



Kitbashing an N&W War Baby J Class

A Basic Guide by Liam Bryant
For the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club



Background on the J1

The Norfolk & Western J Class were built in 3 production batches:

Numbers 600-604 - First production run, #602 had a “booster” engine in the rear axle, raising tractive effort to 85,800 lbf.

Numbers 605-610 - J1, unstreamlined until 1945

Numbers 611-613- Last run, boiler pressure raised to 300 PSI from 275 PSI

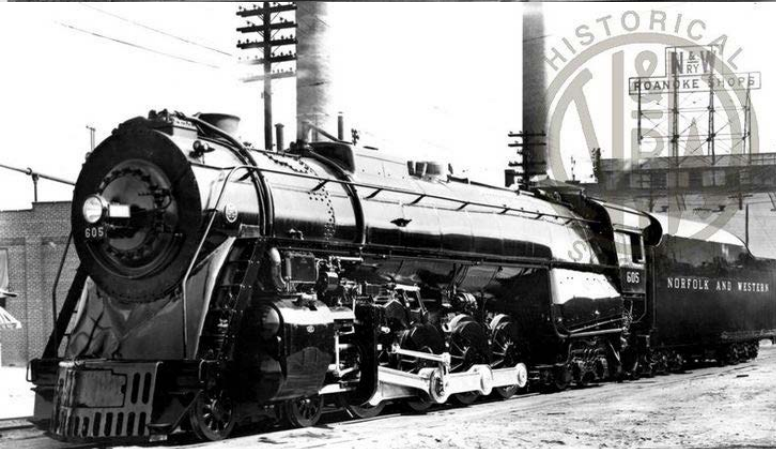
The second run of the J class, 605-610, have very little documentation from the period of 1943-1945, as many photos of the unstreamlined J classes were destroyed by the N&W.

What was the point of this project?

The objective of this kitbash was to accomplish two things:

- To prove that rare H0 models don't have to be brass and don't have to be prohibitively expensive
- Successfully recreate an Unshrouded J / J1 class typical of the Norfolk & Western during wartime restrictions.

Reference Material Provided by N&W Historical Society Archives



NW05562 WWW.NWHS.ORG



NW08068 WWW.NWHS.ORG



Planning

The planning of this kitbash was relatively simple. Here are the parts in order of use:

- Bachmann Overland #806 (00614)
- Bachmann 611 Tender (11315)
- Bachmann 765 Smokebox and Headlight (52401)
- N&W Steam Decals ([Ebay: K4](#))



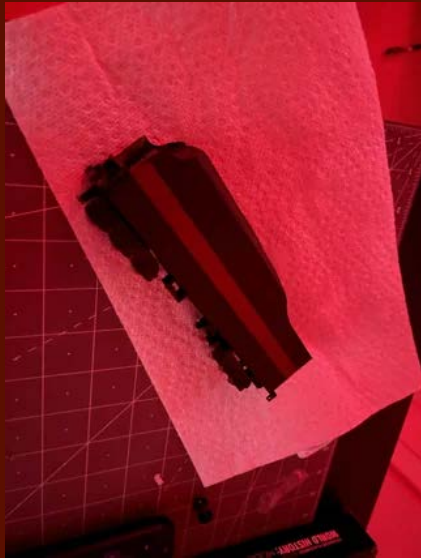
From The Top

The base model, a Bachmann Overland, was selected for its streamlined rods and large boiler. It was disassembled, the broken nylon gear superglued, and tidied up. It was then airbrushed with a black undercoat.



Tender

The N&W J1 was built under wartime restrictions, and consequently did not have the iconic maroon stripe we all know and love. To make the tender the same way, I took the Bachmann tender and painted it a black in preparation for decals.



The Smokebox

The Bachmann Overland comes with a high-mounted headlight, which does not represent the prototypical model. To correct this, a smokebox from a Bachmann 765 was bought off Ebay and affixed to the tender with Bondo.



Finishing and Decaling

To finish the model, it was given a last coat of matte black via airbrush, and decals were applied. To top it off, the window lining was painted red to reflect the prototype.



Closing

If you want an even more in-depth explanation with links and to discuss making your own, email me at :

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Thank you for your attention!