

LIRR GE 44 Ton Diesel Switcher - Tsunami Soundtrack TSU-100 Mini-decoder Install

by Dean Apostol



LIRR #400 Morris Park Shops 9/27/1955 Photo/Archive:
Art Huneke

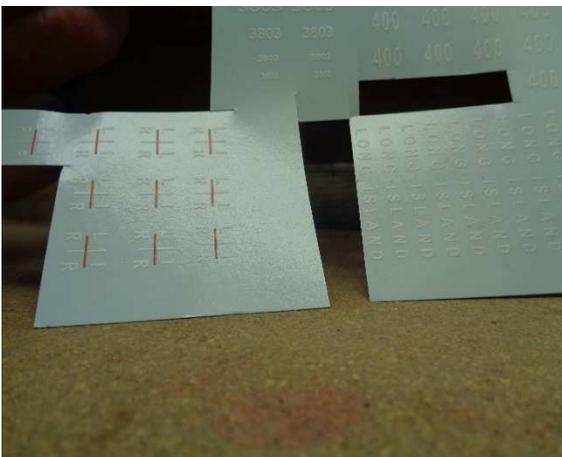


LIRR #400 GE 44 tonner in Tichy scheme Archive: Don
Fisher

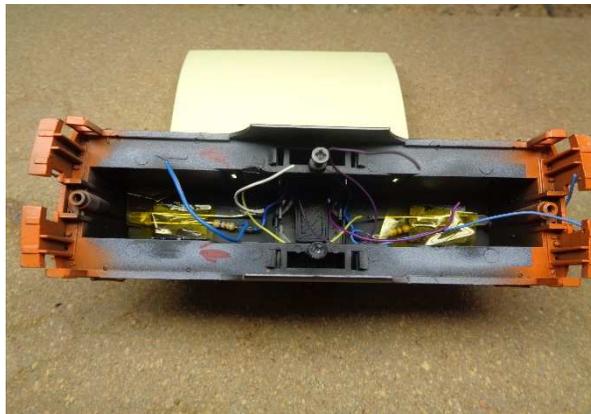
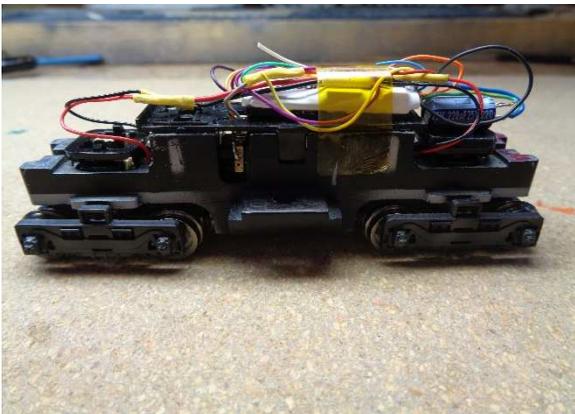
The LIRR GE diesel was often seen at Dunton Yard near the Morris Park Shops, Jamaica, Queens in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Used largely for electric MU equipment/passenger car movements. The Tichy Scheme herald was applied only to the passenger diesels, not the passenger equipment. (November 1949) This herald consisted of a white map of Long Island on a light blue rectangle, offset with a black rectangle giving a shadow effect. Printed over the map was a large black "plus sign" with the letters L, I, R, R in each corner of the "plus"; these represented the four corners of Long Island served by the Railroad.

A Bachman DCC non-sound diesel switcher was used. It has a fine running drive train with all wheel pick up. The stock non-sound decoder was removed and a Soundtrack TSU-100 #885002 GE Diesel 1amp mini-decoder was used in combination with a capacitor and a sugar cube speaker.

This GE 44-ton switcher was made by many manufacturers over the years: Custom Brass, Westside, Bachman in plastic. and the best drive and most recent example from W&R enterprises. W&R made the various phase versions. Unfortunately, I was not able to find the correct W&R phase for the LIRR, so I settled for the Bachman version, left the large handrails, painted and decaled with the custom decals I had made.



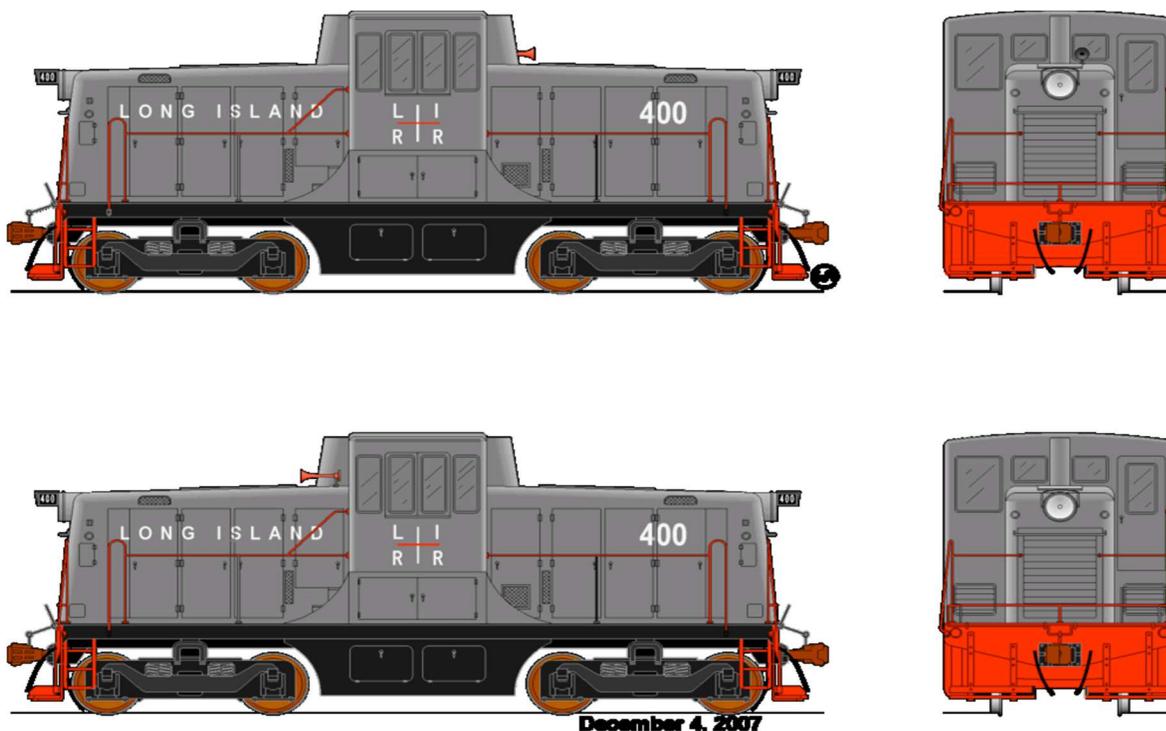
Start by removing the non-sound decoder and light package. The only place to install the sugar cube speaker was in the roof with 3M 1/32 black urethane double-sided tape. Difficult to find, unless you buy a large roll from 3M. Most double-sided tape available is white and 1/16. Not as sticky and malleable as the 1/32nd material. Use double sided tape for the decoder as well. Note: The capacitor is mounted to the top of the truck and swivels with the truck.



1.5 volt warm LED lights are installed and the common blue wire is used connected to both and to the capacitor. Kadee #143 Short center set metal coupler are used and the coupler height is right on the money.

PAINTING THE BODY

The body is held on with 2 screws located in the fuel tank and lifts off easily. Mask windows. I like to use Tamiya tape for masking. They make some remarkable thin width white tape along with their yellow masking tape. More expensive than blue tape or green frog tape, but Tamiya's offerings give excellent cut lines. Fine scale primer was used after stripping the shell and the I made a special mix of Tru-color LIRR gray to match the cars I will be dragging around in the yard. The Tru-color gives a semi-gloss finish for the decals. The artwork was created by my decal maker from actual photos and drawings found on line.



Drawings by Will Anderson At http://www.trainweb.org/willstrainart/Long_Island.htm

As with all models, there is always some compromise when making decals to fit a particular brand of model. I've had decals made now for the past six years to fit the model with the prototype in mind. Often you make a road name long enough to end at the edge of a door, for example, but then it is too long for the overall hood length. Here is where the compromise comes into play.

The body was then masked and then Tru-color LIRR orange was used. Decals applied and then a dull coat was added. I do not use regular Testor's Dull coat, but rather I decant a can of Model Master Lusterless flat which is more dead flat than Dull coat, a tip from Jerry at the Whistle Stop. No thinning required just air brush it on straight.

Light weathering of 9 parts thinner to 1 part paint. Tru-color earth, mud, dust, and grimy black. I tend to keep it light on the weathering.

