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Steam Locomotive Shipping Box Use

This provides information on packing a steam locomotive model in the packing box that I have provided.

The box is 12" by 12" x 24". To pack the box please carefully slit just deep enough to cut the tape but not cut materials inside the box which contains several pre-cut blocks of foam. The block in the center is 12" wide x 16" long x 4" thick. Remove only this block in order to pack your model.

With the block removed you will see the cavity that is to contain the model. It will contain several blocks of foam 4" high x 16" long, 2 wood strips 16" long by 2 1/2" wide, two 1/4" wood dowels, and several small rolls of bubble wrap. The ends of the cavity have wood bulkheads with foam blocks between the bulkheads and the box ends.

Materials you will need that isn't provided unless we've discussed them prior to my sending the box to you: a roll of bundle wrap 5" wide 80 mil thickness, Amazon is a good source, and wood glue AKA carpenter's glue.

The goal is to use the foam strips to create two 16" long slots in the cavity. Use the foam strips to create a 3" x 4" x 16" block of foam between the side of the slot and each side of the box. Between the slots will be an approx 1" x 4" x 16" strip of foam .

The engine goes in one slot and the tender in the other each with a wood strip underneath. The engine is secured to one of the wood strips by two things:

1. Two dowels are to be glued to the top (UP side) of a strip placed so that they block the front driver from the front and the rear driver from the rear. Use the wood glue for this. One of the strips will have dowels glued to it as an example, If the wheelbase of your engine allows it to fit between those dowels then all you have to do is glue one dowel to make up for the shorter wheelbase, otherwise turn the strip over and put it under the tender and glue the dowels to the clear strip. If the rear brake shoes interfere with the dowel gently pivot them backwards to clear. The dowels should prevent any fore and aft movement of the engine. Put the engine on this strip. Be sure the UP side is up otherwise the sharp bottom edge of the strip may cut the wrap that holds the engine to the strip.
2. The bundle wrap/stretch wrap that is wrapped tightly around the engine on top of the wood strip. There's no easy way to do this. My method is to support one end of the strip with the engine on it on a solid surface then tightly wrap the wrap around the cab several turns. Then turn the engine end for end and do the other end. Avoid protruding details such as bells and whistles. Wrap the engine first in acid free tissue paper if you want.

You should be able to pick up the engine by the wood strip, turn it upside down and on its end and it won't move. When you are satisfied put the engine in one of the slots. The tender goes in the other, no need for dowel blocks or to wrap it to the board unless it is very heavy.

Place the cylinders of bubble wrap in front and behind the engine and tender as a back up in case the wrap fails. If you need more of these a good substitute is a plastic bag tightly packed with shipping peanuts. The engine and tender should now be secured in place. The engine should be unable to move because it is secured to the wood strip and the wood strip is prevented from moving by the wood bulkheads at each end of the cavity.

Seal the box and ship it to me. I recommend USPS Priority based upon good experience. Be sure to insure it for what you consider to be its replacement value. Don't hesitate to call me if you have questions.

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