

# Albion Software Newsletter

July 2023

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## Ship It! 10 Heading Down the Line

Latest Ship It! release is 10.0g

- What's changed?
- A bug was found that had to do with hidden staging. It only affected train schedules where the default staging destination appeared twice on the train schedule. **There is no reason to download and update if you do not use the hidden staging features.**



### Progress on the Cripple Creek District

One of my Blackstone locos (a diamond stack 2-8-0) never ran well. It might run 3 feet, then stall and jitter, then continue, or just stall totally. I used it as kind of a canary in the coal mine to see where my track was dirty. But eventually I realized this was too expensive a loco just for that (even after I cleaned my track very well, the results were a little better, but still herky-jerky).

Blackstone sells Current Keepers, basically a rack of capacitors (which are kinda like batteries in that they can store current). So I bought one, naively thinking that it would fit, maybe a bit tight in the tender of the Blackstone loco. Wrong!



Yep, that is the current keeper sticking out of the coal load on the tender. That's the only way I could fit it in. I expected much less vertical height (of course).

But the darn thing ran like a champ with that current keeper installed! I could shut off my NCE system, and watch as it ran for 2 feet at least with the NCE system unplugged!

Now what to do. My memory kicked in and I remembered seeing a tender with the sides extended upward with a wood structure.

So I looked at my hobby supplies, grabbed some strip wood and some high side gondola stakes I had left over from kits and Grandt Line parts, bought before they were sold. And started building two sides and a back. Here's the raw materials in various stages of construction:





There was a problem also, of the gaps between the sawed out hole in the coal load and the current keeper. So I decided to cover that all with pieces of very thin plastic sheeting, to give me a base to glue down a load of coal and hide everything.



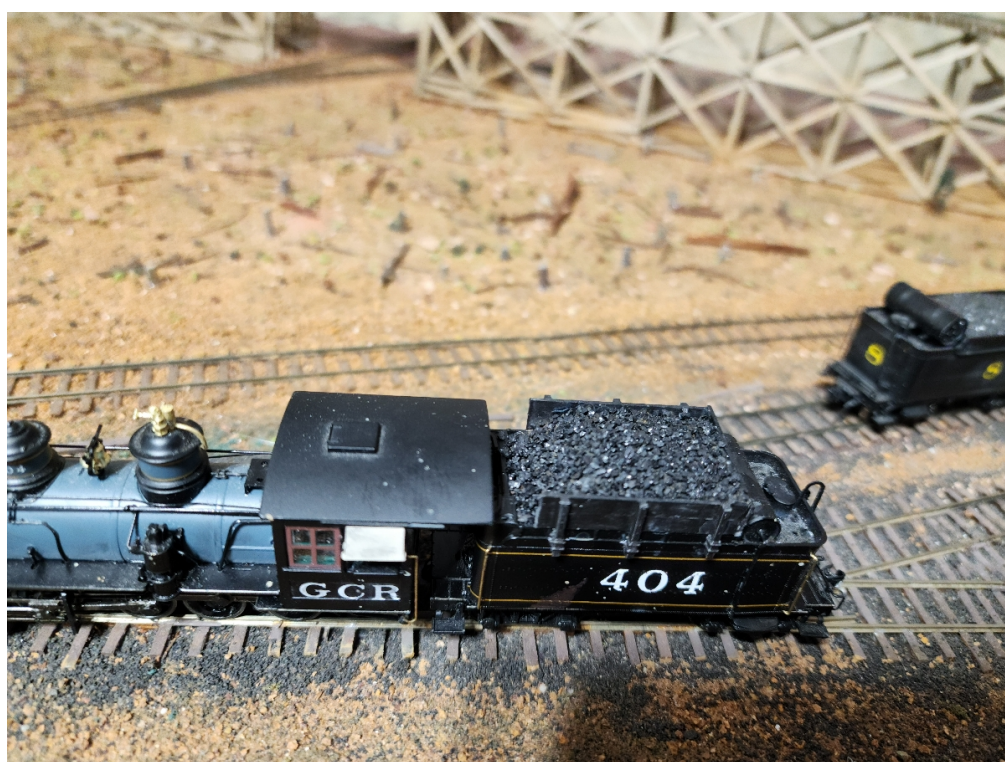
After every part of construction, I tested the loco to see if the current keeper was still working. Just me being paranoid.

Next up was installing the coal load. But first I decided to use sculptamold to cover the plastic bits shielding the electronics:





Then I glued in the coal load with a thin wash:



I tested it one final time and it worked!! You can't buy these locos anymore except on Ebay, so I was very happy to get this one running well.

If you want any more details of this project, or just want to talk model railroading, please email me.

Bill

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