

Locomotive Coupling Rods

These etches are designed to produce scale coupling rods for RTR and kit built locomotives when using scale wheels, they can be assembled with the correct articulated joint to allow use with compensated or sprung loco chassis. **Warning! Beware of the sharp edges.**

Caledonian Class 439 locomotives, 7'6" Wheelbase, Also Classes 19, 92, 104, 879.

Start by carefully opening out the crankpin holes for standard 1.5mm bushes before removing the rods from the fret. Use a 1.5mm or 1/16th sharp drill, use light pressure to ensure you don't 'grab' the material and accidentally bend the half etched rods. Make sure the crankpin holes have no rag on them by twiddling a 1/8th drill over them. Front and back overlays are provided and both left and right side rods are identical. Gently cut out a middle rod and the two overlays from the fret using a craft knife on hardboard or using special etch scissors. Use the shank of the 1.5mm or 1/16th drill to align the bosses at one end and a cocktail stick at the other. Clamp the middle of the rods using sprung hairclips and ensure the overlays at the bosses are also clamped down tight. Prepare your soldering iron with a small tip and a small amount of solder, spread liquid flux along the edges, touch the iron tip to the edge and slowly move along till the solder runs out, recharge the tip, spread more flux and move iron further along. Move clamps to opposite side and solder along other edge. Do the same around the bosses and ensure the bosses have sufficient solder around the outside. Now comes the delicate bit, using a fine flat needle file on the edges file the etch cusp and the solder down to a neat square edge and then draw file along the edge, this will remove any marks left when cross filing, the rods should have a nice 'belly' shape when finished. The small pips on the top of the bosses on the middle layer represent the oil corks. On the full size Caledonian rods there is a ledge on the boss where a cotter pin fits so using very fine files tidy the edges to represent the cotter pin head. Finish lightly with a fine emery stick all round. Make up the other rod in the same way. The rods are now ready for fitting. The crankpin holes will need opening out slightly for a running fit on the standard 1.5mm scale crankpin bushes of your choice, use a jewellers broach for this.

