other end simply sits on the brackets molded on the platform piece by the step. When adding the cut lever, insert it into the cover first with a small bit of canopy glue and adjust so it sits slightly below the level of the bracket. When the glue is dry simply set it onto the bracket in the notch provided and it will then stay in place due to the slight tension. I do not glue the cut lever at all on the bracket end, which allows the coupler cover to be removed.

There are two jigs provided for bending the roof grabs and cutting them to length. Inserts .015" wire into the hole in the provided jig and bend it around the jig to form the wire. I suggest using a metal tool of some sort, working the wire into shape, to ensure the wire follows the jig closely giving you precise bends. I generally use a pair of nippers.

The holes for the roof grabs are already provided in both the roofwalk and the platforms. The grabs cannot be installed until the rest of the car is assembled as they go into both the body and the platforms.

The roof details provided are pretty straightforward. However, note the smokejack is keyed so it will only go in one way. That is because there is a taper to match the roof slope on the bottom.

To assemble the shell, underframe and platforms put the shell in the provided roof support. (This is the upper/roof support in the factory assembled packaging). This allows you to work with the car upside down while not damaging roof details. Clean out

any sprue leftovers on the backside of the sill of the body. This does not need to be perfect, but remove any large ones. Then, insert the frame noting the keys only allow it to go in one way.

With the frame in you can now insert one of the platforms. There is a pin centered on the upper portion of the platform "canopy". This is inserted into a complimentary hole in the body just under the roof above the end door. Once in place on the body, press the drawbar into its corresponding position on the underframe. Now put one of the 2-56 screws into the outer of the two holes and tighten it down. This will thread into the threaded insert you applied to the body shell earlier. Do not overtighten, just snug. Then do the other platform the same way. Note-The platforms are identical, so no need to match to one end or the other.

Trucks

Remove the trucks from the supports the same as you did from the platform, cutting the support base away and then removing the "sprues". The trucks have a very thin "support strip" along the top of the truck frame. Remove this with a modelling knife and sand smooth, making sure to not put a lot of side pressure on the unsupported end of the truck frame. Put your finger behind the frame to support it if necessary as while they are somewhat flexible, they are not as strong as Delrin. (yet anyway)

Before installing wheelsets look at the bottom of the trucks and you will see notches formed below the journals. These are provided so the trucks do not have to be spread so far to insert the wheelsets. Put the needlepoint into one side of the truck frame and then line the other end up with this slot as spreading the frame to accept the wheelset. The notch allows the wheelset to snap into the truck with a minimum of spreading while not allowing the wheels to fall out.

When screwing the trucks to the body with the provided 2-56 screws, I suggest putting the very small amount of canopy glue on the threads to act as "Loctite" as the screws may work loose and fall out from normal use. You can check if this may be necessary by threading the screw into the insert prior to installing the trucks to see if there is some resistance. If there is, no "Loctite" will be needed.

Some notes;

The windows have indentions on the back side that allow them to accept 8mm x 8mm slide glass. You can purchase the slide glass from Amazon or cut your own clear plastic

to fit. The slide glass is very delicate which precludes including it with the kit.

Handbrake wheels are not included as they were changed over the years, so prototype information should be used to chose which to apply.

3M generator equipped kits have the generators made with keys in the bottom which slide right into the holes provided in the roof giving proper alignment. Also, on the #m car kits, there will be some very small supports from the roof to the added walkway. These can be knocked out carefully with a hobby knife.

Parts list

1-body shell

1-Underframe

2-platforms

3-coupler covers

3-various smokejacks

2-standard MILW drop frame trucks

1-drop frame truck modified with axle generator

4-wheelsets

1-roof mount muffler for the as built version

1-set of etched parts including wagon wheel antenna and marker paddles

2-2-56 machine screws

2-brass threaded inserts