

## MOTORISING A CORGI MODEL BLACKPOOL RAILCOACH OR BALLOON

These models are available in a wide variety of liveries but the method is the same in all cases. Although many of these instructions contain photographs of Corgi Railcoach trams, because the bottom deck of a Corgi Balloon has a very similar casting the process is almost identical on both models. Where there is any significant difference photographs of both will be shown.



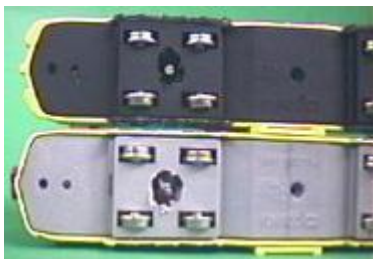
The dismantling process is started by undoing and removing the screw from the centre of the base. The location is shown in the photo.



Now remove the lifeguards from each end of the model by undoing the retaining screws as indicated in the photo.



Now drill a series of holes as close as possible to each of the two steel rods as shown in this photo (Balloon at bottom, Railcoach at top).



Now join these holes together as shown. This will allow the base to be removed.



If you have any difficulty removing the base it is possibly because there is still some plastic adhering to the steel rods, scraping the rods clean will solve the problem. This is what you will see when you remove the base.



After removing the wheels and seating unit (lower deck only of Balloon) your models will be as seen in photo) with the Balloon on the left and Railcoach on the right. DO NOT throw anything away at this stage of the proceedings!!!



If motorising a Balloon it will be necessary to separate the top and bottom decks by gently pulling them apart. Next remove the upper deck seating unit. You will now have three parts namely, the upper deck, the lower deck and the upper deck seating unit as shown in the photo. Retain all the parts.



In the previous photograph you can see two steel rods coming down from the roof of the upper deck of the Balloon and in this photograph you can see the two steel rods coming down from the roof of the Railcoach. These steel rods have to be removed. Please note that although the rods appear to have screw threads, they don't! - these are merely ridges. If this task is undertaken carefully by bending the rods to and fro along the length of the tram it will be possible to ease the rods out of their sockets thus giving more room for the motor unit in a Railcoach. Be particularly careful when doing this on a Balloon as it may not be possible to remove the window glazing unit before removing the rods and it is very easy to break the glazing unit.



.It should be noted that the top deck of a Balloon will only fit one way round on the bottom deck. To ensure that the model is reassembled correctly there are arrows moulded into the top deck glazing unit and in the bottom deck glazing unit as shown in these two photographs. The bottom deck is shown on the extreme left and the top deck to the right of it.



The Railcoach used to have a glazing unit similar to that in the balloon so had an arrow cast into the body. The glazing has since been upgraded to flush glazing strips so the glazing does not need removing during these operations anymore. In this photograph you will see a moulding indicated and it is necessary to remove the small part of this moulding.



This part of the moulding has to be removed to allow room for the motor unit to pivot freely. To remove the moulding a drill, slightly larger than the diameter of the moulding, is used drilling until the larger portion of the moulding is countersunk as shown in this photo. There is no need to repeat at the other end of the tram. This moulding is not present in balloons.



The standard bolsters supplied with the equal wheel motors are too short to fit well between the tram body sides. A set of flat bolsters can be supplied by KW Trams. These need to rest on the glazing unit, so may need to be filed slightly to fit comfortably. The centre holes on the

bolsters should be 90mm apart (45mm from the centre line). Use 5 minute epoxy to fix these in place.



Please note that when using glues it is advisable to leave everything for 24 hours for the glue to cure. The bogies can now be clipped into the bolsters.



Take the lower deck seating unit and the under floor / base unit, and cut them into 5 sections so that the ends and middles fit round the bogies. Care should be taken to ensure that the pieces aren't too long as they will foul the bogies. In order to avoid the bogies fouling the lifeguards the lugs on the lifeguard should be cut off. If you will be using the tram on very small radius curves it may be necessary to remove the rearmost bar of the lifeguard as well.

These parts can now be screwed together using the original self-tapping screws, and the assemblies can then be glued in place.



The work on your Railcoach is now complete.





The upper deck of the Balloon is now ready for fitting.

Option 1. First clip the top deck seating unit into the top deck casting as shown in the left hand photo. Spread glue at the ends and centre part of the seating unit as indicated in the photo to a point level with the inner ends of the lower deck casting at each end. Ensuring that the upper deck is the correct way round fit the top deck complete with seating unit to the lower deck casting. After a few moments for the glue to settle, carefully remove the top deck casting again and leave the glue to cure for 24 hours. The upper deck casting can now be clipped back into place but will still be easily removable for access to the upper deck at any time should this be necessary.

Option 2. The top deck can be more permanently secured to the lower deck casting by putting a bead of glue around the rebate on the lower deck casting which the upper deck fits into.



Congratulations, you have now successfully motorised your Corgi tram which will look similar to these completed models and will run on OO/HO gauge model tramways or

railways. It should be noted that your conversions may not run very well on very old types of track. Unfortunately this problem will almost certainly be due to incompatible wheel and track standards and not a fault in your conversion work.

The parts from the Corgi trams which you have not used can now be consigned to the scrap box for possible use sometime in the future but please note that the wheels and axles which have been removed may not be insulated for 2 rail working and may not be to OO/HO gauge.

