INSTRUCTIONS

What’s included:

Our RoadRailer trailers are ready to run as packaged but additional parts are included to allow you to customize your RoadRailer train. Our 5-Packs and 10-Packs include one trailer equipped with a CouplerMate tongue on the front and a CouplerMate attached like the lower model in the picture on the left. Some 5-Packs have the CouplerMate in a separate box. Our RoadRailer trailers are tested down to an 11” minimum radius. Some binding of the CouplerMate may still occur. A 12” minimum radius is recommended.

One of each of the three following parts sprues are included with each trailer:

1. The Three Coupler Tongues. On the left is the “front CouplerMate tongue.” See the CouplerMate instructions for more on this piece. In the center is the “decorative tongue” for use while your RoadRailer trailers are in highway service or parked around the terminal area. The tongue on the right is used if you are modeling a standard non-RoadRailer trailer. In theory this tongue can also be used in a RoadRailer train but it would require huge minimum radius curves and is not recommended for this use. A fourth tongue is already installed on the trailers and it is this tongue that is used in standard rail service.

2. Bumpers and Landing Gear. From left to right, the first two items are the bumpers for the back of the trailer. The upper one is for highway service and the lower is for rail service. See the section on bumper placement for more information. The second pair of items are the landing gear legs. The longer ones are for parking the trailer on the ground while the shorter version is for highway and rail service. (The small bits sticking out horizontally from the legs near the feet should be trimmed off and discarded.) The last four items are the mounting brackets for the landing gear. The two above the sprue are used for modeling standard non-RoadRailer trailers while the more symmetrical pair below the sprue are the standard gear for RoadRailer trailers but are also seen on highway trailers. These press fit into slots in the bottom of the trailer with the crank lever on the drivers side pointing to the back of the trailer. The landing gear legs slide into the slots on the inside faces of the mounting brackets.

3. Last is the saddle used when mounting a CouplerMate rail bogie on the back of a RoadRailer train. Since many Road-Railer trains run with CouplerMate rail bogies only on the front and use just the standard bogie at the back, you may never use this part. You will find instructions for its use in the CouplerMate section.

Setting up a basic RoadRailer Train:

Find the trailer with the factory mounted CouplerMate rail bogie and set it on the track. Now take any one of the other trailers and examine the bottom. You will notice a pair of pins on the bottom near the nose. The larger of the two pins fits in the hole at the end of the drawbar protruding from the back of the first trailer. Then set the rail wheels (of the second trailer) on the track. Repeat the process until the train is as long as you want it to be. Although CouplerMate rail bogies can be mounted on the front and back of a train, RoadRailer trains can run with a standard rail bogie (without coupler) at the end of the train. The last trailer will look more prototypical if you remove the drawbar from the back. To do this, grab the roller bearing truck side frames and pull the truck, saddle, and long truck pin out of the body and floor. The drawbar is now free. The truck, and saddle can now be reconnected to the floor and body with the long truck pin. (Hint: You can store the drawbar in the pocket between the floor and the body.) If you are having a hard time pressing the truck pin all the way home, use an Aztec truck pin pusher or the blunt end of a pen. If you are reinstalling a drawbar, remember the rib that runs lengthwise down the piece should face down. You are now ready to run your train! On the next page we’ll look at the bumpers and CouplerMate rail bogies and finally, look at how prototype RoadRailer trains are assembled.

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The Bumpers:
Since the placement of government mandated highway bumpers would interfere with rail equipment, the RoadRailer bumpers swing up and out of the way. An added advantage of this arrangement is that the raised bumper blocks the doors and prevents pilferage in transit. Both raised and lowered versions are included on the “Landing Gear Sprue.” The bumpers simply press fit into the slots on either side of the drawbar receptacle.

The CouplerMate rail bogies:
To install a CouplerMate rail bogie on the FRONT of a train, remove the floor from the lead trailer (pull the rail bogie and long pin first,) pop out the rail service tongue and replace it with the CouplerMate tongue seen at the right. A standard short truck pin passes through the truck, through the CouplerMate platform and into the CouplerMate tongue you just installed. (The narrow peg behind the truck pin socket fits into the fifth wheel on the CouplerMate rail bogie.)

To install a CouplerMate rail bogie at the BACK of a train, pull out the roller-bearing truck and remove the long truck pin, the drawbar and the saddle (the piece between the truck and the floor.) Set aside the short truck pin from the CouplerMate rail bogie and use the long one instead. A “T” shaped saddle (left) is used instead of the original (it also has a peg that fits into the fifth wheel.) The long pin passes through the truck, CouplerMate assembly, T saddle and into the RoadRailer floor in that order.

The Accumate couplers used on the CouplerMate are Made in China by Atlas Model Railroad Co. under license from Accurail® Inc. under U.S. Patent Nos. 5,620,155 and 5,931,322. These couplers are compatible with Micro-Trains® Magne-Matics®, Intermountain, Kato, MDC, and UniMate knuckle style couplers. They also function magnetically with the same magnetic delaying action popularized by Micro-Trains Line®. RoadRailer and CouplerMate are trademarks of Wabash Technology Corp. and are used with their kind permission.

How are prototype RoadRailer trains assembled?
1. Tractor positions trailer.
2. Trailer air suspension lifts rear of trailer, tractor backs onto rail bogie.
3. Trailer air suspension is vented. Coil springs lift tires clear of rail. Tractor backs trailer to train.
4. Tractor leaves leading trailer on landing gear.
5. CouplerMate rail bogie is attached to lead trailer and locomotive is coupled onto the train.

This diagram and bumper photos above courtesy of Wabash National Corporation.