



ROLLING STOCK INSPECTION

STEVE JACKOBS
JOEL DAVIDSON
JOHN AMES

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WHY HAVE STANDARDS?

- More Reliable Operations
 - Wheelsets
 - Trucks
 - Couplers
 - Weight



TWO LEVELS OF INSPECTION

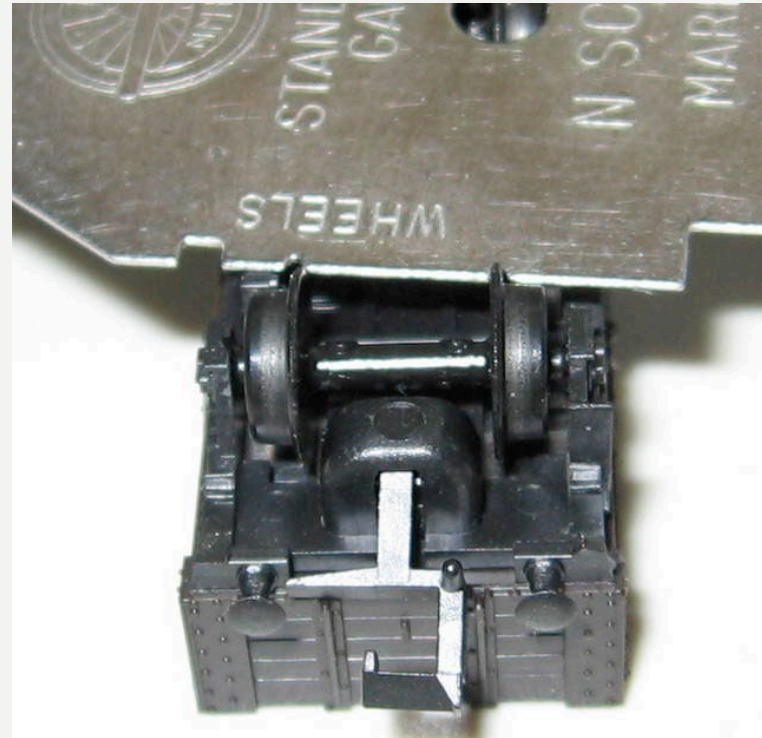
- “Essentials”
- “Best”/Green Dot vs.
“Good Enough”/Blue Dot



WHEELSETS I

Essentials

- **In Gauge?**
- **Clean?**
- **Within RP25?**



WHEELSETS II

“Best” vs “Good Enough”

Metal Wheels

- + Cleaner rail
- + Heavier
- Can short track

Plastic Wheels?

- Pick up more crud
- Vulnerable to cracking
- + Quieter

RP25 Profile

- + Track standards theoretically optimized to RP25

Non-magnetic axles

- + Won't stop over uncoupling magnet
- Plastic axles can bend
- Plastic axle points can become blunt



TRUCKS I

Essentials

- **Roll Freely?**
- **Swing Freely? Rock Sufficiently?**
- **Secure?**



TRUCKS II

“Best” vs “Good Enough”

Secured with Screw

- + More secure
- + Adjustable
- + Interchangeable

Pins?

- Can loosen and release

Other Mountings?

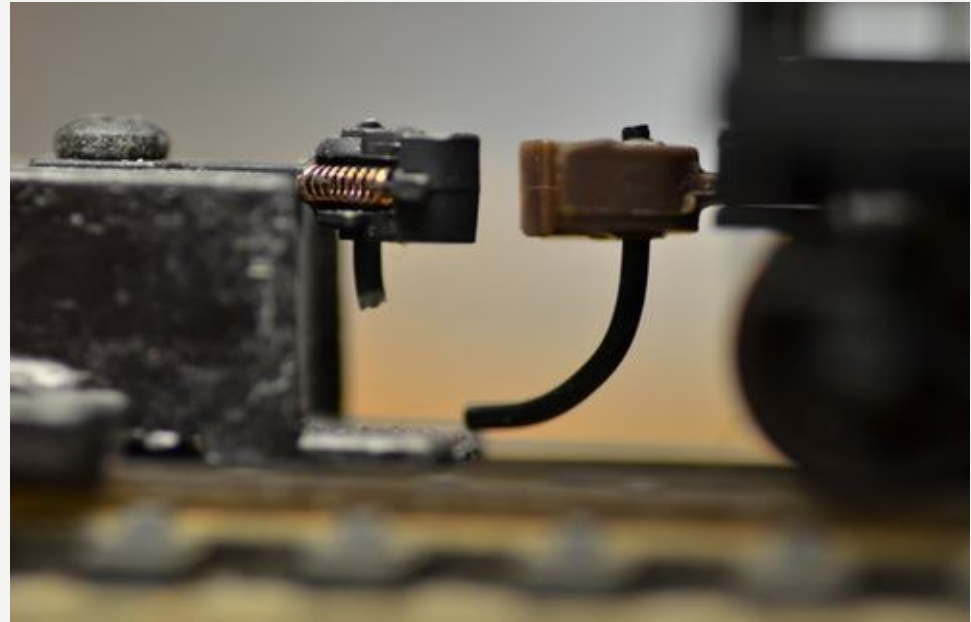
- Less adjustable, less interchangeable



COUPLERS I

Essentials

- **Knuckle Height?**
- **Pin Clearance?**
- **Spring in Place?**
- **Swing Freely? Center Freely?**
- **Secure?**



COUPLERS II

“Best” vs “Good Enough”

Metal

- + More durable
- Can short older engines

Plastic?

- Sag, break, and weaken
- + Insulate older engines

Standard Head

- + More tolerant ops
- Oversize appearance

“Scale” Head?

- More finicky ops
- + Better appearance

Secured with Screw

- + More secure than press fit
- + Adjustable and accessible



WEIGHT

NMRA: 1 ounce for first inch and
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce for additional inch

- 40' = 4 ounces
- 50' = 4.5 ounces
- 60' = 5 ounces
- 80' = 6 ounces

+100%/-25%

Overweight less problematic than underweight



INSPECTION FORM

R.R. NAME _____ NUMBER _____

ESSENTIALS:

Couplers knuckle height ok? pin clearance ok? spring in place? swing freely? secure?
Trucks wheels in gauge? roll freely? swing freely? secure? clean wheels?
Weight _____ (oz) NMRA?, or within NMRA (+100%/-25%)

Operations Checklist (to remain with car)

Checklist 1.5.2

Operating Standards: "Best" (Green dot if all checked)

Couplers metal Kadee Standard head? or other metal Standard head? secured with screw?
Wheels metal wheels? non-magnetic axle? RP25?
Trucks secured with screws?

Notes: _____

OR "Good Enough" (Blue dot)

Couplers plastic non-Standard head, but OK not secured with screw
Wheels plastic magnetic axle non-RP25, but ok
Trucks not secured with screws

Notes: _____

Appearance (for later evaluation)

Detail Level (check one) "Blue Box" fine, but sturdy delicate!
Weathering (check one) none some "a lot" "Wow!"
Accuracy (check one) close enough imaginative rivet counter

Notes: _____

Reviewed (Initials & date)						
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MORE RESOURCES

- Model Railroader, January 2018



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