Plano Model Products #13050
Tank Car Platforms-Frames-Ladders kit for MDC's Modern and Shorty Tank cars

This Plano Model Products Tank Car Platform kit is designed to replace the plastic platforms supplied with the MDC Modern tank cars and the MDC Shorty tank cars. Before attempting to assemble this kit, please read through these instructions to familiarize yourself with them.

The brass parts in this kit are tabbed together to protect them from loss or damage. Do not cut them apart until they are to be used. When clipping apart, clip so they match those in the diagram and use caution when doing so. This material can be very sharp and small pieces can fly. WEAR EYE PROTECTION!

As far as painting these parts, it depends on if you are building an undecorated or decorated model. If undecorated, build per instructions and paint along with car after assembly. If adding platforms to a decorated model, you can paint parts first and then follow directions to build kit. OR, build kit per instructions except do not glue parts to car. After all parts are glued together, lift platform assembly off tank car, paint and then glue to car after paint has dried.

Begin assembly by cutting out portions of plastic walkway on coupler platforms. File top surface smooth and CA one of the two long stainless platforms to the modified coupler frame. Finish adding any handrails or any other details to the end frames and proceed with building car per the MDC instructions.

When it comes time to add dome platforms, begin by drilling #78 holes at the point on the tank where the top of the platform supports meet the curvature of the tank.

Now to form the brass frames. You will see two wide stanchions pointing out away from the outer corners of each platform frame. Using the diagram provided for reference, bend the outer half of each stanchion up 90 degrees to form an angle iron shaped stanchion. Forming can be accomplished using tweezers and/or needle nose pliers. At the base of the inner portion of the stanchion slowly bend the formed stanchion up 90 degrees so it stands up 90 degrees to the platform frame. Moving back to the base of outer portion of the stanchion you will notice a tab sticking down below the frame. Bend this tab in / up 90 degrees under the platform frame and CA glue it to the bottom of the frame. This will add stability to the stanchion. Total of four stanchions formed - two left hand two right hand, one each left/right per platform frame. Next bend the mounting pins down 90 degrees in the opposite direction as the stanchions. The two small ladder locator guides can also be bent down 90 degrees in the same direction.

Center the two remaining stainless platforms on each frame and CA in place. Place mounting pins of frames in drilled holes on tank and CA frame to car.

Using supplied .012 wire, form new handrails to match those of the plastic platforms. Place one end of the new handrail in the hole in the stanchion and the other end through the stainless platform and into the hole in the brass frame and CA in place. Repeat for the three remaining curved handrails. Next cut two pieces of brass wire .900 inches long. Thread them through the holes in the stanchions to the opposite stanchion and CA in place. If a hole in the stanchion gets filled with CA, it can be drilled out with a #78 drill bit. After all handrails are installed, trim any excess extending outside stanchions or frames.

Form ladder to match the one supplied with the model. Bend the top ends of the ladders so they rest flush against the bottom of the frames. The two "small bumps" at the top ends of the ladders go in the ladder mounting guides bent earlier. CA ladder to platform frame and ladder supports under car.

This should complete the addition of the platform details to your MDC tank car. Paint or touch up as suggested earlier. Add any other details you may desire to finish your tank car.

Thank you for using our product to detail your tank car. For more information on our products, please visit your local hobby dealer or visit use online.

Thank you and Happy Modeling!