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The Mason Bogie is one of those iconic North American locomotives that I have wanted to have running on my Seath Valley Railroad for years. Then along came grandchild number five and as I have a loco named after each of the other grandchildren I no longer had an excuse for delaying the start of the project.

Initially I had looked at converting an LGB Mogul but could not bring myself to parting with that amount of money to cut it apart to build my Mason Bogie. My current LGB Mogul is a fantastic runner but is not too easy a model to disassemble, and there was no way I could touch that as grandson Daniel would have been more than upset.

The Piko Mogul is a much less detailed loco than the LGB model but none the less it has the correct wheel configuration of 2-6-0, appeared to be easier to take apart and was about half the cost of the LGB model. So I thought "Hey Ho give it a go" so I took the plunge and bought a new model of the Piko loco.

Upon opening the box I was, as usual with any new purchase, pleased to see it had arrived undamaged. The model is heavy and yes, it is plain, but looked as good as the press 'photo's indicated.

Putting the loco on the track for a test run I was pleased that it ran so well. The plastic wheels on the tender were crying out to be replaced with metal one's so a rapid replacement with a set of metal wheels from one of my freight cars effected an immediate improvement, both visually and performance wise.

The next confidence inspiring move was to attempt to break the loco down into its' basic components. This was a delight. The instructions that came with the model were excellent, just follow them along and you soon have laid out before you the chassis complete with wheels, linkage, motor cab, boiler, running boards and lead weight. At this point I ran off a photo copy of the instruction manual and laminated the diagrams as I reasoned they would be in for some heavy use !

Everything was now reassembled and a quick test run proved I had got it all back together correctly. Two final tasks before I began work in earnest were to produce a full size drawing of the Mogul as supplied together with a couple of side on photographs. If all went well I could then produce equivalent 'photos and drawings of my Mason Bogie conversion and be able to compare the two locomotives.

I did hope to make the modifications to the Mogul in such a way as to be able to return the loco to its' original state should the proposed modifications prove to be unworkable. Only time would tell if this would be possible.

Not long after my purchase of the Mogul I noticed in a copy of Garden Railways that Piko were running a "Bash the Best" contest for customized or modified examples of their No. 38210 Mogul Steam Loco. With a closing date of October 2012 – I was going to be somewhat late with my potential entry!!!

Material presented for transfer to P.D.F. format by Garden Railways Staff

Conversion of Piko Mogul Locomotive into a Mason Bogie Locomotive

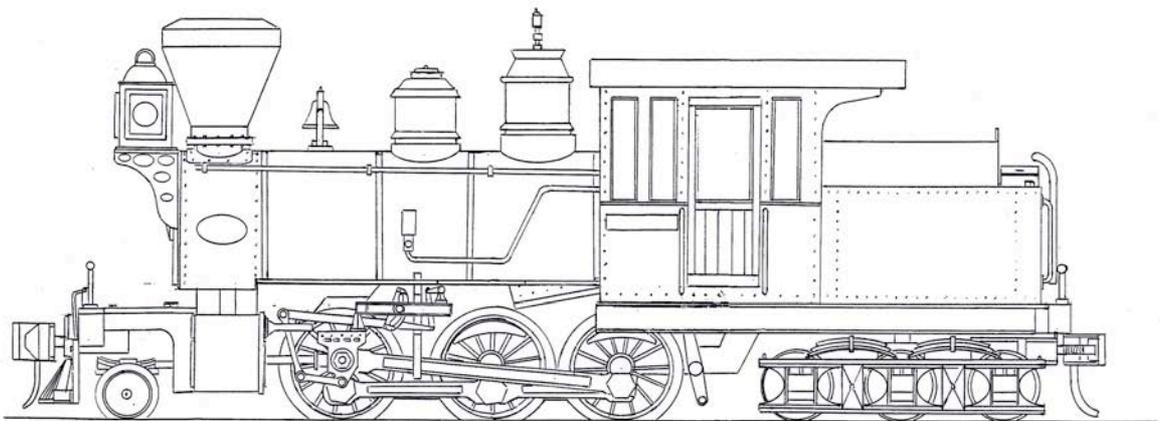
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Mason Bogie 2-6-6 Locomotive

Kitbashed from a Piko 2-6-0 Mogul