

Motorising the Atlas steam tram

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Surfing the internet I came across an interesting tram locomotive - a steam tram with a trailer. I was not really interested in the trailer, it did not fit my model layout at all. But the tram locomotive turned out to be a very interesting subject for turning into a working model.



In order not to start reinventing the wheel, I checked the Beneluxspoor forum for someone who had done so before. I was then referred to the Spoorforum site:

<https://www.spoorforum.nl/spoorforum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=59&t=6344>

Here a chap called Peter Eradus described converting numerous Atlas models. Thanks to Peter Eradus, I started working on it myself, with the result me adding another 'rolling closet' to my collection.

I haven't changed very much and used a KATO chassis 11-103 as the drive. After removing the metal base plate, which incidentally needed rather an effort, I glued a lead sheet the size of the original base plate as ballast against the bottom of the base plate. For the remainder, I have followed Peter Eradus' instructions.

I was able to mount the decoder on the front side of the chassis. That was a better place than on top - there was no more space for that. I mounted the base plate flush with the top of the superstructure. Fortunately, this base plate went so tightly that it is stuck.

The barriers in the sides were made of plastic profiles but did not survive the demolition work. I found them too bulky anyway and therefore replaced them with metal wires of 0.5 mm. By painting the top of the base plate matt black, it is hardly noticeable that it has moved up a bit and that I amputated the legs of the operator above the knees. All in all a nice place for little money. For €17.00 incl. shipping costs you have the loco and trailer. In addition, the KATO chassis for € 20.00 and a decoder for € 25.00. And last but not least I have been happily modelling trains for a while...



