
REPOWERING ARISTO-CRAFT FA-1 1:29 #1 GAUGE DIESEL LOCO (ALSO RS1)

This locomotive is very nice and is inexpensive. Now the bad news – the power trucks leave much to be desired, frequently leaving the operating modeler with heavy backshop requirements.

A number of operators have reported re-powering these locomotives with the NWSL #8690-4 power trucks. The basic size of the #8690-4 is essentially the same as the FA-1 power truck 'block' thus permitting relatively easy conversion to this premium quality, fine running NWSL power truck. The one negative is wheelbase discrepancy which means that the NWSL #8690-4 wheels (axles) do not line up exactly with the FA-1 sideframe journals.

To Install:

Remove and save sideframes (2 screws each side of equalizer bar).

Remove truck 'block' from kingpin (truck bolster) bracket.

Remove #8690-4 kingpin (Zona or similar fine saw) carefully to avoid wiring damage.

Determine and make wiring connections (see #8690-4 instructions for wiring function information), Center #8690-4 in kingpin bracket, determine location and drill attaching holes in the kingpin bracket and (undersize so they self-tap) in #8690-4, secure in place with screws (2.0mm size works well).

Rehang sideframes to kingpin bracket. If wheelbase discrepancy bothers you, consider sectioning sideframes between coil and leaf spring to shorten sideframe journal wheelbase to match truck axle spacing.

See also the upgrade nickel-silver and stainless steel wheels choices (#2549-6, etc.)