

Installation Guide

USA Trains Caboose & CamPac Components

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1/16/2025



CamPac Box™ feature is see through platform

Installing 3-D Printed pedestal and coupler box components on Extended Vision or Bay Window Caboose

Overview

- Instructions are provided as a guide for the installer of 3-D printed *CamPac Box™* and pedestal on the “G” (1/29) scale USA Trains Extended Vision or Bay Window Caboose¹. With *CamPac* components properly installed, layout operation is intended for 8 foot diameter or greater track curves.
- **Modifications made to the caboose trucks are irrevocable, which may affect the resale value to the possible detriment or benefit of the caboose having done away with factory truck tang and couplers.**
- The installer is to have access to tools and have adequate skills to make cuts to trucks and to be able to un solder and solder track power pickup wires from & to the trucks’ “plunger” assembly.
- Tools needed include Phillips type P1 & P2 screwdrivers, razor saw and/or hack saw in blade hand holder, and small size flat file with serrated edges, and a very small round file. Also needed is a soldering iron and Rosin core solder.
- For adjusting caboose coupler height from track, a Kadee 980 coupler height gauge is needed to verify alignment.
- *CamPac* 3-D kit printed components include coupler boxes (2), and pedestals (2) and various screws to attach *CamPac Boxes™* and pedestals.
- **Not included:** The installer will need to supply a Kadee 907 kit (1) of which all (but the plastic box & lid screw) will be fitted onto each *CamPac Box™*.

CamPac Box™, Pedestal and Kadee kit

Instructions provided to accomplish:

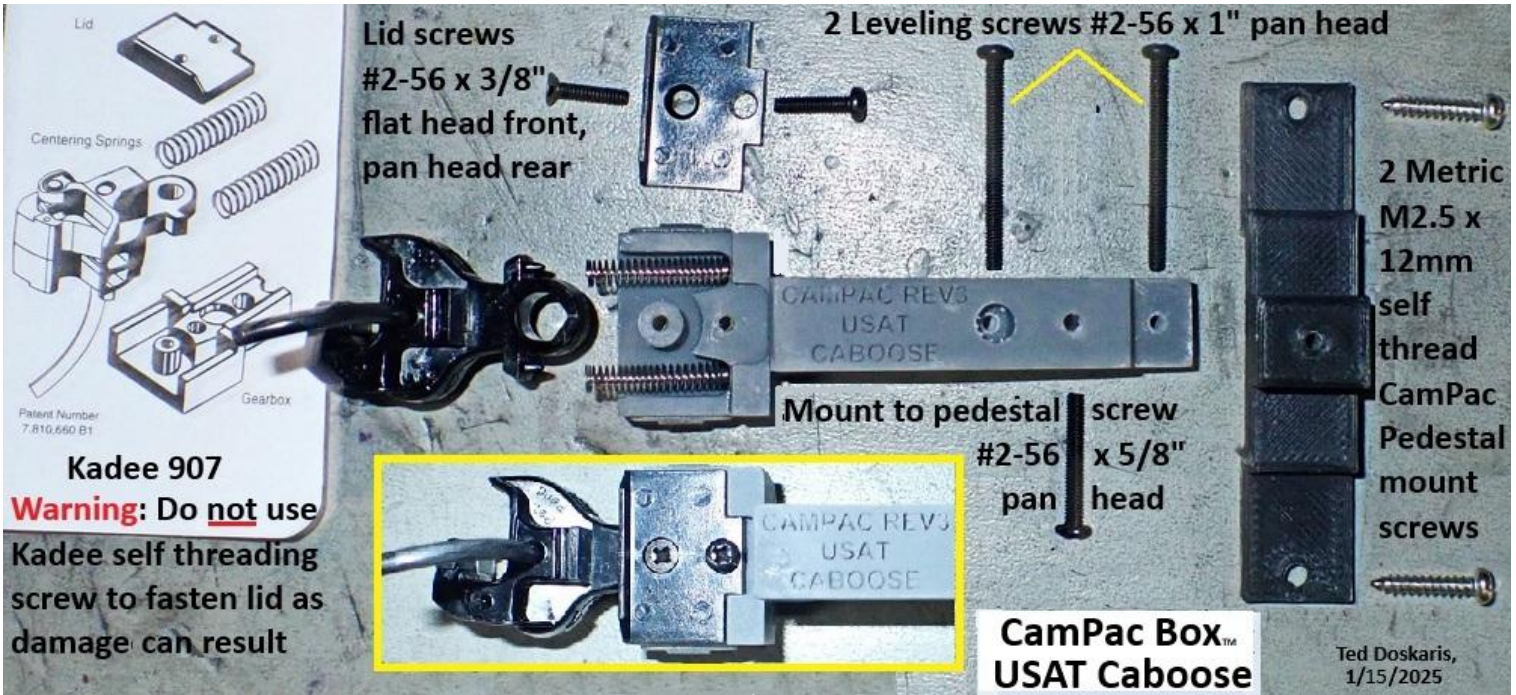
- ✓ Install Kadee kit parts onto *CamPac Box* (coupler box)
- ✓ Un solder power pickup wires from truck plunger assemblies.
- ✓ Remove & modify trucks from Caboose
- ✓ Mount *CamPac Pedestals* on car underside
- ✓ Fasten *CamPac Boxes* on Pedestal
- ✓ Re install modified trucks.
- ✓ Re solder power pickup wires to plunger assemblies
- ✓ Re install trucks
- ✓ Re solder power pickup wires on plunger assemblies
- ✓ Verify/Adjust *CamPac Box* leveling screws so couplers align with Kadee 980 track height gauge



¹ **Caution:** When operating the caboose, **abrupt excess force** (e.g. collision/yanking) to the coupler **may result in damage** to coupler, coupler box, or other components.

Installation Steps:
Step 1 – Coupler Box Preparation

Install selected parts from a Kadee² 907 Kit in the *CamPac Box*. (Box to be fastened to pedestal & mounted later)

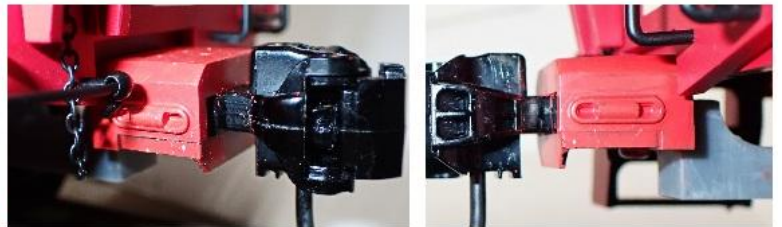


Note: For now, don't mount the box assembly on the pedestal. This will be done in Step 4.

The CamPacBox can be painted to match the body color of the Caboose or any color desired by the installer.



Example painted CamPac Box™ coupler pocket area to color match Caboose body



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Step 2 - Caboose Placement

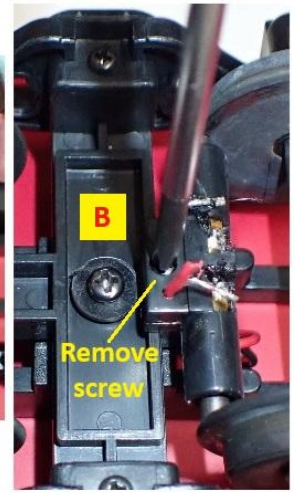
To work on the Caboose, place it up-side-down - shown on wood blocks so its smoke stack does not touch the surface.



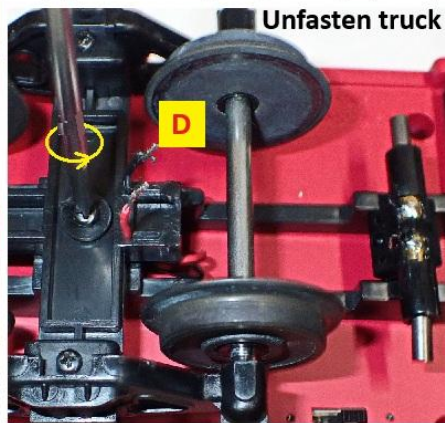
² Kadee is a registered trademark of Kadee Quality Products Co., White City, Oregon, USA.

Step 3 - Truck Modifications

Trucks to be removed so coupler tangs can be cut off. Requires unsoldering of wires.
 (Tangs will interfere with body mounting the CamPac Boxes™)

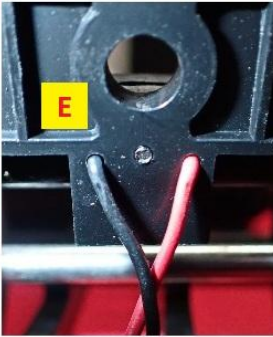


Pull wires from plunger body (Pistons & springs will pop out)



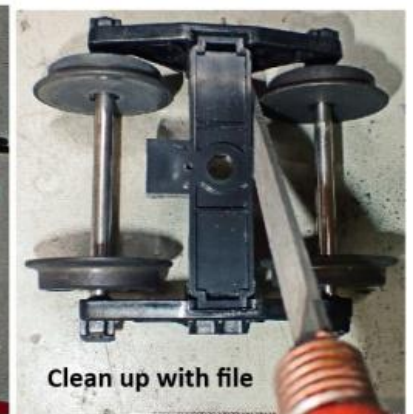
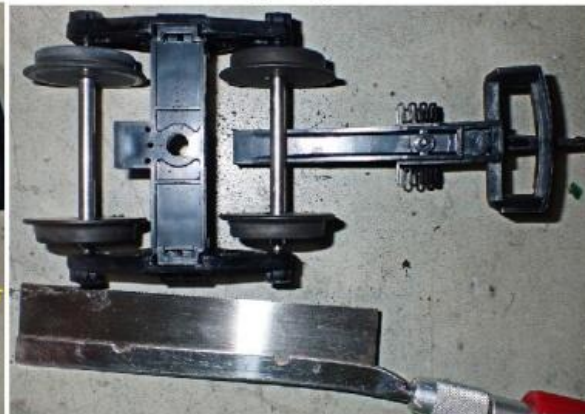
Unfasten truck

Tilt truck up, and pull out wires from tail



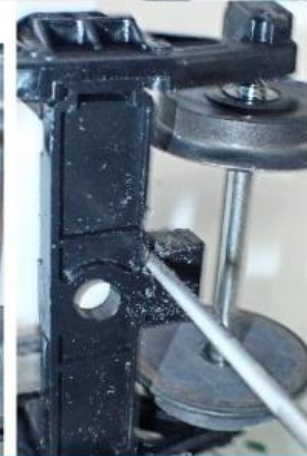
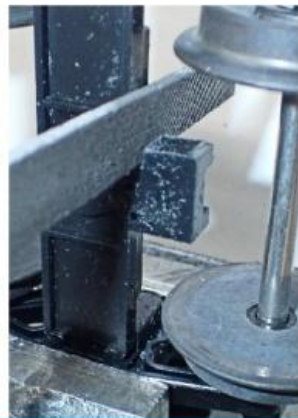
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Required Truck Modifications: Remove long tang from bolster as illustrated below



Optional: Notch both sides of the short tail so plunger power pickup wires don't need to be unsoldered

Plunger Assy

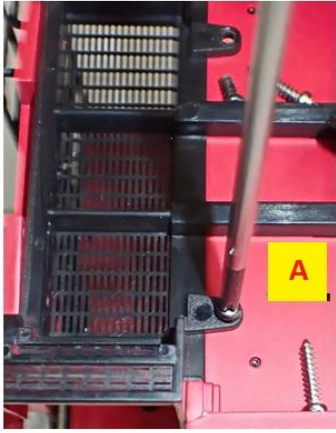


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Step 4 – CamPac Box Installation

Fasten CamPac Pedestal, and then fasten CamPac Box™ on pedestal - illustrated below:

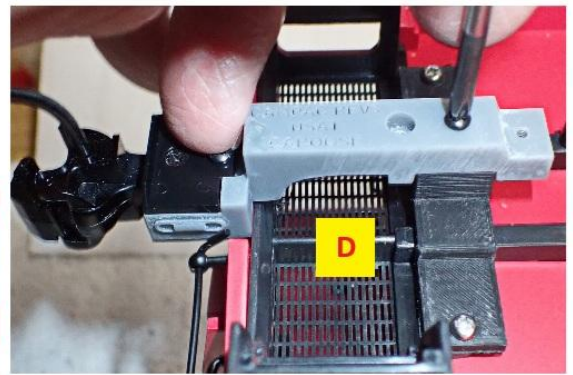
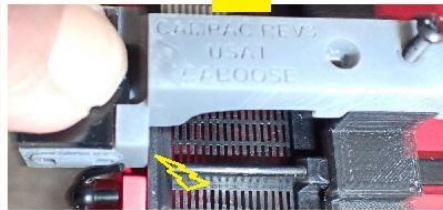
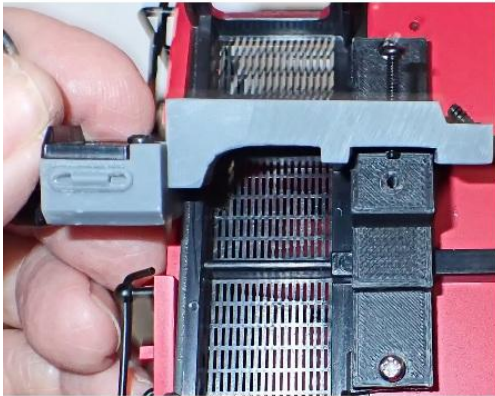
Remove factory screws



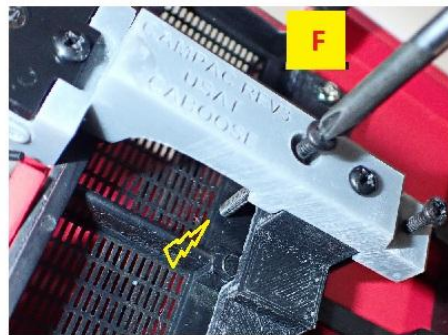
Fasten pedestal with longer M2.5 x 12 mm self thread screws



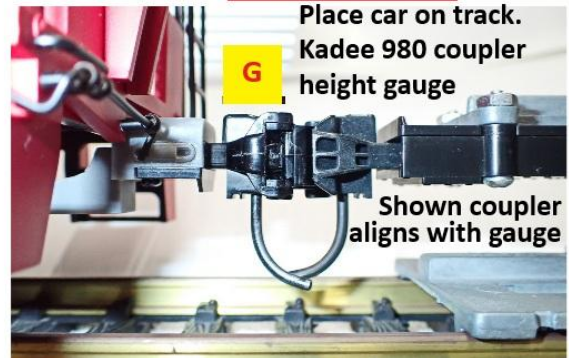
Fasten CamPac Box™ on pedestal with #2-56 x 5/8" pan head screw - ensuring that box end clears car's end sill, and then whilst held down, tighten screw



Thread in #2-56 x 1" pan head leveling screws, starting with tail screw until it just touches car's chassis, and then thread in the front screw until it just touches car's chassis.



Using Kadee 980 gauge, if coupler low, back off front screw, and then turn down tail screw. If coupler high, back off tail screw and turn down front screw until it just touches chassis.

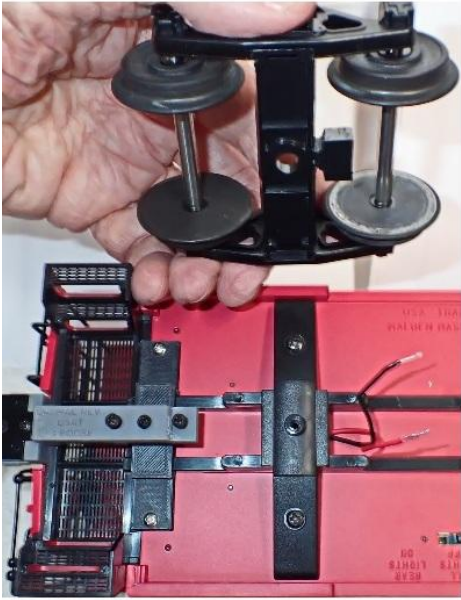


Place car on track. Kadee 980 coupler height gauge

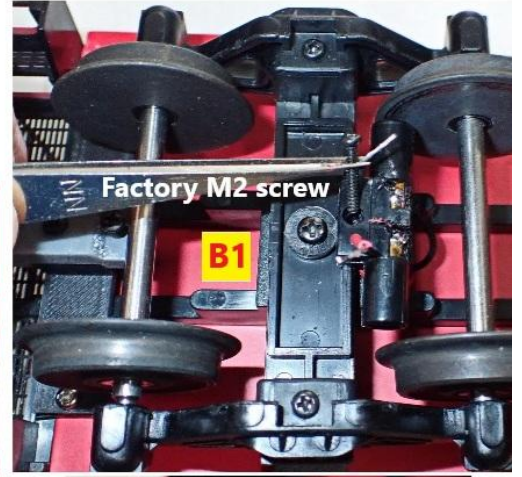
Shown coupler aligns with gauge

Step 5 Truck Installation & Track power pickup - plunger assembly

Install trucks having cut off their factory coupler tang - illustrated below:



Temporarily fasten Plunger housing without pistons & springs to truck tail



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Step 6 Verify Caboose lights work on track power
(Set underside slide switch to "ALL LIGHTS ON")



!!! DONE!!!