



# M.T.H. HO 2-8-8-8-2 Triplex Steam Engine

## ENGINEER'S GUIDE

Congratulations! You've just purchased the most feature rich and technically advanced HO steam engine ever produced! In addition, it happens to be produced by MTH, the leader in digital sound and control technology for model railroading. There will be many more engines to follow.

We hope you will enjoy them.

Now, let's get started.....



Freight Yard Sound



Passenger Station Announcement

**PLEASE READ BEFORE USE AND SAVE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNPACKING YOUR ENGINE	4
Removing and Unwrapping Your Engine	4
What Else is in the Box?	4
PRODUCT OVERVIEW	5
Getting to Know Your Engine	5
Engine Diagram	7
SET-UP	8
Engine and Tender Connection	8
Smoke Unit Preparation and Use	8
Removal/Installation of Drive Wheel Sets	8
Lubrication	10
FEATURES AND OPERATION	11
Analog DC (standard DC power pack)	11
DCC Digital Command Control	14
DCS Digital Command System	20
SPECIFICATIONS	22
CARE AND MAINTENANCE	23
Troubleshooting Guide	23
ADDENDUM	29

## CAUTION: ELECTRICALLY OPERATED PRODUCT:

Not recommended for children under 10 years of age. M.T.H. recommends adult supervision with children ages 10 - 16. As with all electric products, precautions should be observed during handling and use to reduce the risk of electric shock.

WARNING: When using electrical products, basic safety precautions should be observed, including the following:  
Read this manual thoroughly before using this device.

1. M.T.H. recommends that all users and persons supervising use examine the hobby transformer and other electronic equipment periodically for conditions that may result in the risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons, such as damage to the primary cord, plug blades, housing, output jacks or other parts. In the event such conditions exist, the train set should not be used until properly repaired.
1. Do not operate your layout unattended. Obstructed accessories or stalled trains may overheat, resulting in damage to your layout.
1. This train set is intended for indoor use. Do not use if water is present. Serious injury or fatality may result.
1. Do not operate the hobby transformer with damaged cord, plug, switches, buttons or case.
1. When operating this product with older transformers that fail to meet current U.L. standards, install some sort of circuit breaker protection between the transformer the DCS Track Interface Unit (TIU). Failure to provide this protection could lead to fatal damage to the DCS equipment. See the warnings later in the manual.

# QUICK START GUIDE

Of course, you should read your manual over before running your Tri-Plex. But if you just can't wait, choose how you want to run below and enjoy!! Now, after a few minutes, shut her down and read through your engineer's guide.

## I USE A REGULAR DC SUPPLY...

- Step 1: Unpack your Triplex (refer to unpacking instructions on pg 4)...
- Step 2: Set the engine on the track ...
- Step 3: Apply increasing DC voltage until she starts up and pulls out!

## I'M A DCC OPERATOR....

- Step 1: Unpack your Triplex (refer to unpacking instructions on pg 4)...
- Step 2: Set the engine on the track ...
- Step 3: Power up your DCC system...
- Step 4: Select engine address 3 and press "F3" to start her up...
- Step 5: Turn the throttle and head on down the pike...

## I RUN DCS....

- Step 1: Unpack your Triplex (refer to unpacking instructions on pg 4)...
- Step 2: Set the engine on the track ...
- Step 3: Power up your DCS system...
- Step 4: Add the engine to your system and start her up...
- Step 5: Turn the throttle and move out....

**CAUTION: M.T.H. HO engines DO NOT OPERATE ON AC VOLTAGE.** Applying AC power to your locomotive could cause permanent damage and will void your warranty.

# UNPACKING YOUR ENGINE

## Removing and Unwrapping Your Engine

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Carefully remove and unwrap the model on a soft surface. By nature, models with high levels of detail have some small fragile parts.

Carefully remove any foam packing pieces that may be surrounding the model.

## What Else is in the Box?

The following items are packed with your engine.

### Engineer's Guide (1)

You probably know that since you're reading it.

### Smoke Fluid Pipette (1)

Enough fluid to get you started and then some.



### Drive Wheel Set w/Traction Tires (1)

Extra pulling power for steep grades or long trains.



### 3mm Nut Driver (1)

In case you want to install the drivers with traction tires or replace the standard drive wheels.



# PRODUCT OVERVIEW

## Getting to Know Your M.T.H. HO Locomotive

### Key Features

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Your new HO Triplex is equipped with the exclusive M.T.H. Proto-Sound® 3.0 digital sound and control system. In plain English, this means your locomotive contains state-of-the-art electronics providing realistic digital sounds, puffing smoke perfectly synchronized with chuffing sounds and motion, precisely controlled speed in increments of 1 scale mile per hour, and much, much, more.

### Compatibility

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The Proto-Sound 3 system is universally compatible with track power and/or signal combinations including analog DC (regular DC transformer), DCC (NMRA Digital Command Control), or DCS (MTH Digital Command System). Simply set your Triplex on the rails, apply any one of these power/signal sources, and move out! The Proto-Sound 3.0 system automatically senses the track environment and adapts accordingly. No hidden jumpers, switches, magic wands, or programming required!!! A vast array of realistic operation is automatic when the Triplex is run on analog DC. You can expand access to features in a DCC environment. Experience the most your new locomotive has to offer in the simple to use yet powerful world of DCS. To be clear, DCS is NOT a proprietary version of DCC, as some other manufacturers offer. DCS is a comprehensive layout control system designed with one primary goal: make model trains do amazingly realistic things using a simple and intuitive controller. We put the complexity on the inside, and the fun in your hands!

### Digital Sound

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Your Proto-Sound 3 (PS 3) equipped Triplex contains over 100 individual recordings. These recordings are played back dynamically at appropriate times to create a symphony of realism for your ears. Hear the chuffs automatically intensify or lighten when speeding up or slowing down, listen to the sounds of brakes squeaking and squealing as you come to a stop, or enjoy the random conversations of railmen working as your model sits at idle. It's all there and it's incredible.

Now, your HO Triplex includes the ultimate in realism Proto-Whistle. With this incredible new feature you have variable control over the steam whistle sound in your locomotive (when operated in DCS mode with the DCS Commander or DCS software version 4.0 or greater) Also included is a Grade Crossing Whistle

## Digital Control

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In standard analog DC mode, your model still operates under digital control. The PS 3 advance speed control system converts track voltage into digital speed commands. Your model will run smoothly and consistently at any speed regardless of load, hills, or curves. If you are a DCC user, you'll quickly learn to appreciate the precision of our speed control and linear speed curve. DCS users will enjoy the added benefits of controlling speeds in increments of 1 scale mile per hour displayed on DCS controllers or easily changing acceleration and deceleration rates independently without any discussion of bits or bytes. To be clear, DCS is NOT DCC.

## Lights & Smoke

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As you read on, you'll notice there are no instructions for replacing light bulbs in your Triplex. That's because there aren't any. We use specially designed and controlled LEDs to create realistic lighting effects that occur automatically. Again, NO PROGRAMMING!! Just come to a stop and watch as the headlight dims automatically in accordance with rule 17. Of course, as you pull away, the headlight returns to it's fully bright, yet warm, glow. Your new Triplex includes realistic Classification lighting with appropriately colored LED's in the boiler and tender. We even included a light in the cab so the engineer and fireman can see to do their jobs!

Since the Triplex is an articulated locomotive you can watch the smoke puff in time with the articulated drivers. Likewise, your chuffing sounds will drift in and out of time, just like the real locomotive. MTH is renowned for our realistic smoke systems. The HO Triplex is no exception. When the smoke is on, you will experience copious puffs synchronized precisely with chuffing sounds at 4 times per revolution of the drive wheels. Of course, when you stop, the smoke wafts out of the stack steadily, just like the real thing! The smoke behavior applies to all operating modes, analog DC, DCC, or DCS. With some DCC controllers, you can turn smoke on and off remotely. In DCS mode, you can not only toggle smoke on and off with the press of single button, you can actually select from 3 output levels to keep those smoke alarms from going off!

## More...

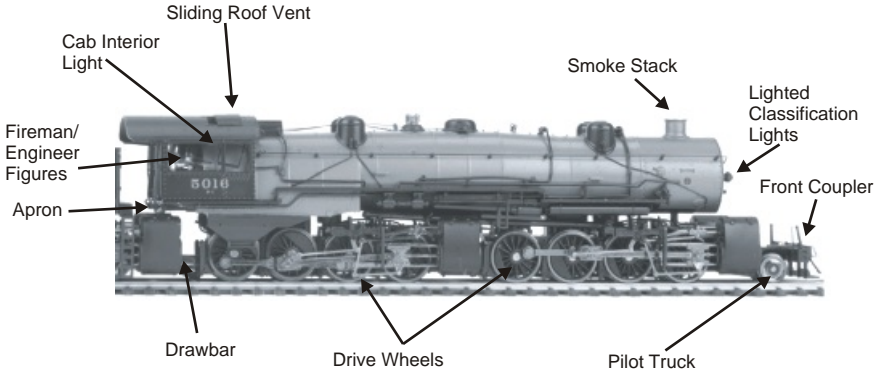
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In addition to what we've described above, your Triplex includes advanced technologies. Even with the sophisticated electronics on-board both sides, there aren't any wires to clutter the appearance or wear out with use. In analog DC operation, just flip the track polarity or direction switch at any speed and watch your Triplex gradually come to stop, turn on the appropriate directional lighting, and smoothly accelerate back up to speed. No other HO locomotive has features like these. There are so many more things to learn and enjoy about the Triplex, we could write a book. But, that's no fun. So, if you haven't already done so, flip to the Quick Start Guide and let's run your new engine!!

# ENGINE DIAGRAM

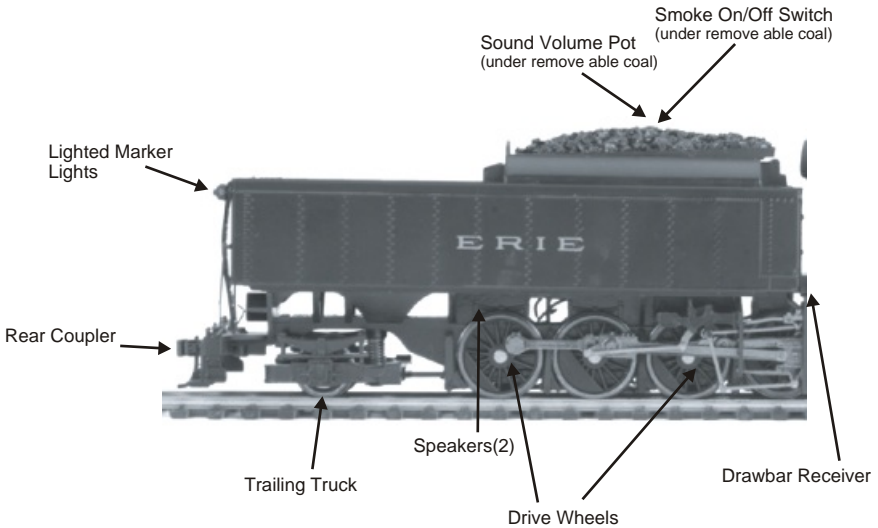
## Boiler

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## Tender

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## SET-UP

### Connection of the Engine and Tender

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Your MTH HO Triplex is presented and packaged as a pre-connected unit. The drawbar is attached to the engine and the tender by screws. Along with providing a mechanical connection of the tender to the engine, the drawbar also provide an electrical connection between the engine and tender. No assembly is required.

### Smoke Unit Preparation and Use

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Your Triplex is equipped with a proven fan-driven smoke system design featured in MTH products for over 10 years. The performance and realism of this system is unparallel in the model train industry.

Your smoke unit comes primed from the factory however, before running the smoke unit for more than a few minutes, you should add more fluid. Add between 10-15 drops initially and whenever smoke output diminishes or if the engine has been stored for a long period of time. We provided some fluid with your model to get you started.

The smoke unit is controlled differently depending upon how your run your engine so, for particulars on turning it on or off or setting the output levels, check out the features and operation section.

You shouldn't run your smoke unit without fluid. Doing so can cause overheating and reduce the performance and/or life of the unit. Of course, we recommend using only MTH ProtoSmoke fluid. Super Smoke and LVTS brands also work fine.

### Removal/Installation of Drive Wheel Sets

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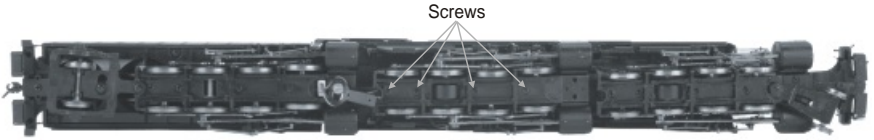
Your Triplex comes from the factory with standard drive wheels installed and an alternate set with traction tires in the box. The model will perform just fine on typical grades, curves, and loads but, should you want to pull stumps, you can install the alternate drive wheel set with traction tires.

First, position the engine upside down in a foam cradle or other soft surface. Using the 3mm nut driver tool we provided in the box, carefully remove the drive rod screws (2) on the rear set of drive wheels. There's one on each side.

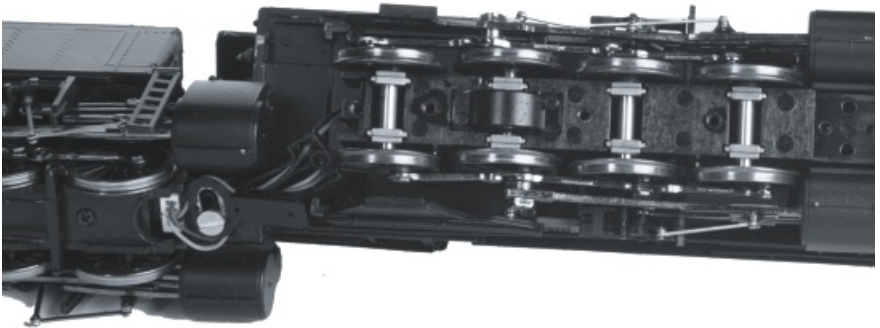




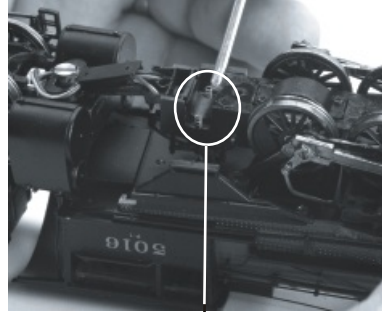
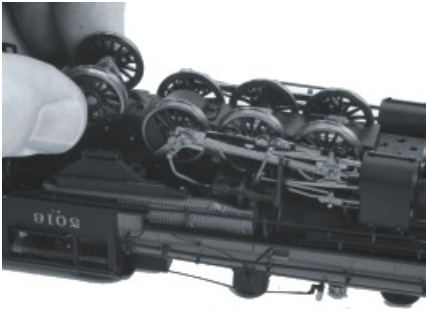
Next, remove the 4 screws holding down the rectangular chassis bottom cover. Carefully remove the cover, set it aside, and then STOP. Don't do anything further until reading the next step completely.



Before proceeding, there are a couple of important things to know. First, under the square bushings on each end of the axle are tiny springs. They are critical to the proper operation of your engine and you don't want to drop them. Next, look closely at the wheel set and bushings and take note of their orientation. CAUTION: DRAWBAR COMES LOOSE WHEN SCREWS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.



Now, very slowly and carefully lift the wheel set upward. Keep a close eye out for the driver springs as they sometimes stick to the bushings and lift out. If you drop one, you'll need some really good eyes or a magnet to find them. If they should lift out with the wheel set, carefully set them back into cavities from which they came.



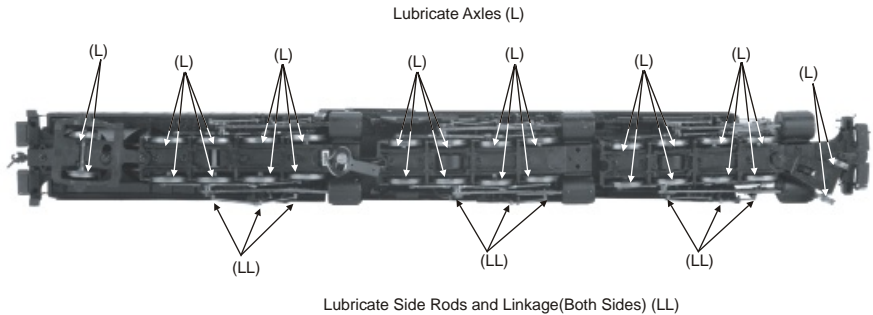
Driver springs

Drop the replacement wheel set into the chassis. Make sure the bushings are in the correct orientation. The small rectangular tabs on the front and rear must be upward (with the engine upside down) toward the chassis bottom cover.

Reinstall the chassis bottom cover with 4 screws, gently press the plastic molded brake shoe detail back into place, and install the rear drive rod screws. See, you've done it.

## Lubrication

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Using light machine or household oil, apply a very small amount to all drive rods, linkages, axles, and other moving parts as shown.

Your gearbox is properly greased at the factory and probably never needs service however, if you run excessive hours pulling heavy loads, it's a good idea to remove the 2 screws from the gearbox cover and re-grease using MTH gear grease or equivalent.

# FEATURES AND OPERATION

Now, for the fun stuff! Your new MTH HO Triplex has more features and operating capabilities than any HO engine ever built by any manufacturer. We're going to walk you through everything she does in general but, you'll probably find a few we forgot to mention on your own.

## Modes of Operation

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There are 3 modes of operation with different levels of features accessible in each. We refer to them as analog DC, DCC, and DCS. Here's a little more explanation before we get into the features of each mode.

### Analog DC

This is when there is nothing connected to the rails except a conventional DC power pack. These power packs generally have at least one variable output controlled by a throttle of some sort and a means of reversing DC polarity on the track to change the direction of your engine.

### DCC or Digital Command Control

DCC is a popular digital command control scheme wherein the track power is also a digital control signal. That is, using a DCC controller, you can communicate with multiple engines and have them all moving at different speeds or moving in opposite directions on the same track at the same time. The power/command signal remains constant and engines are "commanded" to perform as desired. MTH is new to DCC but, we recognize it's importance to many HO operators. So, we loaded our engine with more DCC features easily accessible to the operator than any HO engine ever built previously. You DCC guys are in for a real treat!

### DCS or Digital Control System

While the acronyms are close, this is about where the similarities between DCS and DCC end. Yes, they are both digital control systems however, MTH DCS is NOT DCC. There are several proprietary versions of DCC on the market but friend, this is NOT one of them. MTH's DCS system is proven technology in the O and One gauge markets and now, we've brought its power and simplicity it to you.

First, the power signal in DCS is NOT the command signal. Next, DCS employs a fully functional bi-directional communication scheme opening a vast range of advanced features and yet, is so simple and intuitive, you can enjoy them! No programming tracks, bits and bytes, or conversion of binary to hexadecimal numbers here! To add an engine in DCS just press "ADD ENGINE." After that, If you want to start your engine, just press "START UP" or, to turn the smoke on or off, just press "SMOKE." No combinations of letters or numbers to remember! We think you're really going to like this!

# Analog DC

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Not much explanation is required here, and that's exactly why you run your trains this way! Here's the good news, even if you like to keep it simple, your MTH HO engine is packed with cool sounds, sights, and smells yes, smells, that you're going to love.

## Running the Engine

Set the engine on the rails, and apply DC power. Refer to the Set-Up section of this guide for instructions on how to connect the boiler and tender.

As you increase power, at about 6 volts, the lights and sounds will come on. If you continue to increase power, and the smoke switch is on, the smoke unit will kick in at about 7 volts. More on the smoke further down. Keep going on up to about 8 and she'll move out! About 16 volts DC is adequate for prototypical speeds however, your engine can handle up to 24 volts DC if you feel the need for speed!

## Changing Direction

If you flip the direction (polarity) switch on your power pack while the engine is moving, it will gradually slow to a stop, and slowly accelerate back up to speed in the opposite direction. This is an exclusive feature of MTH engines that we're sure you'll enjoy. You can also change direction the old fashioned way by reducing throttle until the engine stops, flip the direction switch, and then increase throttle again. Either way is OK, we just thought a graceful transition from any speed would be cool.

If you switch track polarity too slowly, the engine may stop abruptly and not move in the reverse direction. This is normal. There is a feature we call "anti-jack rabbit" that prevents the engine from taking off at high speeds when high voltage is applied to the track instantly. Some direction switches have a "dead" spot where the power is completely off during polarity changes. This can invoke the anti-jack rabbit feature. The solution is to flip the direction switch more quickly. Don't worry you won't hurt the engine.

## Speed Control

Your engine is equipped with speed control. This feature is always active, even in analog DC mode. Basically, your engine constantly measures track voltage and converts this to a digital speed command. You should notice the speed remains constant up and down grades, around curves, and with varying loads. This is no accident. You've got the most precise speed control system available today.

## Sounds

In this mode, sound are pretty much automatic. If you're moving, you'll hear chuffing sounds. If you increase or decrease the throttle quickly, you'll hear labored or drift chuffing, respectively. Of course, if the engine has been sitting for a while, the engineer may open the steam cocks and release the moisture, don't worry, he never forgets to close them.

When your sitting at idle, there may be some maintenance done. You could hear someone dopping the siderods or checking the water level in the tender and filling it if necessary. Don't worry, all of this and more is just a normal part of everyday operations.

When your moving at a pretty good clip and you reduce the throttle quickly, you may hear the brakes squeak and squeal as the engineer applies them. Of course, they'll stop when the engine does.

If things get too noisy, just locate the sound volume pot under the coal on the tender and adjust the volume from maximum down to off, whatever suits you. Turn it counterclockwise to reduce the volume or clockwise to increase it.

## Smoke

Running your smoke unit couldn't be simpler. There is a switch hidden under the coal on the tender. If this switch is on, your smoke is on. If it is off, your smoke is off.

When you turn the smoke on, just give it a few seconds to warm up. It doesn't start instantly. Once you see smoke gently streaming out (or not if you prefer) snap the coal detail back in place and away you go.

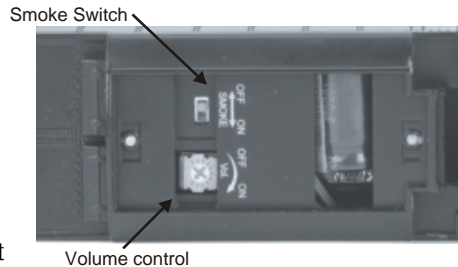
Once on, like the sounds, the behavior is fully automatic. The model will puff out smoke in exact synchronization with the chuffing sounds and driver rotation at 4 per revolution. Amazing!

When the output begins to diminish significantly, add 10-12 drops to recharge the unit. Again, give it a few seconds to warm back up. The cool fluid slows the action for a few seconds. Also, watch out for bubbles that may block the stack. You may need to gently blow down the stack to clear it.

## Lighting

Now, this is an illuminating section (we couldn't resist). Your model is equipped with a headlight, cab interior light, marker lights and classification lights.

The first thing to know about the lighting is there aren't any bulbs. It's all LEDs so, if you look for a section on how to replace them, you won't find it. You should never have to.



As with sounds and smoke, in analog DC mode, lighting operation is fully automatic. They're always on and behave appropriately.

The headlight functions under rule 17 and dims when stopped for a time or while backing up. Of course, just as you begin to move forward, it goes bright to show the way.

The cab light is always on so the engineer and fireman can always see clearly!

The tender back-up light only illuminates when in reverse, even if you're not moving. It goes off when in forward. This is really handy since you'll always know which direction the model will move next.

## DCC Digital Command Control

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Now, if your operating in this mode, you may very well know more about DCC than we do so, we're going to stick to telling you about our engine in this operating environment. First of all, in DCC mode, we brought all the features of analog DC along and of course, added to them. Your new engine has more user features than any DCC engine ever built. Some of them are even ahead of the world of DCC!!

### Running the Engine

Set the engine on the rails, and apply DCC power. Refer to the Set-Up section of this guide for instructions on how to connect the boiler and tender.

The first thing you will notice is the engine does absolutely nothing! Don't panic. This is by design. MTH HO engines never do anything in command mode until told to do so, regardless of what brand DCC controller you use. In this way, you could have a fleet of MTH HO engines on the rails and they will remain shutdown until you command them to start up.

### F3 Start up/Shut Down

Select engine address 3 (factory default), press the F3 (Start Up/Shut Down) key, and your engine will start-up. Lights, sounds, smoke, ACTION!!! Roll the throttle and away you go. Our models are compatible with 14, 28, and 128 speed steps. We strongly recommend 128 because in this mode, speed steps correspond directly to scale speeds. That is, speed step 10 = 10 smph, speed step 47 = 47 smph, etc. You get the idea. When your done, press the F3 key again, your engine will shut down.

To be clear, pressing F3 when the engine is shut down will start it up. Pressing F3 when the engine is started up will shut it down. Pretty clever, eh?

# Sounds

As in analog DC mode, the default sound arrangement is automatic. So, you can just run your engine and its sounds will follow the action. But, you operate in DCC for a reason. You want access to more features, right? Well, depending upon the capabilities of your DCC controller, you now have access to a range of sound features including bell, whistle, PFA, engine sounds on/off, master volume, Doppler, and more.

Here's a brief description of commonly used sound features.

## F1 Bell

Toggles bell sounds on/off. Listen to the last half ring of the bell when it stops!

## F2 Whistle

Blows the whistle for as long as it's on. There are several different ending signatures depending on how long you hold the button down. Check it out!

## F4 PFA

PFA in MTH lingo stands for passenger and freight announcements. Since your engine provides freight service, you'll hear freight yard sounds.. PFA is a very popular sound feature that's a staple in almost all MTH products. We had to give you this!

There are 4 sound sequences or segments in PFA. You advance through them at your command. Each segment has a minimum time of ~10 seconds but more sounds play the longer you listen.

When running the engine, simply press the F4 key to activate PFA. When you bring the engine to a stop, the arrival sequence will play. You can remain in this segment as long as you like.

Press F4 again, and advance to disembarking sequence. Again, you can listen to this sequence as long as you like.

Press F4 again, and advance to the embarking sequence. Again, you can listen to this sequence as long as you like.

Press F4 again, and advance to the departure sequence. After the engineer says "Just keep the steam up" and the engine will automatically pull out and resume the speed and direction of when you entered the feature. The bell ring for a short while and then turn off automatically.

## F6 Engine Sounds

Toggles engine sounds on/off. Think of this like a mute button. When the engine sounds are off, you can still ring the bell or blow the whistle or run the engine, it just helps if you have to answer the phone.

## F7 Master Volume

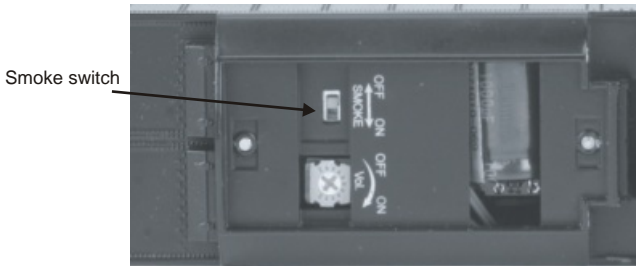
This command cycles through 9 volume settings from off to max. Each press advances to the next cycle. Unlike the F6 engine sounds command, when the master volume is set to off, no sounds can be heard.

If your DCC controller has more F functions, you can access even more features. Check out the complete list in the chart at the end of this section.

## Smoke

The smoke system in DCC mode operates exactly as it does in analog DC mode with the added benefit of being able to turn it on or off remotely. Pressing F8 on your DCC controller will toggle the smoke unit on and off again.

The manual smoke switch under the coal on the tender must be “on” for the F8 key to function. When the smoke switch is off in DCC mode, the smoke is always off.



In the future, as DCC controllers expand to include more functions, you'll be able to cycle through low, medium, and high output settings in DCC. Refer to the DCC function chart for details.

## Lighting

As with other feature categories, lighting in DCC mode operates just like analog DC with regard to rule 17, constant brightness and directional behavior. See that section for details. DCC provides some additional control to suit your preferences.

### F0 Headlight

Toggles the headlight on/off.

### F5 Cab Interior Light

Toggles all lighting on/off, including Marker LED's. When on, all lighting behaves automatically as described elsewhere. When F5 is off, all lighting is off.



## More DCC

Okay, we've walked you through the basic features and functions available in DCC (F0..F8) but, there is much, much more. In fact, we've filled up functions F9 through F28. Some controllers are available today that provide easy access to F9 through F12 however, we don't know of any that allow you to press a button for F13 through F28. When the DCC controllers expand to include these functions, your MTH HO engine will be waiting. Here is a list of the F9 through F28 functions present in your engine with a brief description of how they work.

### F9 Forward Signal Sound

Plays 2 short whistle toots to signal the engine is moving forward

### F10 Reverse Signal Sound

Plays 3 short whistle toots to signal the engine is moving in reverse

### F11 Coupler Slack Sound

When sitting still, arms the system to play the sound of coupler slack being pulled out as the engine moves.

### F12 One-Shot Doppler

Relative to speed, suppresses all engine sounds and then causes them to build in volume and pitch to their full level and then reduce back down to off. A very cool effect that is technically and mathematically correct. Oh, after the Doppler shift is complete and sounds are off, press F12 to turn them on again.

### F13 Extended Start UP

Plays a longer, more detailed and realistic start up sound sequence.

### F14 Extended Shut Down

Plays a longer, more detailed and realistic shut down sound sequence.

### F15 Labor Chuff

Plays deeper and sharper chuffing sounds to simulate a heavy load

### F16 Drift Chuff

Plays softer and lighter chuffing sounds to simulate a light load

### F17 Smoke Volume

Cycles smoke volume through min, med, and max output levels.

### F18 Whistle Toot

Plays a single short whistle toot so you can make up your own signal patterns.

### F19 Coupler Close

Plays the sound of 2 couplers crashing together and closing.

### F20 Feature Reset

Resets the engine back to factory defaults with the exception of the address.

#### F21..F24 Idle Sounds 1 - 4.

Plays what we call idle recipes 1 through 4. These sound sequences play randomly when the engine is at idle but if you have these F functions, you can trigger them whenever you like.

#### F25 Brake Sounds

Toggles brake sounds between auto and off. They are on by default but you can turn them off.

#### F26 Cab Chatter

Toggles random voices between auto and off. They are on by default but you can turn them off.

#### F27 Clickety-Clack

Toggles the sounds of sustained speed inside a passenger train between auto and off. This sound is off by default but you can turn it on (auto). Once on, if you maintain a steady speed of ~30 smph or higher for more than 30 seconds, the effect automatically turns on.

#### F28 Train Wreck

Causes a calamity of sounds that simulate a train wreck. After the crash, sounds remain a hissing pile of wreckage until you press start up to clear the effect.

## DCC "F" FUNCTION LIST

### F Key    Function

F0	Headlight on/off
F1	Bell on/off
F2	Whistle/Horn on/off
F3	Start-up/Shut-down
F4	PFA initiate and advance
F5	All Lighting on/off
F6	Engine Sounds on/off
F7	Volume low, med, high, off
F8	Smoke on/off
F9	Forward Signal Sound
F10	Reverse Signal Sound
F11	Coupler Slack Sound
F12	One-Shot Doppler on/off
F13	Extended Start Up
F14	Extended Shut Down
F15	Labor Chuff
F16	Drift Chuff
F17	Smoke Volume low, med, high
F18	Single short whistle toot
F19	Coupler Close
F20	Feature Reset
F21	Idle Sequence 1
F22	Idle Sequence 2
F23	Idle Sequence 3
F24	Idle Sequence 4
F25	Brakes auto/off
F26	Cab Chatter auto/off
F27	Clickety-Clack auto/off
F28	Train Wreck

### CV Description

1	Short Address 1-127
3	Acceleration Rate 4 smph/sec
4	Deceleration Rate 4 smph/sec
17 & 18	Extended Address (upper bits must be set to 1)
29	Bits 5 = ext. addr; bit 1 = speed/dir method
49	Short Address (controllers that prohibit addr POM)
50 & 51	Extended Address (controllers that prohibit addr POM)
55	Reset - send value = 55 to addr 55

# DCS Digital Control System

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As you may have gathered by now, DCS is an MTH exclusive Digital Control System that provides easy access to dozens and dozens of features in our models. We developed DCS to provide a powerful and advanced model train control system that was simple and enjoyable to use. We've accomplished that goal. DCS further expands the features available far beyond that of DCC. After all, in DCC, we only had a limited number of "F" commands to fill.

As with DCC, we'll leave the detailed "how-to" system explanations to the DCS system manuals. What you should know are all the cool features your engine has built-in, waiting for you to experience.

## Running the Engine

In DCS, you simply place your engine on the rails, press "ADD ENG" and the system will scan the track and automatically upload your engine into the controller. At this point, you can press "START UP", roll the throttle and pull out! That's it!

## Speed Control

DCS engines are controlled in scale miles per hour (smph) and increments of one. So, that means if you dial up 10, your engine will smoothly accelerate to 10 smph. There is no need to select a speed step setting, there's only one precise linear control at scale speeds. See, powerful yet simple.

## Sounds

Introducing the ultimate in prototypical operation Proto-Whistle. Your new Triplex includes this amazing feature. It allows you to adjust the pitch of the steam whistle just like you were sitting the cab pulling the whistle rope yourself. This new feature is controllable from either your DCS Commander or with your DCS system with software version 4.0 or greater (see your DCS or DCS Commander instruction manual for specifics on how to operate this feature)

Not only that but your Triplex also has a Grade Crossing Whistle Feature. So just like the real engine, with the push of a single button, you can trigger the Grade Crossing Whistle. To trigger the Grade Crossing Whistle press the A3 button on your DCS Commander or the SXS softkey on your DCS Remote Handheld.

## Independent Volume Settings

Using DCS, you independently adjust the bell, whistle, engine, and accent sounds volume. This is like a mixer so you can set up the engine fit your specific tastes and sense of realism. Oh, they all move relatively up or down with the master volume settings.

## Sounds

### Chuff Rate

You can adjust the chuff rate from the default setting of 4 per revolution to whatever you like between 1 and 16 per rev. Why? Some folks like to run fast and 2 or 3 chuffs per rev keeps chuffing sounds a little more distinct, even though it isn't prototypical.

### Doppler Loop

You can either press the Doppler button on the remote to activate what we refer to as “one-shot” Doppler or, using DCS, you can program a Doppler loop that will peak at the same point on your layout, over and over.

### Custom Sounds

You can fire any of 10 individual sound bites pre-loaded into your engine. These are typically, blow downs, steam let-offs, etc., etc. Each one at the press of a single button. You can also make voice or other audio recordings and play them back on command with ease.

### Proto-Dispatch

Press the “MIC” (microphone) button on your DCS remote and speak. Your voice will be digitized and played out of the model in real-time. Talk about station announcements!

### Proto-Cast

Another MTH exclusive, you can connect any audio source with a line output to the DCS TIU and send music, train sounds, or anything you like down the rails to be played through the engine as it moves along the track. Your holidays may never be the same!

### Smoke

In addition to a simple button labeled, go figure, “SMOKE” to toggle your smoke on and off, you get the ability to quickly and easily adjust the output volume. In plain English, you simply select low, med, or hi.

### Lighting

As with everything in DCS, this becomes a little more than obvious. Pressing the “HEADLIGHT” button turns of the directional head and taillight. Pressing the Interior light will turn off the cab interior light.

# SPECIFICATIONS

Physical	Boiler Length (front cplr to rear cab wall)	~240 mm
	Tender Length (over rear cplr)	~152 mm
	Overall (over couplers)	~382 mm
	Boiler Width (across cab window details)	~39.9 mm
	Tender Width	~37.3 mm
	Boiler Height (rail to smoke stack)	~57.1 mm
	Tender Height (rail to smoke stack)	~59.7 mm
	Boiler Weight	438 g
	Tender Weight	226 g
	Overall Weight	664 g
	Wheel Flanges	RP-25
Electrical	Input Voltage	0 - 24 VDC
	Current Draw (w/smoke, light s, sounds)	~230 – 650 mA
	Lighting	LED - Rule 17
	Fan Driven Smoke	Yes
Operating Modes	Analog DC	Yes
	DCC - Digital Command Control	Yes
	DCS - Digital Control System	Yes
Default Addresses	DCS	1
	DCC short	3
	DCC extended	Cab No. or 3333

## US PATENTS

US 6,457,681      Oct. 2, 2002  
 US 6,619,594      Sept. 16, 2003  
 US 6,655,640      Dec. 2, 2003

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 Columbia, MD 21046

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## HO Troubleshooting Guide

The following Guide will help you trouble shoot your MTH HO engine. This guide is broken up into the three operating modes of the engine Analog DC, DCC, and DCS

### Analog DC

<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I apply power to the track my engine doesn't do anything. No lights, no sound, no nothing.	Check to see if that section of track has power. Use a voltmeter or a lit passenger car.
	Slide the engine a couple of feet in either direction, you may have a bad track section
	Have you got that section electrically isolated with a toggle switch or other device?
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Solution</b>
I have no sound from my engine, but my lights are on and it moves just fine.	Check the volume pot on your tender. Full CW = Max volume
There's a crackling sound from my tender	Check to see if a screw or some other material hasn't lodged itself in the underside of the tender.
<b>Smoke</b>	<b>Solution</b>
My engine isn't smoking at all	Make sure you've got the smoke switch ON
	If you just filled it with smoke fluid sometimes the fluid can make a seal in the stack. Blow down the stack to clear the air bubble
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together
My engine's smoke output is low	If you've been running your engine in DCS or DCC mode the smoke may have gotten set to Low or Med. With the engine running in DCS or DCC set the smoke back to High. It'll remember what you last set it as when you run it again in Conventional DC

	Check for an obstruction in the smoke stack
	Add 10-12 drops of smoke fluid
<b>Lights</b>	<b>Solution</b>
One of my lights is out	Most likely you had been running the engine in DCC or DCS mode and toggled that light off. Put it back into one of those modes and turn that light back on. The engine will remember that when you run it again in Conventional DC.
None of my lights are on	Could be the same reason as "One of my lights is out"
	Is the engine getting power? Check to see if there is voltage on the track or move the engine a few feet in either direction.
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
When I apply power to the track my engine starts up (lights and sound) but it won't move	Lower the track voltage then raise it again. The engine should start moving. If you apply greater than 9VDC quickly the engine will just set there. Lowering it below 9VDC then raising it will get the engine moving
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
My engine hesitates at slow speeds	An engine may do this right out of the box if it has not been lubricated. Follow the lubrication instructions. Now go ahead and run it.
	New engines even after they are lubricated may take a little bit to get everything run in. Be a little patient and let it run for a bit. It should clear up shortly after lubricating and running
	Check to see if you have any kind of binding on the side rods. There may be a chuck of your favorite, perfectly scaled pine tree stuck in there.



## DCC

<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I apply power to the track my engine doesn't do anything. No lights, no sound, no nothing.	Did you press F3 yet? F3 on your DCC handheld will start your engine up.
	Check to see if that section of track has power. Use a voltmeter or a lit passenger car, not your tongue.
	Slide the engine a couple of feet in either direction, you may have a bad track section
	Have you got that section electrically isolated with a toggle switch or other device?
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Solution</b>
I have no sound on my engine, but my lights are on and it moves just fine	You may have it turned off. Repeatedly press F7 to cycle through the volume levels (there are 9 levels, 0-max)
There's a crackling sound from my tender	Check to see if a screw or some other material hasn't lodged itself in the underside of the tender.
When I run Doppler I can hear the Doppler shift but then the engine sounds fade out and I can't get them back	This is normal. You will need to press the F12 button again to turn Doppler off. Your engine sounds will now return to normal
<b>Smoke</b>	<b>Solution</b>
My engine isn't smoking at all	Make sure you've got the smoke switch ON. It must be ON for the smoke to operate in DCC mode
	Press F8 on your DCC handheld. This will activate the smoke
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together
	If you just filled it with smoke fluid sometimes the fluid can make a seal in the stack blow down the stack to clear the air bubble.
My engine barely smokes	You may have set the smoke to Low. F17 will vary the smoke levels. Or, if you were running it in DCS mode you may have toggled it there (If you don't have F17 on your DCC handheld you will have to put it back into DCS mode and change it from there)

	Check for an obstruction in the smoke stack
	Add 10-12 drops of smoke fluid
<b>Lights</b>	<b>Solution</b>
One of my lights is out	Check your F keys. F0 is the headlight (also controls the Back-up light) and F5 will toggle the Cab light
None of my lights are on	Could be the same reason as "One of my lights is out"
	Is the engine getting power? Check to see if there is voltage on the track or move the engine a few feet in either direction.
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
<b>Motion</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I apply power and hit F3 my engine powers up but it won't move	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
My engine hesitates at slow speeds	An engine may do this right out of the box if it has not been lubricated. Follow the lubrication instructions. Now go ahead and run it.
	New engines even after they are lubricated may take a little bit to get everything run in. Be a little patient and let it run for a bit. It should clear up shortly after lubricating and running
	Check to see if you have any kind of binding on the side rods. There may be a chunk of your favorite, perfectly scaled pine tree stuck in there.
<b>PFA</b>	<b>Solution</b>
I hit F4 to start PFA but the engine just keeps ringing its bell, that's all it'll do	Bring the engine speed to 0. You will now hear the station arrival sounds (pretty cool, huh?). Pressing F4 will cycle you through the PFA sequence (check out the PFA section of the manual for more)
Why does my engine run away all by itself after the PFA is over?	This is normal. The engine will leave the station at the same speed it entered (when you hit F4 the first time). You can control the speed of your engine while it's leaving the station.
<b>Shut Down</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Okay, I give up. What do I have to do to shut it down?	Well, you can either remove power from the track or press F3 again

## DCS (Remember, it's NOT DCC)

<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I apply power to the track my engine doesn't do anything. No lights, no sound, no nothing.	This is normal. You have to hit the Start-Up button.
	Check to see if that section of track has power. Use a voltmeter or a lit passenger car, not your tongue.
	Slide the engine a couple of feet in either direction, you may have a bad track section
	Have you got that section electrically isolated with a toggle switch or other device?
I get an error when I hit Start-Up	Have you recently changed the engine address?
	Check if there is power on that section of track the engine is sitting on (there has to be power for the signal to get to the engine and for the engine to be able to hear it)
	If you have two engines on the track they both may have the same address. Take one of them off the rails and try it again
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I press the Whistle Button on my DCS remote or DCS commander the whistle doesn't blow	Check if the playable whistle is active. On the DCS Commander there will be two dashes on the right side of the LCD if it's active. Press "A1" twice to ensure it's turned off. On your DCS remote press the "SPW" button twice to ensure it's disabled
I have no sound on my engine, but my lights are on and it moves just fine	You may have it turned off. Repeatedly press VOL + to bring the Master Volume up
	Did you turn off the ENG Sounds? Press the ENG SND button on your DCS controller.
	Check that you haven't lowered any of the independent engine volumes (Eng Sounds, Bell, Whistle, or Accent)
There's a crackling sound from my tender	Check to see if a screw or some other material hasn't lodged itself in the underside of the tender.
When I run Doppler I can hear the Doppler shift but then the engine sounds fade out and I can't get them back	This is normal. You will need to press the Doppler button again to turn Doppler off. Your engine sounds will now return to normal

<b>Smoke</b>	<b>Solution</b>
My engine isn't smoking at all	Press the smoke button this will activate the smoke
	If you just filled it with smoke fluid sometimes the fluid can make a seal in the stack. Blow down the stack to clear the air bubble
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together
My engine barely smokes	You may have set the smoke to Low. This can be changed from Low to Med to High
	Add 10-12 drops of smoke fluid.
	Check for an obstruction in the smoke stack
<b>Lights</b>	<b>Solution</b>
One of my lights is out	Check that you haven't turned it off with the DCS controller. You have independent control over lights on your engine
None of my lights are on	Could be the same reason as "One of my lights is out"
	Is the engine getting power? Check to see if there is voltage on the track or move the engine a few feet in either direction.
	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
<b>Motion</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I apply power and hit Start-Up my engine powers up but it won't move	Check the Tender/Boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together.
My engine hesitates at slow speeds	An engine may do this right out of the box if it has not been lubricated. Follow the lubrication instructions. Now go ahead and run it.
	New engines even after they are lubricated may take a little bit to get everything run in. Be a little patient and let it run for a bit. It should clear up shortly after lubricating and running
	Check to see if you have any kind of binding on the side rods. There may be a chuck of your favorite, perfectly scaled pine tree stuck in there.
<b>PFA</b>	<b>Solution</b>
When I enter PFA all that happens is the bell rings. What do I do?	Press the DIR button. Your engine will stop and begins the arrival sequence. Pressing the DIR button will cycle you through the next 3 PFA sequences
Why does my engine run away all by itself after the PFA is over?	This is normal. The engine will leave the station at the same speed it entered (when hit the PFA button).
<b>Shut Down</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Okay, I give up. What do I have to do to shut it down?	Well, you can either remove power from the track or press or press Shut-Down. Button on the DCS Remote

# Addendum HO Triplex Instruction Sheet

## Preparation

A few items are included in the packaging that should be applied to the model before placing the model on the track. The following information will aid in the installation.

## Couplers

The couplers must be mounted to the locomotive in order for the locomotive to pull or push cars properly. The couplers are packed in a plastic bag that can be found in one of the compartment of the foam packaging. The front and rear couplers are identical. However, they each have a different method of mounting. The coupler package contains:

- 2 couplers 
- 2 large screws 
- 1 draft box 
- 1 draft box cover 
- 2 small screws 
- 1 coupler retainer bar 

**Rear Coupler** - The rear coupler uses the separate draft box that is included with the couplers. It is held in place with one of the large screws. The second large screw is a spare.

To install the coupler turn the locomotive upside in a work cradle or braces so that it will not roll over or break any of the detail parts.

Place the coupler in the draft box so the springs are inside the box and the air hose is hanging down with the open end of the box facing upward. (See Fig. 1)



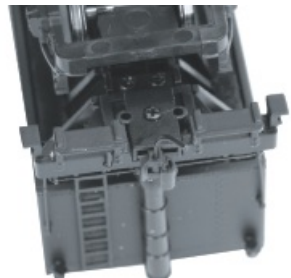
Fig 1.



Fig 2.

Place the draft box cover on the draft box. Make sure the lip of the lid is facing up and that is at the coupler end of the draft box. (See Fig 2.)

Insert the large screw in to the hole in the center of the draft box, then place the coupler assembly on the mounting pad of the tender and tighten the screw. Make sure the screw is tight enough to hold the coupler assembly in place, but not so tight that the coupler will not move from side to side in the draft box or easily return to center.



**Front Coupler** - The front coupler is installed in the draft box molded into the pilot. The coupler is held in place by the coupler retainer bar and one of the small screws. The second small screw is a spare.

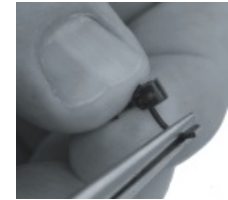


To install the front coupler, insert the coupler shank into the draft slot of the pilot. (See Fig 3.)

Then place the retainer bar in position so that the cylinder on the retainer bar fits into the hole of the coupler shank. Use one of the small screws to hold the retainer bar in place. (See Fig. 4)



After the couplers have been installed check to make sure the air hose/actuating lever will clear all switches, grade crossings, rerailers and even the cross ties. If the air hose/actuating lever does not clear all obstacles, it will have to be adjusted to prevent derailments. The adjustment can be made with by carefully bending the air hose actuating lever with a small pair of pliers. (See Fig 5.)

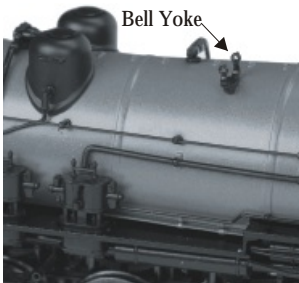


**Bell** -The bell is packed separately in a plastic bag that can be found in one of the compartments of the foam packing.



Fig 5.

To install the bell, insert one of the axle ends into the bell yoke. Gently spread the yoke apart and insert the other axle end. The bell should now swing freely.



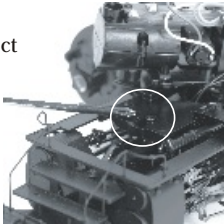
**Marker Light Housings** - In the plastic envelope containing the bell are 2 spare tender maker light housings. The housing contain the red lenses for the tender marker LEDs. Save these. They are not needed now, but are supplied as replacement should one or both of the tender markers become lost.



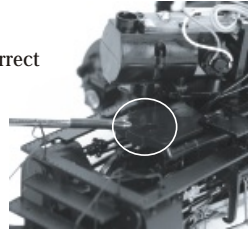
**Pilot Steam Pipe** -On the pilot under the smoke box is a movable steam pipe. This is a detail piece that has the upper end sliding back and forth in a slot. Should the upper end of the pipe come out of the slot during handling or unpacking, this will cause the rear drivers of the front engine to raise off of the rails and result in derailments. The upper end of the steam pipe is difficult to see and may not be noticed by casual observance.

If you experience unexplained derailing issues, make sure that the steam pipe is properly located in the slot.

Correct



Incorrect



If the steam pipe is not in the slot, gently raise the front of the boiler so that the front engine hangs down slightly, then move the top end of the steam pipe forward so that the pipe goes back into the slot. (See Fig 6.)

Once the engine is placed on the track with the steam pipe in place the steam pipe will stay in place.

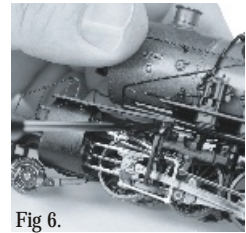


Fig 6.

**Cab Apron** -Your MTH locomotive has a hinged cab apron. The cab apron functions as a deck to bridge the gap between the engine and the tender.

When placing your engine on the track make sure that the cab apron is in the proper position. (See Fig. 7)

If the cab apron is hanging down between the engine and the tender, it could jam between the engine and the tender and cause a derailment.

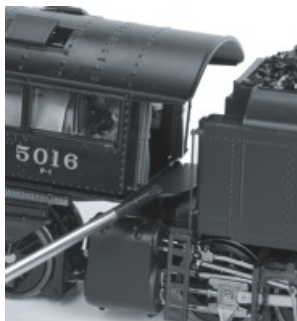


Fig 7.

# Service & Warranty Information

## How to Get Service Under the Terms of the Limited One-Year Warranty

When you suspect an item is defective, please check the operator's manual for standard operation and trouble-shooting techniques that may correct the problem. Additional information may be found on the M.T.H. Website. Should you still require service, follow the instructions below to obtain warranty service.

First, e-mail, write, call or fax a M.T.H. Authorized Service Center (ASC) in your area to obtain Repair Authorization. You can find the list of ASCs on the M.T.H. Website, [www.mth-railking.com](http://www.mth-railking.com). Authorized Service Centers are required to make warranty repairs on items sold *only* from that store; all other repairs may-- or may not be done at the store's own discretion. If you did not purchase the item directly from the ASC, you will need to select a National Authorized Service Center (NASC). These centers are compensated by M.T.H. to perform warranty service for any customer whose repair qualifies for warranty service. A list of NASC retailers can be located on the M.T.H. Website or by calling 410-381-2580. Should the warranty no longer apply, you may choose either an ASC or NASC retailer to service your M.T.H. Product. A reasonable service fee will be charged.

**CAUTION:** Make sure the product is packed in its original factory packaging including its foam and plastic wrapping material to prevent damage to the merchandise. There is no need to return the entire set if only one of the components is in need of repair *unless otherwise instructed by the Service Center*. The shipment must be prepaid and we recommend that it be insured. A cover letter including your name, address, daytime phone number, e-mail address (if available), Return Authorization number (if required by the service center, a copy of your sales receipt and a full description of the problem must be included to facilitate the repairs. Please include the description regardless of whether you discussed the problem with a service technician when contacting the Service Center for your Return Authorization.

Please make sure you have followed the instructions carefully before returning any merchandise for service. Authorized M.T.H. Service Centers are independently owned and operated and are not agents or representatives of M.T.H. Electric Trains. M.T.H. assumes no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for material left in their possession, or work done, by privately owned M.T.H. Authorized Service Centers. If you need assistance at any time email MTH Service at [service@mth-railking.com](mailto:service@mth-railking.com), or call 410 381-2580.

## Limited One-Year Warranty

All M.T.H. products purchased from an Authorized M.T.H. Train Merchant are covered by this warranty.

See our website at [www.mth-railking.com](http://www.mth-railking.com) or call 410-381-2580 to identify an Authorized M.T.H. Train Merchant near you.

M.T.H. products are warranted for one year from the date of purchase against defects in material or workmanship, excluding wear items such as light bulbs, pick-up rollers, batteries, smoke unit wicks, and traction tires. We will repair or replace (at our option) the defective part without charge for the parts or labor, if the item is returned to an M.T.H. Authorized Service Center (ASC) or M.T.H. National Authorized Service Center (NASC) within one year of the original date of purchase. This warranty does not cover damages caused by improper care, handling, or use. Transportation costs incurred by the customer are not covered under this warranty.

Items sent for repair must be accompanied by a return authorization number, a description of the problem, and a copy of the original sales receipt from an Authorized M.T.H. Train Merchant, which gives the date of purchase. If you are sending this product to an Authorized Service Center, contact that Center for their return authorization.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights that vary from state to state. Specific questions regarding the warranty may be forwarded to M.T.H. Directly

Service Department:  
M.T.H. Electric Trains  
7020 Columbia Gateway Drive  
.Columbia MD 21046-1532