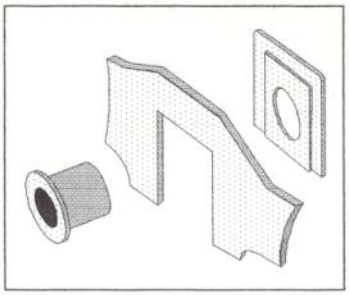
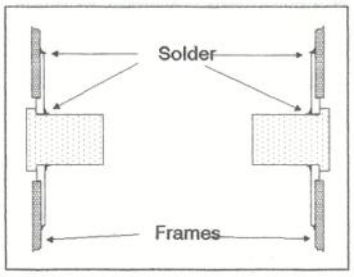
Instructions for the assembly of MJT Basic Hornblocks

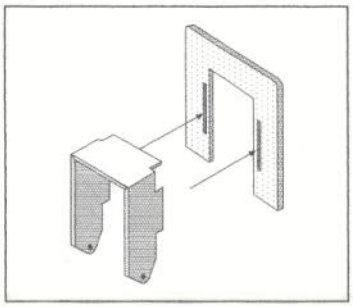
This hornblock set contains sufficient parts to produce a conventional 6 coupled flexichas chassis, based on the principles pioneered by Mike Sharman, comprising one fixed axle and two 'compensating' axles. It is not the intention within these instructions to provide a full account of building a flexichas chassis, instead we would refer the builder to Mike Sharman's book 'Flexichas - A Way to Build Fully Compensated Model Locomotive Chassis'. These hornblocks are designed to be fitted to mainframes comprising a hornblock cut-out 6mm wide and 4mm above the normal axle centre line such as those supplied by Alan Gibson and those designed by Rod Neep.



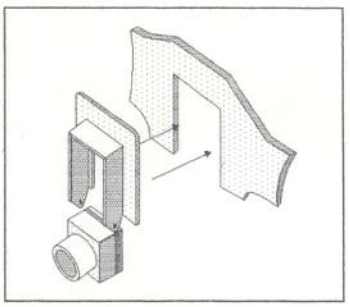
As the etched components are removed from the fret clean up any rough edges with files and fine grade wet and dry. Where soldering is required try to use the minimum possible and avoid letting it stray on to any of the working surfaces.



Commencing with the fixed bearing take one of the top hat bushes and insert into the corresponding plate from the side with the half etched recessed edge. Solder bearing in place. Repeat for other bearing. Solder into place on inner faces of chassis after aligning with a spare axle or a coupling rod jig.

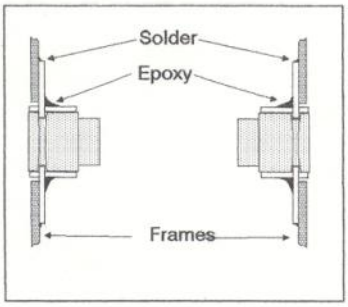


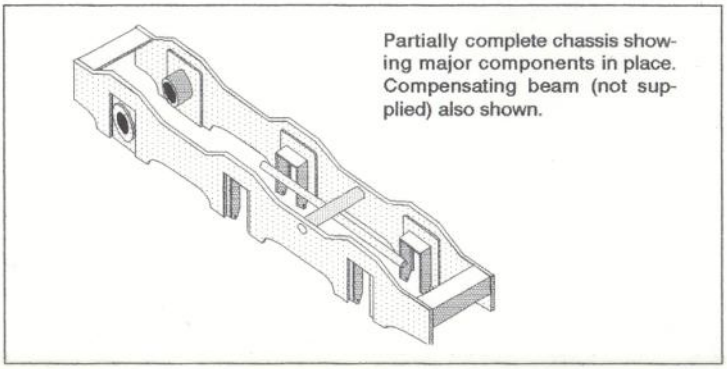
Each of the remaining compensating hornguides is assembled by folding the etched guide into a 'U' shape, checking the fit against one of the square bearings, tweaking where necessary with a pair of fine pliers, and inserting the protruding tabs through the corresponding slots in the backing plate. Using 24 hour epoxy adhesive (such as Araldite) create a fillet between the two components and put aside to cure (a pad of Bluetack is useful to hold components in position). The use of epoxy instead of solder to join these items may seem a strange suggestion but offers the advantages of being easier to keep away from the bearing surfaces and continues to hold the components together when soldering the hornblocks to the mainframes



Insert the square bearings into the assembled hornguides and position within the chassis on the inside faces of the mainframes and align in place using coupling rod jigs in true Flexichas manner.

Once you are happy that everything is aligned correctly solder the backing plates to the mainframes. To retain the bearing in the hornguide a short length of wire can threaded through the etched holes at the base of the guide and the protruding ends bent through 90 degrees.





Partially complete chassis showing major components in place. Compensating beam (not supplied) also shown.

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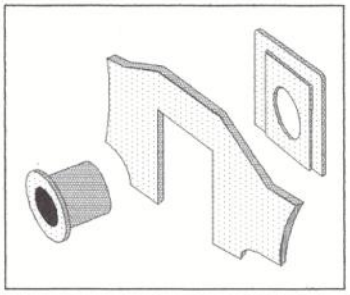

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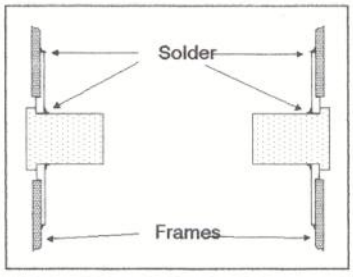

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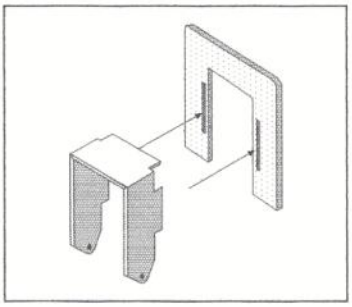

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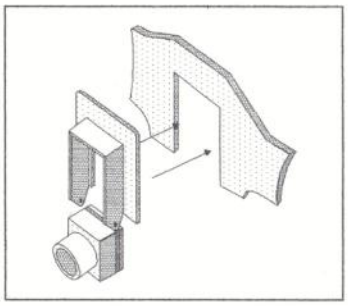

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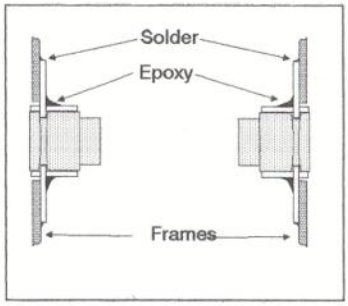

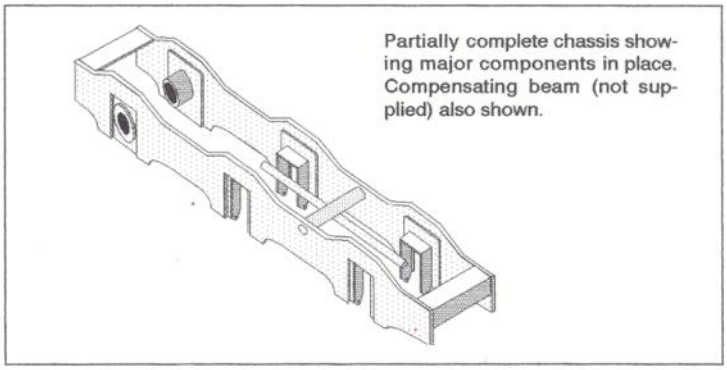

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