

Mason Bogie R/C Battery Installation

I know there are probably only a few of you out there that possess an Accucraft Mason Bogie but I thought I would post my conversion if for no other reason but to show you another example of how you could fit a large amount of stuff into a very small space.

Since the first time I saw one, the Mason Bogie became my absolutely favorite engine. I wanted one so badly that I even began the Bogie Masterclass on MLS back in the early 2000's. I got pretty far along until those good ole boys at Accucraft produced one. Guess what – I bought one although it set me back a pretty penny. I had mixed emotions about tearing into such a gorgeous engine but, after some agony, I decided to convert it to battery operation.

The main components I used included:

RailBoss 4, R/C system

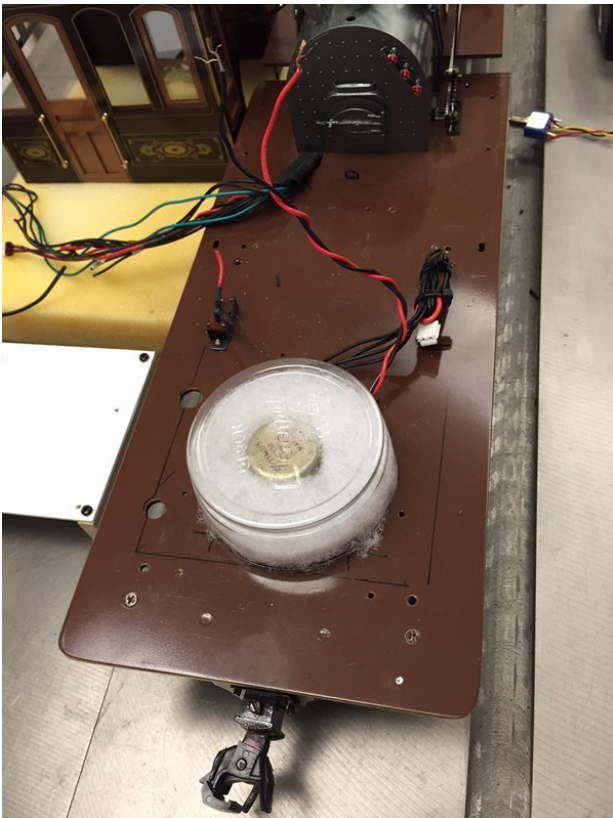
Phoenix sound

14.8 v - 3000 mAh battery

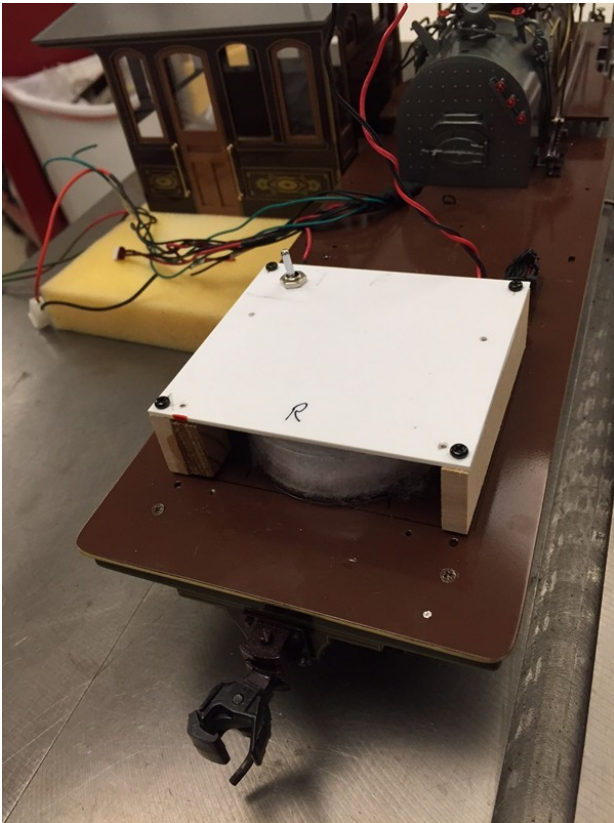
Installation:

I first removed the cab and tender. Inside the tender area was a PCB that Accucraft used to connect the track pickups, power to the motor, and components to provide power to the LED headlamp and cab light. I marked the connections and removed the board. This board made installation of the R/C much easier by eliminating the need to get into the boiler area for rewiring purposes.

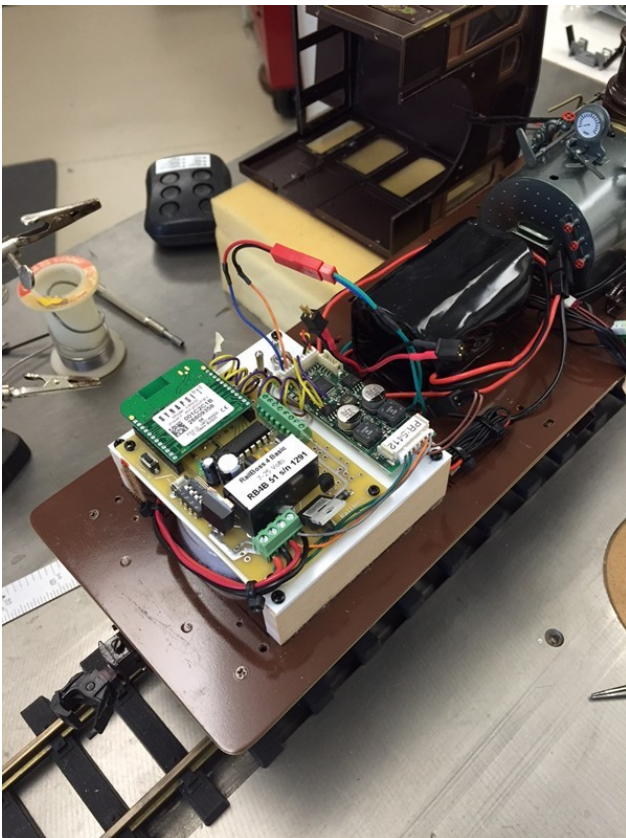
I glued, using Silicone, an appropriately sized speaker over the existing speaker holes in the frame. I lucked out and found a plastic container that perfectly fit over the speaker and cut it to size so it fit flush with the top of the speaker. Next, I packed the plastic enclosure with Fiber Fill. The photo below shows the mounted speaker.



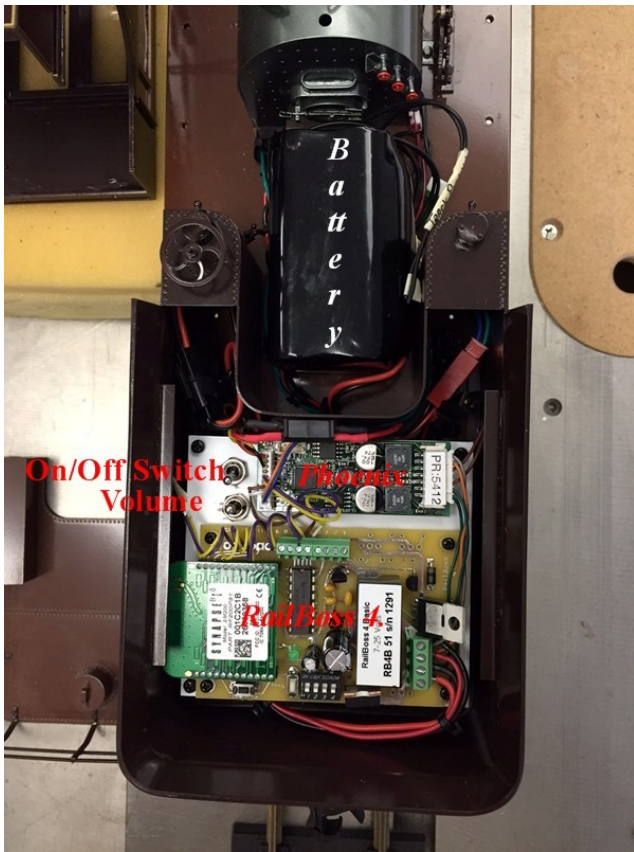
To create a mount for the electronic components, I cut a couple of basswood support pieces and glued them to the chassis. I then cut a piece of 0.060" styrene to serve as a platform for the electronics and screwed it to the wood supports. The photo below shows the support for the circuit boards.



Here is a photo showing the RailBoss 4 receiver/controller (on the left) and the Phoenix sound card (right). The RailBoss card is mounted with screws for easy removal and the Phoenix card is mounted with foam tape. Notice that the battery (2X2 configuration) is mounted in the cab area. No more room in the tender. It's convenient that the battery is black so it really doesn't show with the cab on.



Here is a view of the installation from above. I would also like to point out that the RailBoss 4 that the RailBoss 4 card has outputs for lighting, one for incandescent lights and one for LED's. I used the constant current output to drive the headlamp and cab light.



Well, it is. My Mason Bogie is now ready to run on any track and with great sound.

