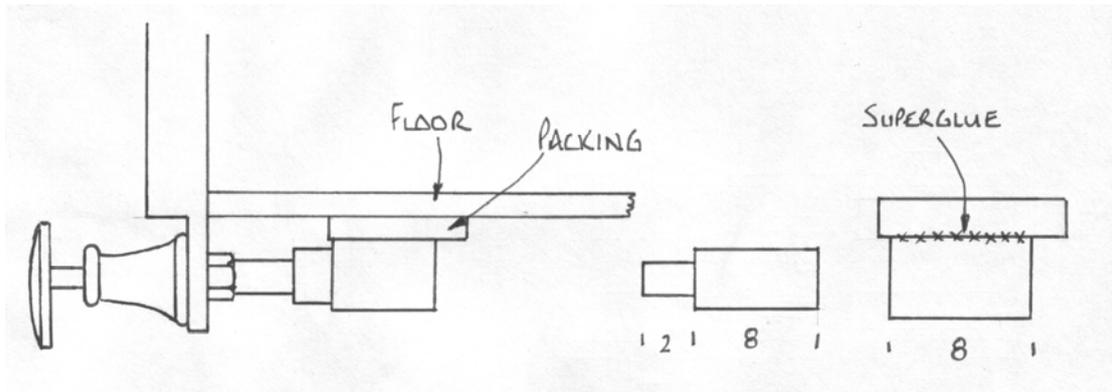


Tales from Barlow Works

Project Gresley

Part Six:- Buffers

There are no buffers provided in the kit so these will need to be bought in. The LNER used clip top buffers with a D shaped head. Unfortunately most model buffers rotate and with these buffers the clipped off portion needs to be at the top (this is also a problem with oval buffers). It is possible to stop the buffers rotating using the square and round tubes available from the K&S metal centre range. The LMS modellers do not have to bother with any of this nonsense as I believe their buffers are round. If so, please ignore this section.



Firstly it may be desirable to paint the buffer bodies before fixing, I chose to paint mine after assembly. Fix the buffer housing into the headstock, ensuring that it is square, I used superglue for this, then assemble the buffers. Two sizes of square tube are required plus a round tube and they must all fit telescopically inside one another for this method to work. They were 1.7mm(round), 2.4mm (small square), and 3.25mm(large square). They were the sizes available and with a bit of modification worked ok. Cut the round tube into 4 x 10mm lengths and the smaller and larger square tube into 4 x 8mm lengths. Clean up the various pieces of tube and ensure that they slide smoothly inside one another. Glue or solder the round tube into the small square tube with 2mm protruding from the end. Into the end of the protruding round tube run a 12ba clearance drill (1.4 mm) for about 5-6mm to accept the threaded portion of the buffer shaft. This may be best using the drill in a pin chuck as the resulting tube thickness is quite thin. The larger square tube will be fixed to the coach floor and some packing will be required, I found on my coaches that .60 was about right. Cut the pieces of packing about 10mm square and glue the larger tube to this with superglue. Assemble the smaller tube assembly onto the buffer shaft and then slide the larger square tube over the smaller one. Check for smooth operation and when happy glue the packing to the coach floor ensuring that it does not interfere with the swing of the bogies. Rotate the buffer head so the clipped off portion is at the top and then glue the round tube to the buffer shaft. This should hold the head in the correct orientation but the springing will still work due to the square tubes sliding in each other.

Next we will start on the interiors.