

Nostalgic American Logging Steam Engines

BY

Loek (MLS Loeksblues)

Holland

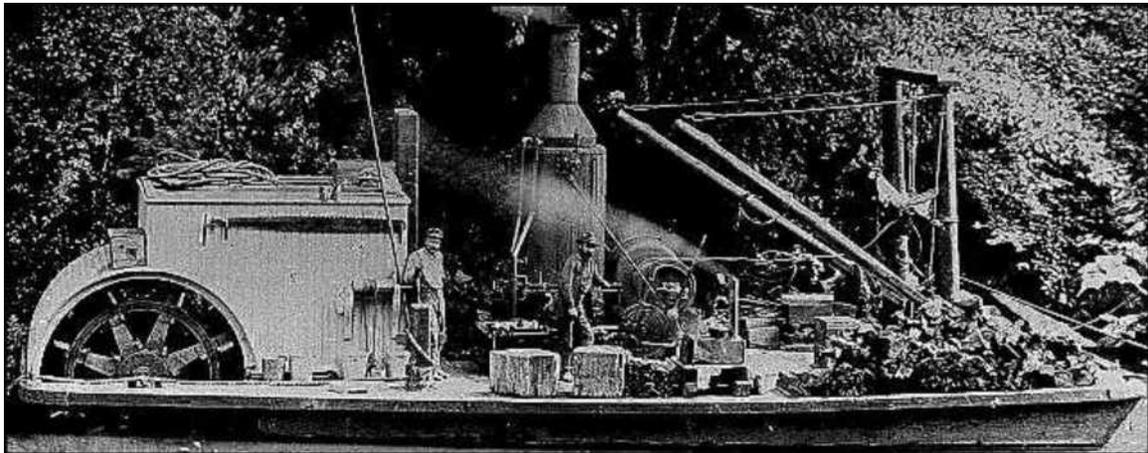
Originating Post: 29 Dec 2011

[\(Live Steam/Topic: Nostalgic American Logging Steam Engines\)](#)

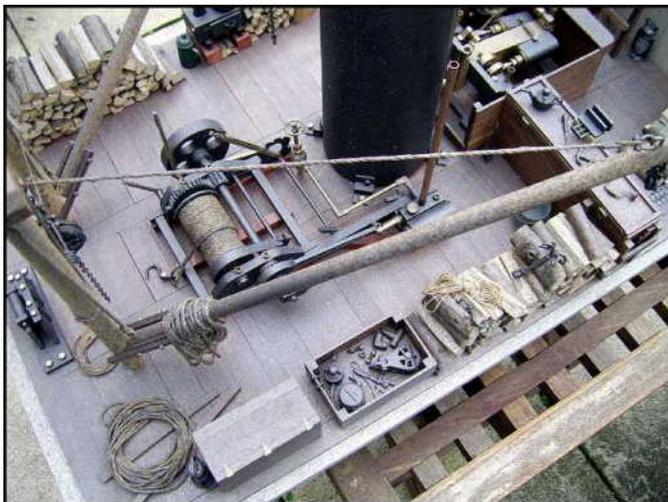
[\(Live Steam Forum/Topic: Heisler Live Steam - New test track\)](#)

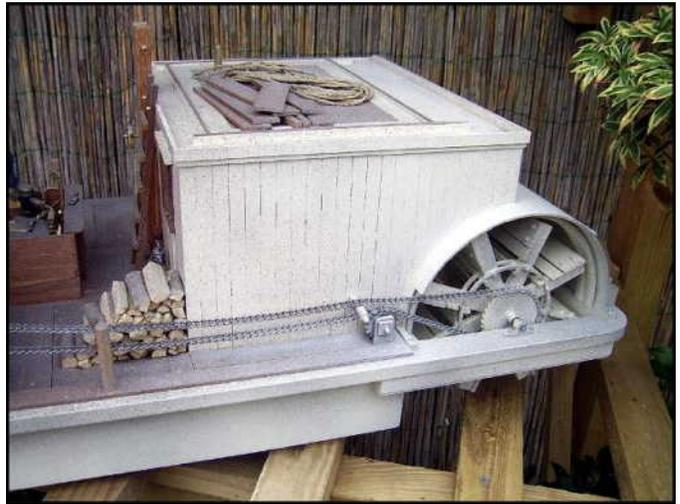
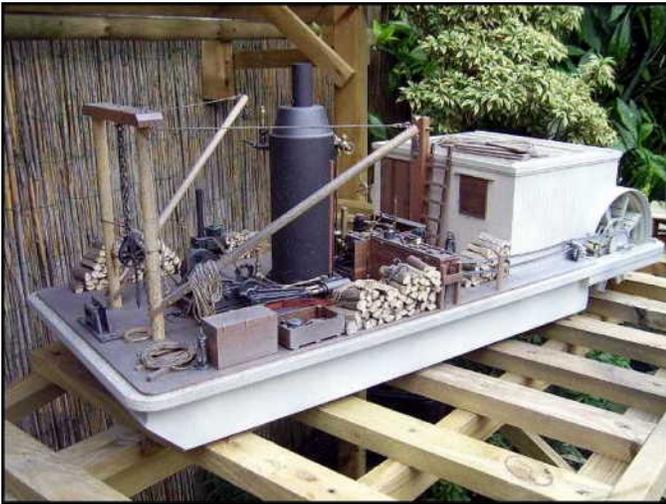
Hi, I am new on this fantastic forum! I am a devotee of American Nostalgic Logging Engines. I live in Holland. My steam friend has already placed some photographs of me on this forum.

I have built the following - Dolbeer Steam Donkey, Flatcar, Class A Climax, and just finished, a Logging Sternwheeler.



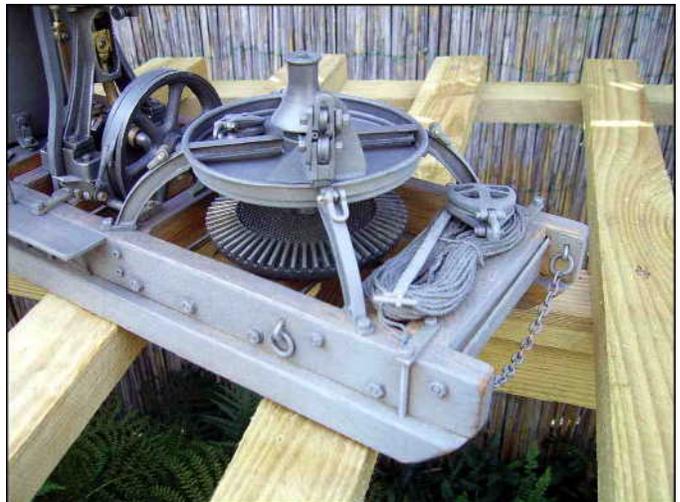
Big River S.S. Maru. Scale 1:12.





Video Big River

Dolbeer Steam Donkey. Scale 1:10.





Video of the Donkey.

Flatcar. Scale 1:10.



Class A Climax. Scale 1:10.



Video of the Climax.

I hope that you enjoyed it. When I start a new project, I let you know. Perhaps you have an idea for an old logging steam engine?

Best regards, Loek.

You can see more on my Internet site - [American Nostalgic Logging Engines, Holland](#)

Comment Scot Lawrence:

Very cool models Loek! :) Welcome aboard!

Comment Alec Escolme:

Welcome! Fantastic models, with a very high level of detail. Live steam to boot!

Comment John Riley:

Loek: Your models are absolutely brilliant! More power to your elbow! The Class 'A' Climax model sets the bar very high for those who model live steam USA logging engines! Best wishes for your future modeling endeavors.

(30 Dec 2011) - Reply:

Hi Steamers. Thanks for your response! Best wishes for 2012. Till next time.

(30 Dec 2011) - Update:

Hi Steamers. Soon I will re-gauge the Class 'A' Climax for track LGB = 45MM. Then I can drive on normal tracks... I keep you informed!

Comment Shawn V. (MLS - snowshoe):

Those look great. I love the wooden track. Really fits with the engine.

Comment Cap'nBill:

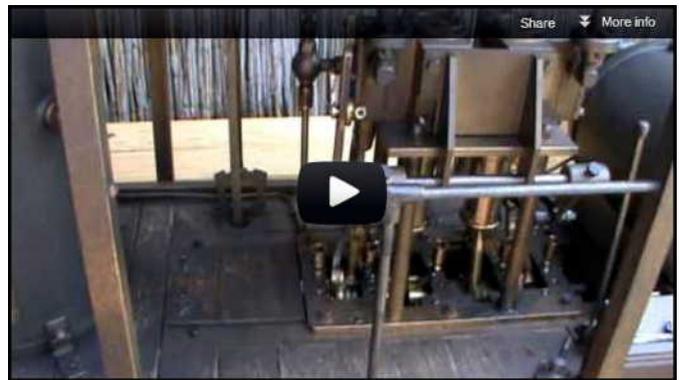
Beautiful work! Hope you will share some pictures of your construction. Welcome to the forum!

(31 Dec 2011) - Update:

Hi Steamers.



Here's another video of the Dolbeer Steam Donkey.



...and another video of the Class 'A' Climax.

Comment Tom Lapointe:

Loek, your models are incredible! 😍 Fantastic workmanship 😊 & interesting subjects. Welcome to MLS! 😊

Comment Randy Stone:

Magnificent models.

Comment Richard Kapuaala:

Very sweet work you are doing there in Holland :)

Comment Bill Allen:

Loek: Beautiful work. My friends built a few Donkeys with working clutches and brakes. The leader of the group is Donkey Doctor so I am surprised he hasn't seen this thread yet. I am sure he will want to compare notes. I will see him today and tell him about it.

(07 Jan 2012) - Reply:

Hi Bill, also thanks for your response! Have your Donkey Doctor pictures of the Donkey's in building? Success with the construction of the Donkey's!

Comment Eric Maschwitz:

Hi Loek: Bill is referring to Henner Meinhold who is has currently left the logging business for the beer brewing field as he is busy building his Guinness brewery locomotive. ;-) However there are two other loggers in the group: David Wegmuller and me (Eric Maschwitz). Together we are the East Devil's Hill Logging Co. We spent five years building four models of double drum, wide faced road engines in 1:20.3 scale. Each machine has two cylinders, throttle, two brakes and two clutches. Sadly we are a bit behind on getting some decent photo documentation of the machines but there are some pictures of the machines in various stages of completion on David's site (link below)



One of these days we'll get some proper photos of the donkeys. We also have a complete logging diorama that allows us to run the machines in the proper way. We can perform yarding and loading operations by means of a "crotch line" setup with "spar trees" and two donkey engines working at once. [Click here](#) for the album showing the donkey project.

Thanks for sharing your pictures I really admire the artful models you have created and hope to see additional projects from you in the future.

(08 Jan 2012) - Update:

Hi all: It looks awesome good. Fantastic! I had occasionally already visited the Internet site "Donkey Project".

Nice that I had contact with you by this way, without knowing you. Perhaps I will also build a donkey like this sometimes, but I only dread to make the service of the drums.... I see that you have also cylinders of Wilesco. I have used one at my riverboat.



That you also are busy with the donkey's, motivate me to go work more with them.

Attached below - two little movies of the donkey in old shape, I have removed the roof.



Comment Henner Meinhold:

Loek: Sorry for my late reply. As Eric pointed out, I am currently in the brewing business. 😊 Your models look fantastic, they really catch the look and feel of back woods logging. Saturday we had our workshop (Bill, David, Eric, Dennis and me) and we looked at your work. I built an A-Climax (with 2 trucks) in 1:20.3 a couple of years ago and want to replicate this in ride-on scale. What put me off was the difficulty to machine the offset bevel gears. Then it dawned on us: Your 4 wheel variety uses the same marine type engine, but the gears are normal commercially available bevel gears. That would make the task much easier. Though I own the Climax book, I had never thought about this one. So thanks for the input! Going back to donkeys: Do you know/own the book "In Search of Steam Donkeys" and Harris book about building a 2-spool donkey? Both are classics. Looking forward to more excellent logging equipment from your shop!

(09 Jan 2012) - Reply:

Hi Henner: Nice that you also want to build a climax. I want to build also a two trucks, but I found a 4 wheeler more original and indeed, more easily to build. I will convert my climax to 45 mm track, and I will improve him. I also have the books "The Climax Locomotive" & "In Search of Steam Donkey" and this week ordered my steam friend the book "The Steam Donkey Engine". I start still this year to the construction of a 2-spool donkey, but make firstly the climax well driving on metal rails and the paddle logging boat must firstly sail good. Enough to do therefore! Ok, till the next time!



The machine has already been run on air!

I have adapted these wheels that I already had. Next I will make the trucks. Till the next time!



Comment Eric Schade:

Wow! That will be a really interesting model! That is an unusual prototype locomotive. You are off to a good start on it too. Is the engine reversible? I only see one set of eccentrics and no Stephenson linkage.

You are using nice looking nuts and bolts! Do you make your own or can they be purchased?

Comment Larry Newman:

Hi Loek, "I have a new project! Heisler model 1892." I decided a while back to build a small Heisler using mostly an Accucraft Ruby kit for the parts. Here is a link to the "build."

[MLS - Live Steam Forum/Topic: Redbeards Ruby-Heisler](#)

Unfortunately my economic situation has slowed me to almost a standstill, but I am still working at it. Would love to watch the work on yours as it progresses. Who knows... maybe it will kick me back in gear!

(04 May 2012) - Reply:

Hi Eric: No, unfortunately, the machine is no longer reversible. The eccentrics don't fit well... No problem for me. The locomotive drive mostly straight on. The nuts and bolts have been bought.

(04 May 2012) - Reply:

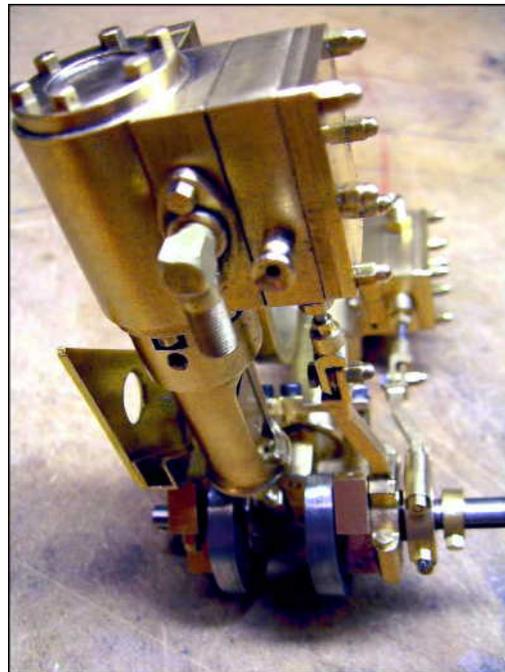
Hi Larry: I follow you site - Heisler Project - for quite some time! Fantastic! Larry, as long as we are busy with the hobby then everything's OK!

(08 May 2012) - Update:

Hi all.

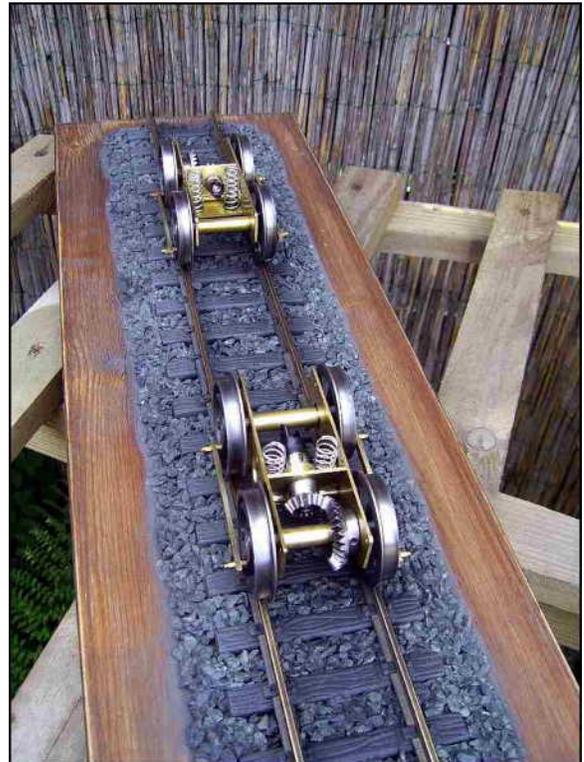
Small upgrade: The specific weights, from the Heislars, on the crankshaft have been now also assembled.

It fits just exact: OK, till the next time...



(21 May 2012) - Update:

Hi steamers. Here is the next Heisler update: I am busy with the trucks. All these parts are made with bearings.



Next up are working brakes. Okie-dokie, till the next time...

Comment Victor Smith:

Love the riverboat; I drew something like that up, hope to build it someday, and named her "Big Sally" after a character on Black Adder II

Comment Bob Sorenson:

Hi Loek: Great work!! I enjoyed your website very much too. The type "A" Climax is gorgeous. Thanks for sharing.

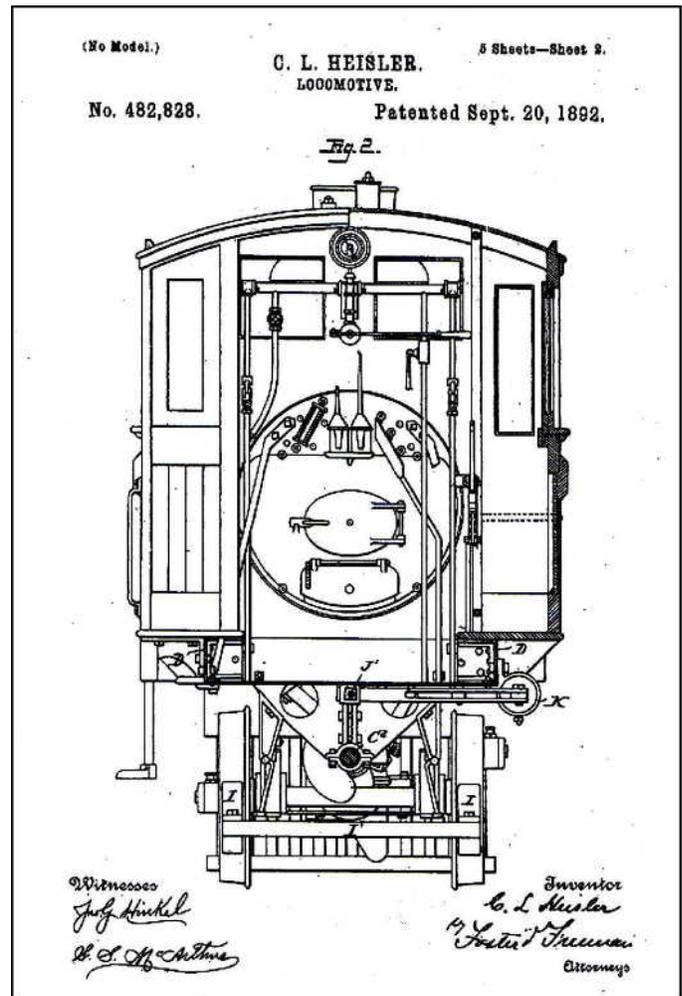
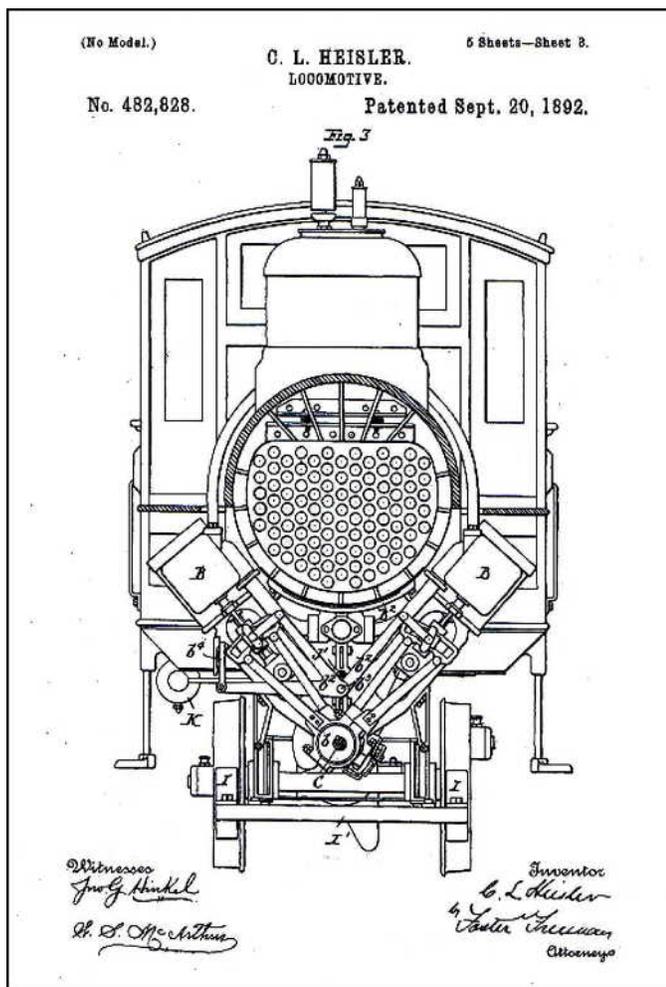
Comment Norman:

Hi Loeksblues: Could you also post the line drawings showing the cab front and the cab rear of the Heisler, model 1892?

(24 May 2012) - Reply:

Hi Norman: Here, this is everything that I have; the line drawings cab front and the cab rear of the Heisler. Also to see on my Internet site:

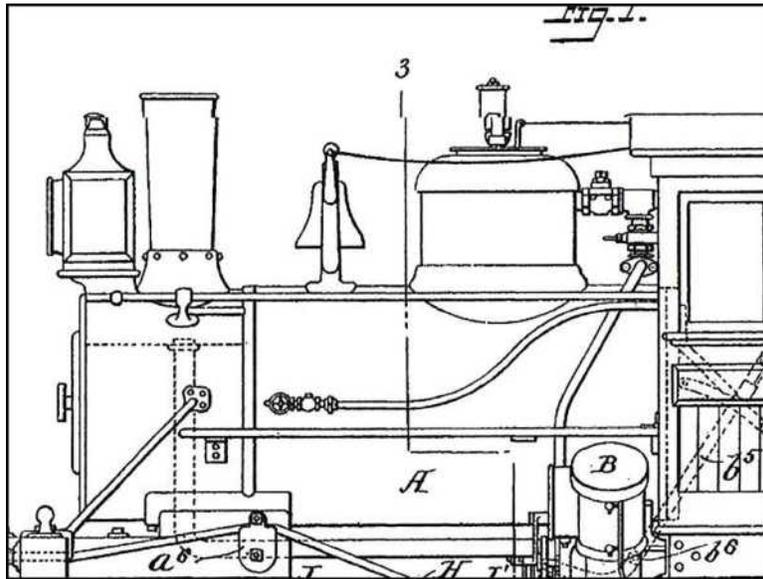
[Nostalgic American Live Steam Logging Engines - 1892 Heisler](#)



OK, till the next time.

(31 May 2012) - Update:

Hi Live Steamers. Heisler - The next update - Photo report:





Now all parts can be assembled to the boiler....
Okie-dokie, till the next time!
Loek.

(01 Jun 2012) - Reply:

Hi Bob: Here is a picture of the Regner - burner.



[Regner online catalog, page 53, Item #5:](#)



I've created an adapter - burner is 18 mm - pipe inside diameter 19 mm.



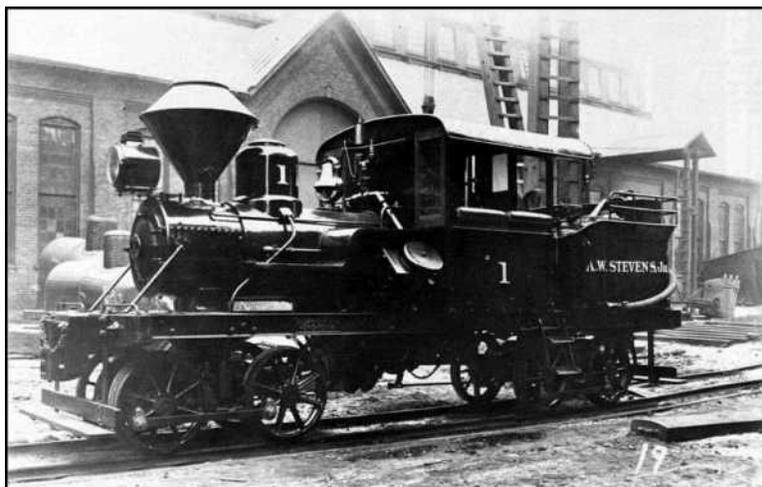
Till the next time. Regards, Loek.

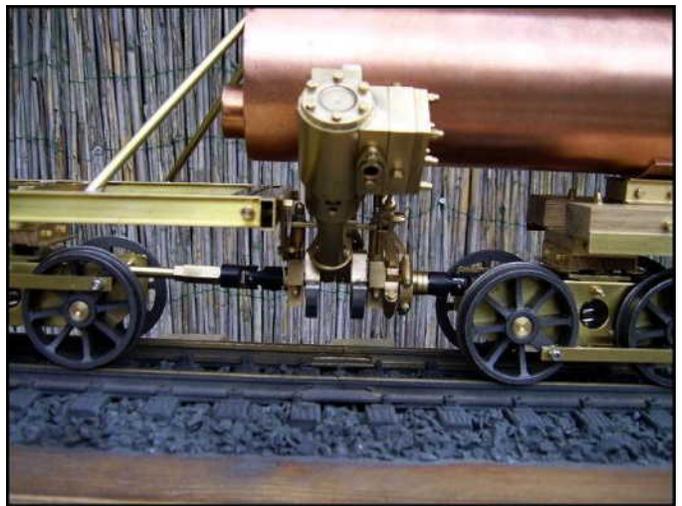
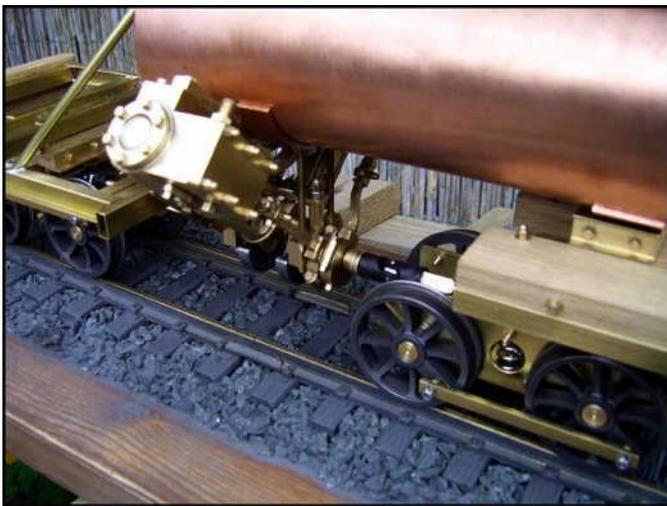
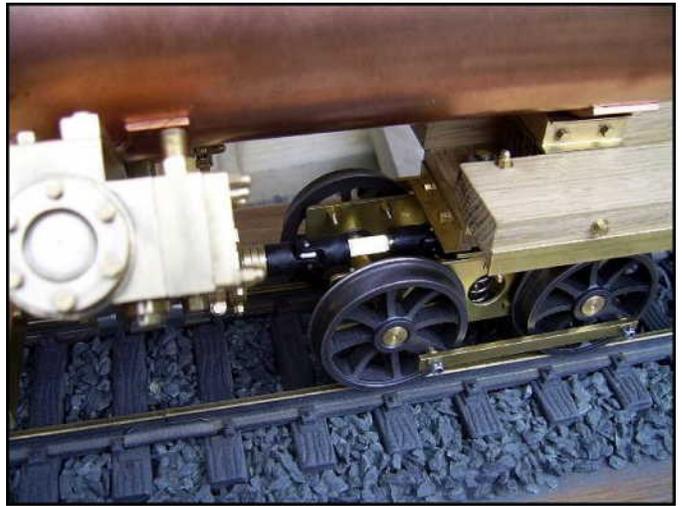
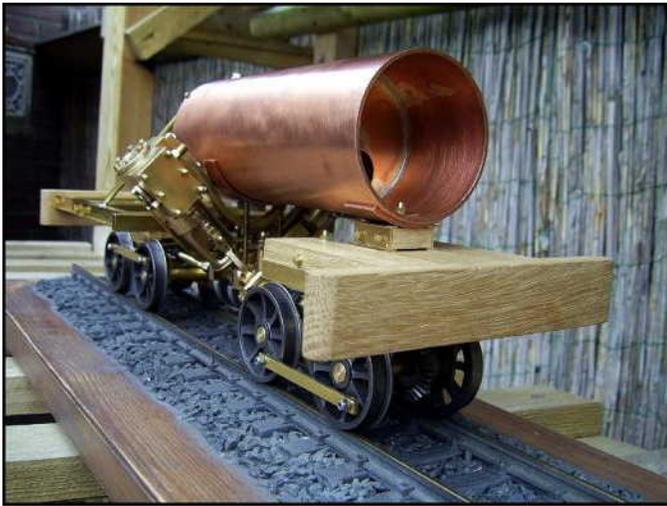
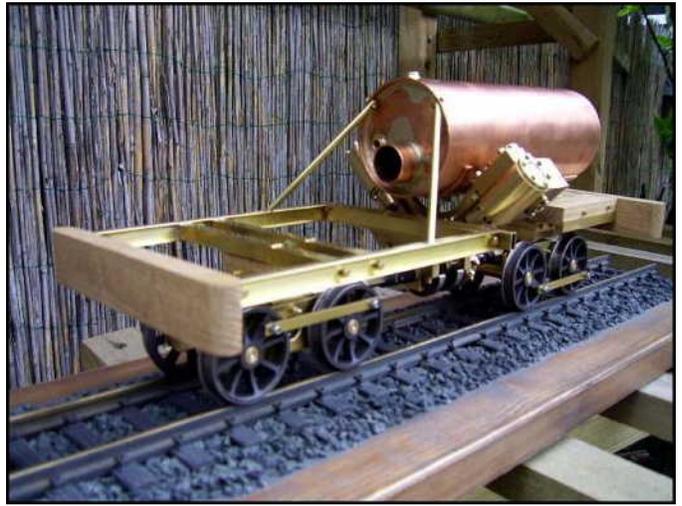
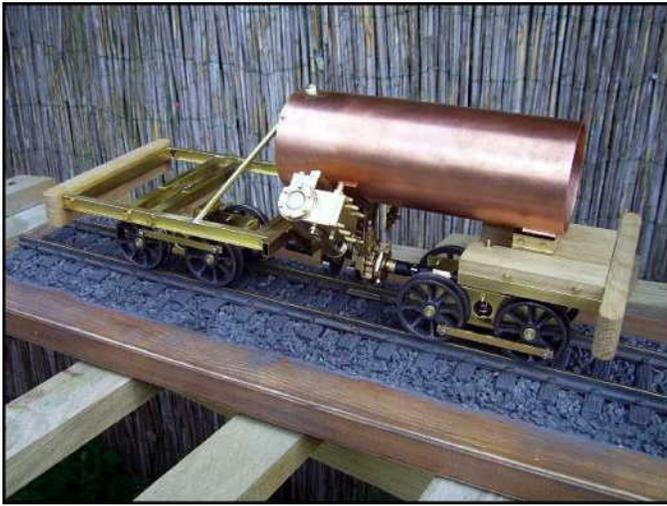
Comment Eric Schade:

I am surprised the burner barrel is brass!?! Most I have seen have been stainless steel. I would think that if Regner does it must be OK though.

(08 Jun 2012) - Update:

Hi Live Steamers. Heisler Project - Photo update.





Comment Eric Schade:

It is interesting how the small engine and yours have the frame interrupted by the engine. It looks like the boiler serves as a structural member in its construction. I see the larger one in the photo has a continuous frame with all the parts attached to it.

Comment Bruce Gathman:

This is going to be one fine looking loco if the parts we have seen so far are any indication of the build quality.

Comment David Meashey:

Eric: The first prototype photo shows a locomotive that is constructed like the project model; although there appears to be two rods connecting the fore and aft frame sections. Perhaps these were like tie rods? The second prototype photo shows a locomotive with the frame running the full length of the locomotive. Perhaps the full-length frame was added to later production because weaknesses showed up in the earlier design? Just my guess.

(08 Jun 2012) - Reply:

Hi all. The first photo is the Heisler that I make - the prototype 1892. All the parts hang on the boiler. There are two Rods where the machine comes to hang on.

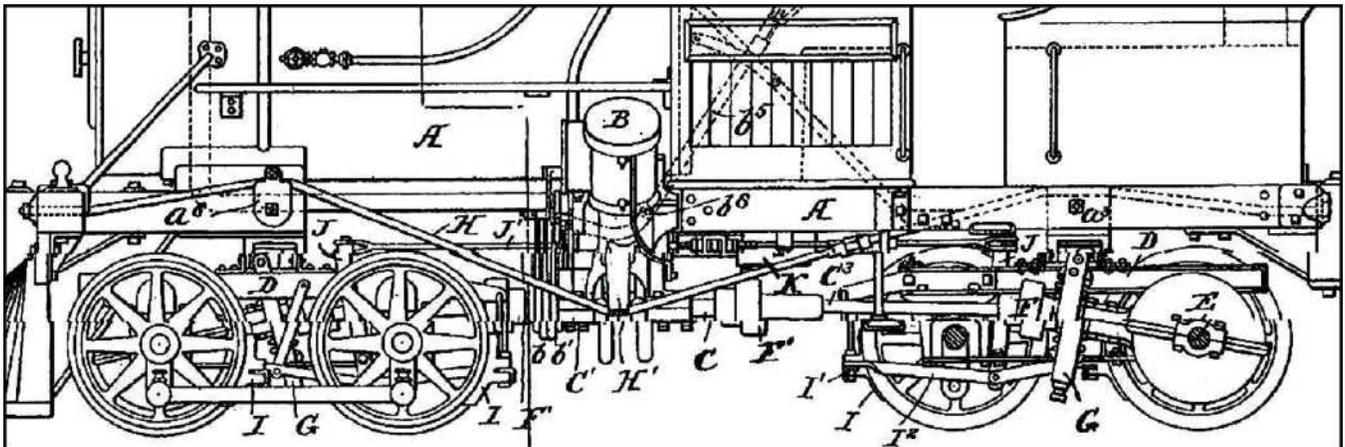
Only, my machine is bigger than the machine on the first photo/prototype, so the boiler must therefore smaller - see the second photo.

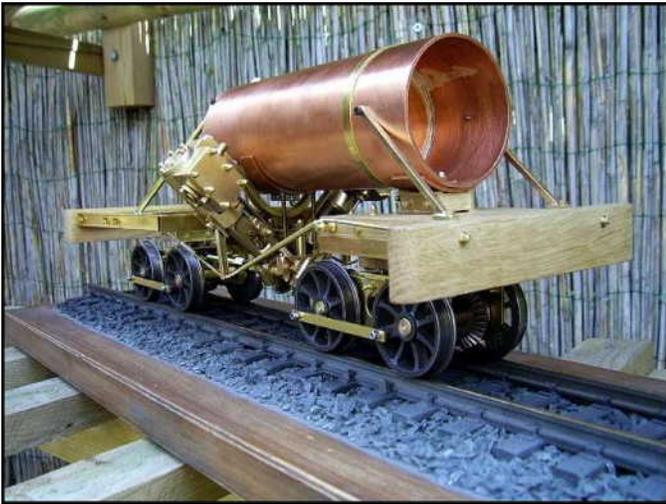
This is the only difference between the prototype that I make - the first photo - and the type on the second photo.

The later Heislars were heavier and stronger; they got a frame from front to back.

(10 Jun 2012) - Update:

Hi all: Small update Heisler project. The hanger rods.

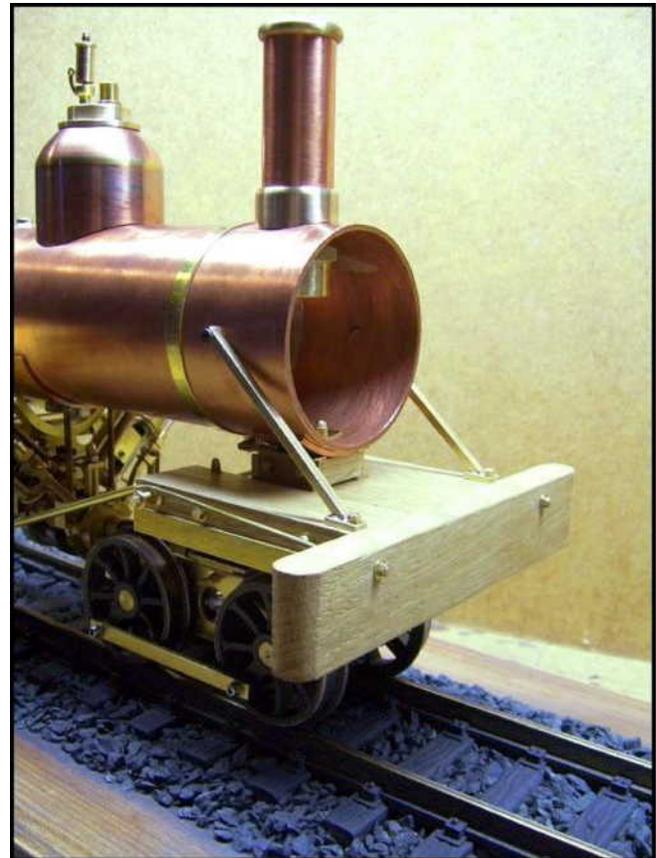
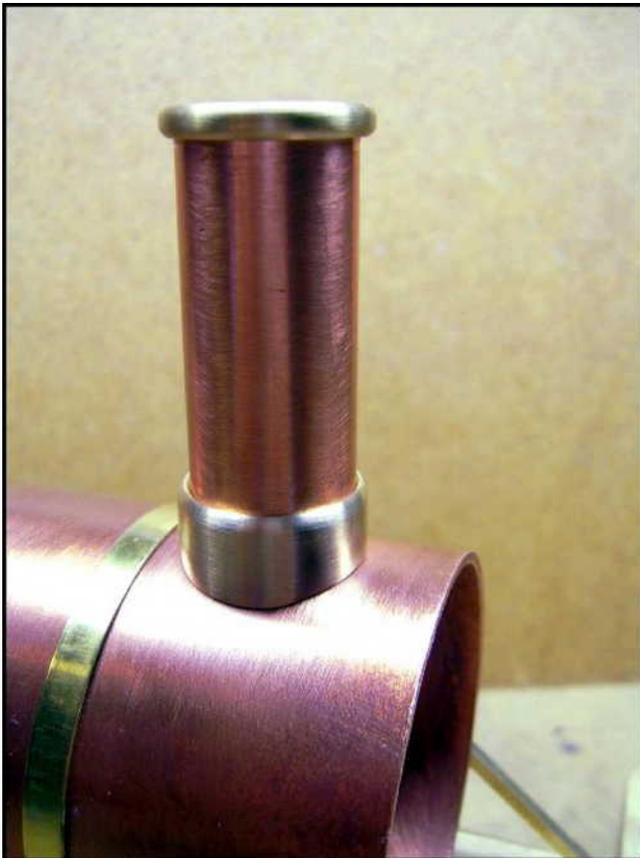


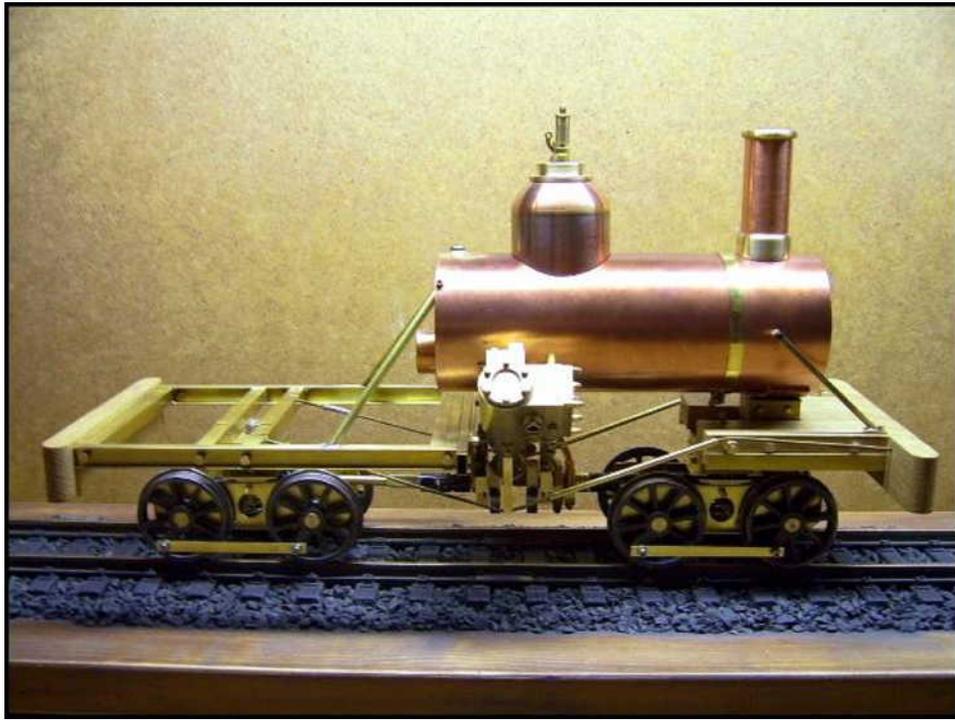


Thanks again for watching. Loek - The Hague, Netherlands, Europe.

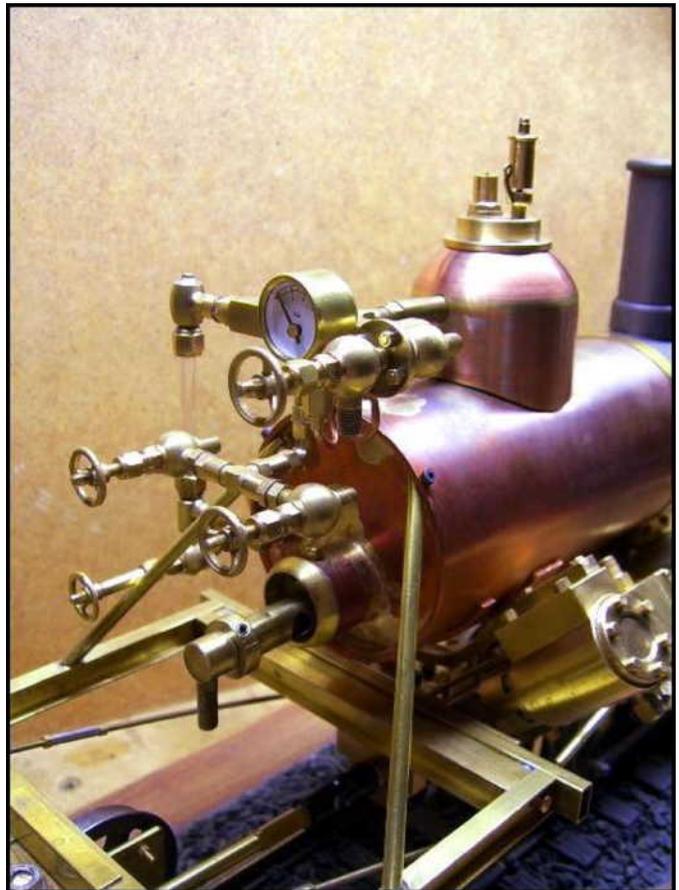
(11 Jun 2012) - Update:

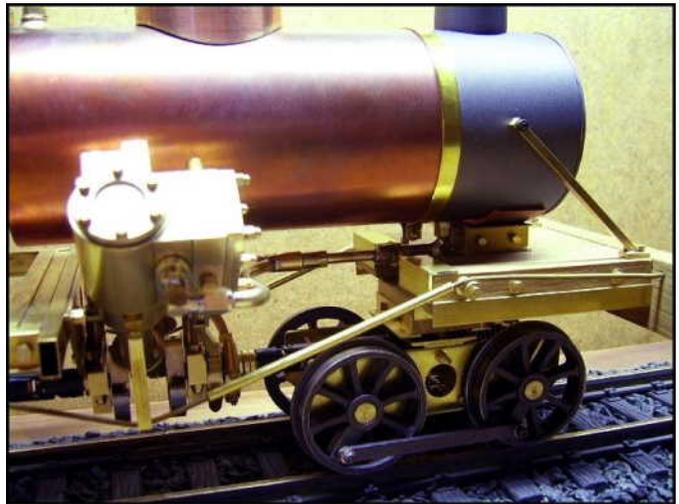
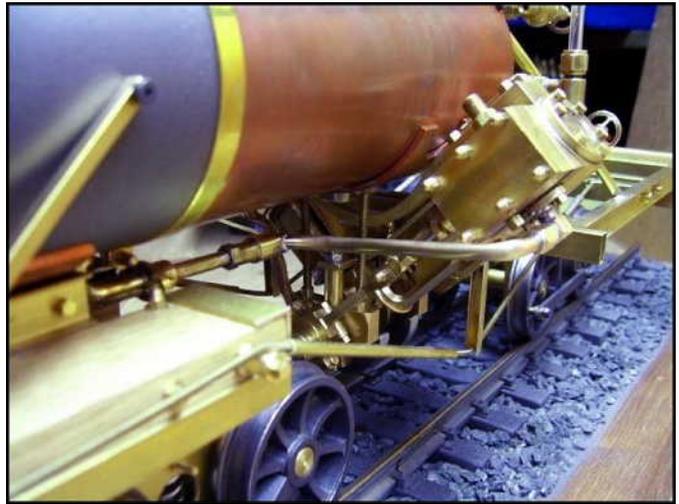
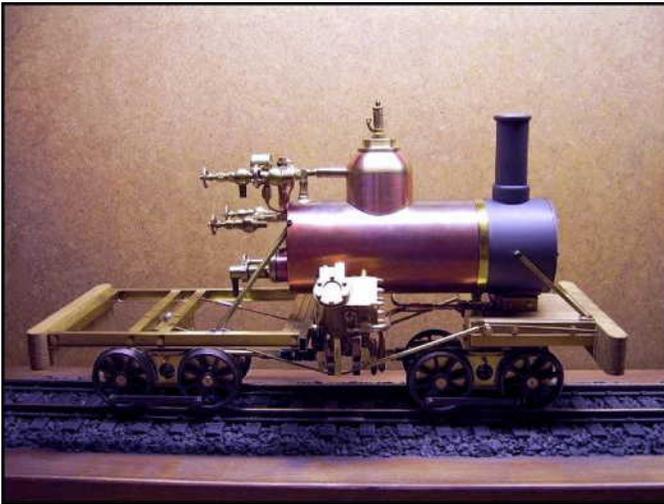
Hi Live Steamers. It already starts to look like a real locomotive.....





(26 Jun 2012) - Update:
Hi Live Steamers. Heisler Project - Photo Update.

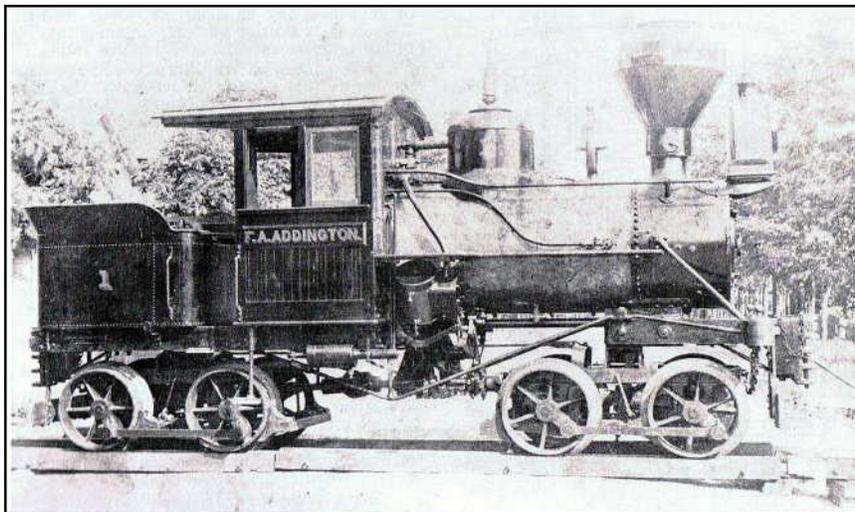


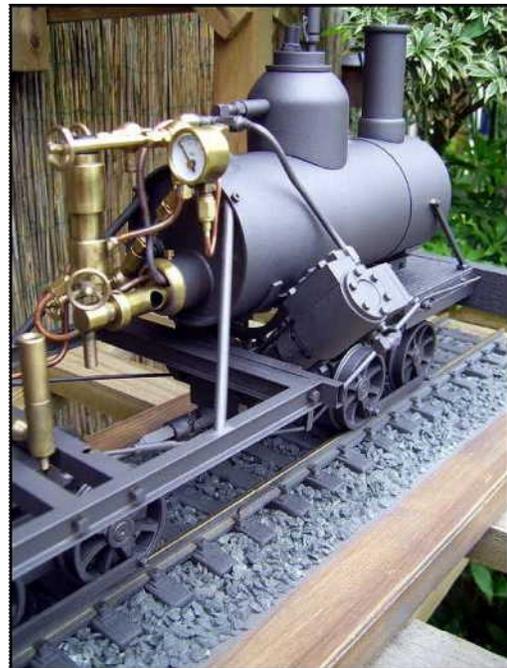
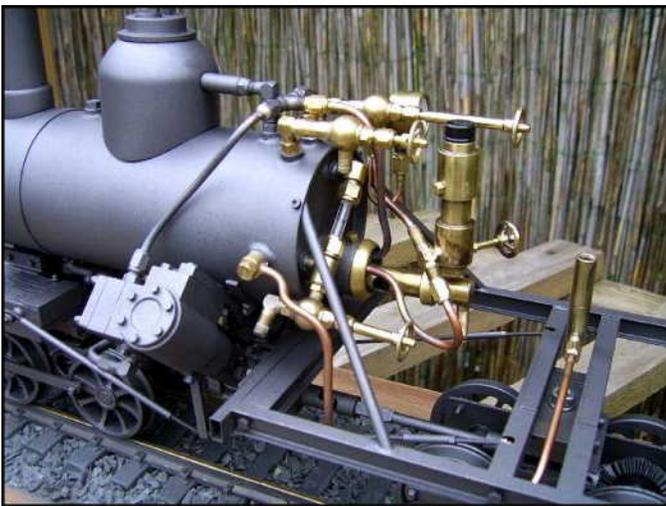


Okie-dokie, Regards Loek - The Hague, Netherlands, Europe.

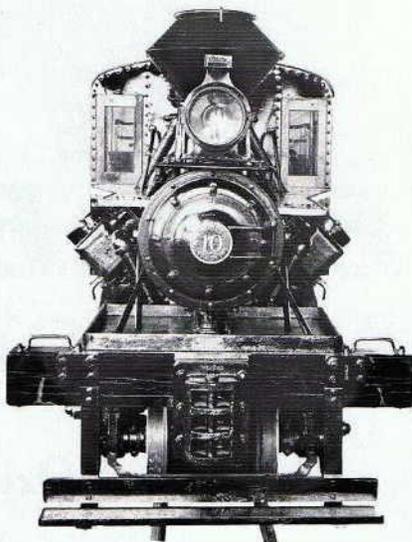
(06 Jul 2012) Update:

Hi all: Update Heisler Live Steam Project. I have steamed with the Heisler! After some improvements, everything works well. The machine smokes well and the sound is also OK thanks to the chuff-pipe. Later comes a video about a test run.....





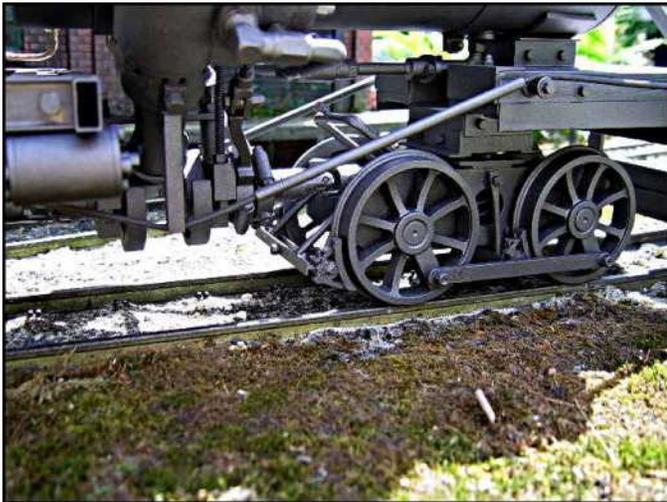
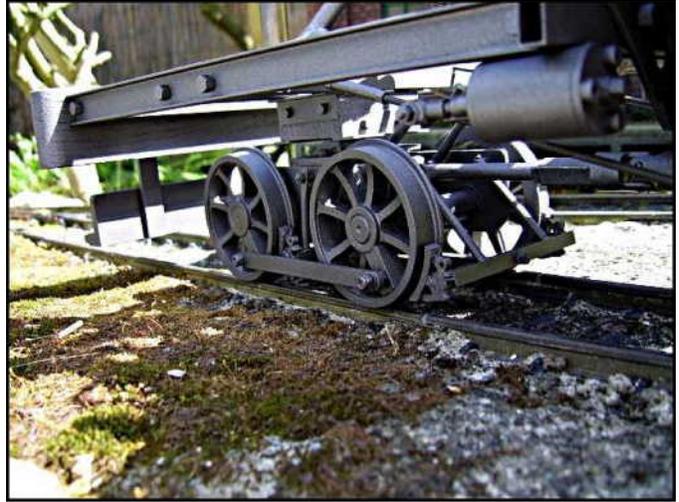
THE HEISLER LOCOMOTIVE



I have now bought a book about everything that has to do with the Heisler - "*The Heisler Locomotive 1891-1941*". Very, very nice book with a good picture of my Heisler. (See top picture).

Thanks again for watching! OK, until next time.
Loek.

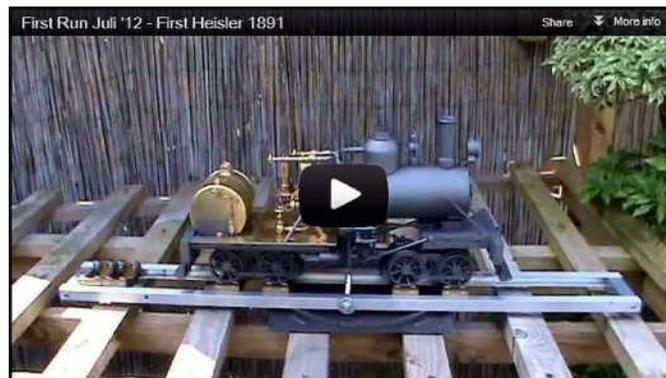
(11 Jul 2012) - Update:
Hi all: Heisler Live Steam Project - Little Update.



Thanks again for watching.

(21 Jul 2012) - Update:

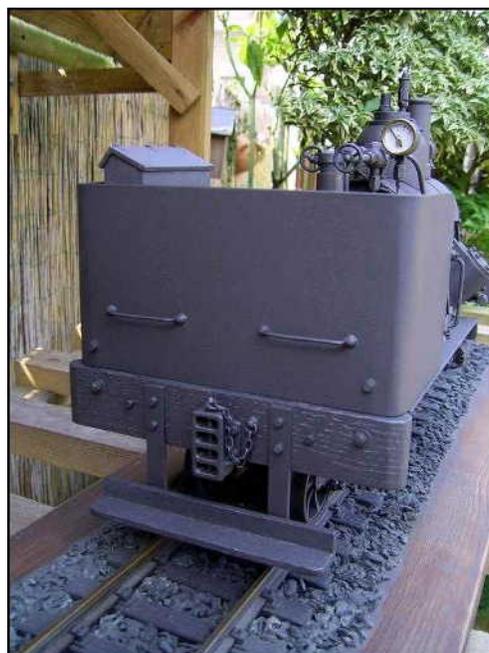
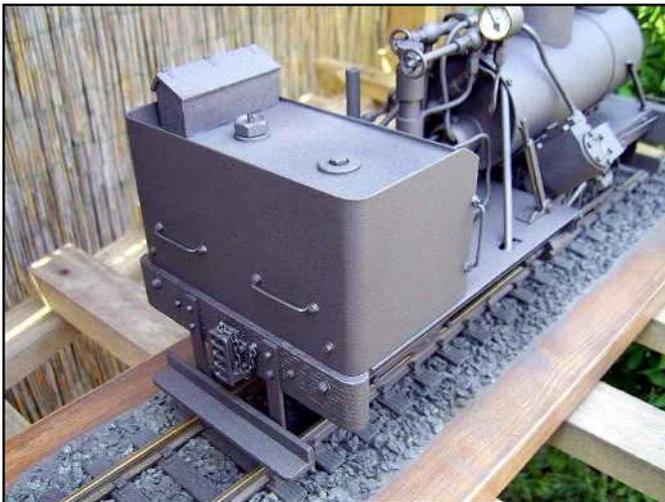
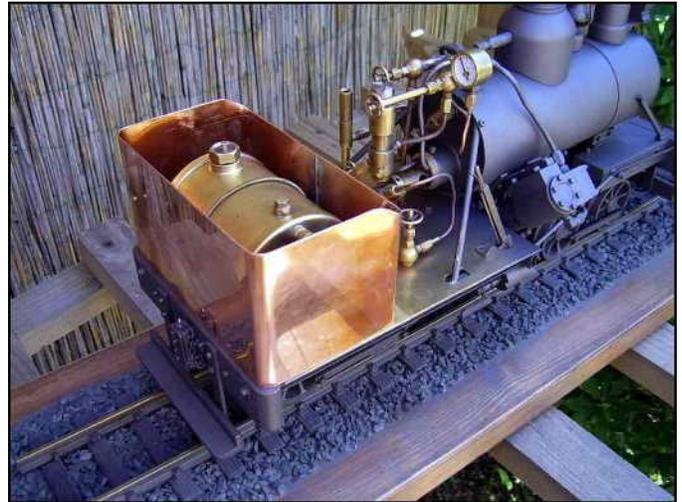
The Heisler is alive! It steams well and the sound is also OK. *The time has come for the Heisler to be run under its own steam power.*



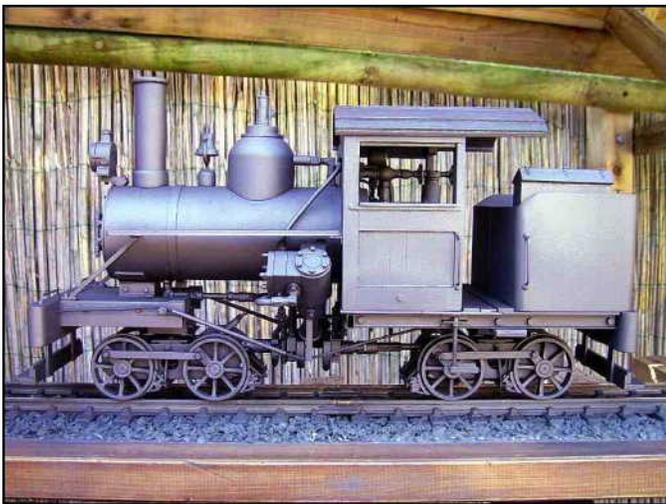
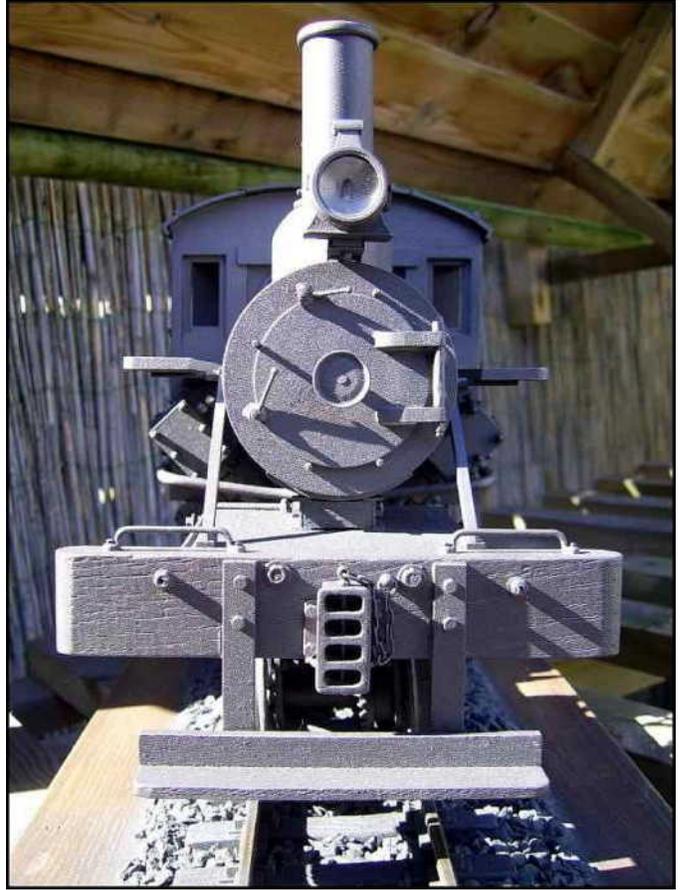
Here is a video of the 1891 Heisler's first run under steam. Now I'm going to build on.

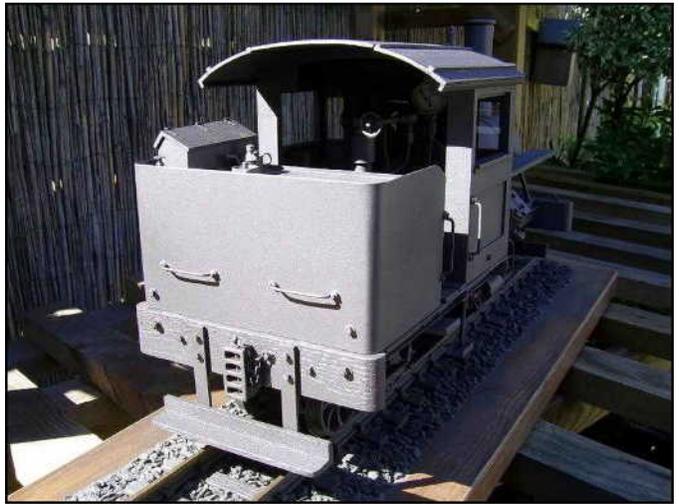
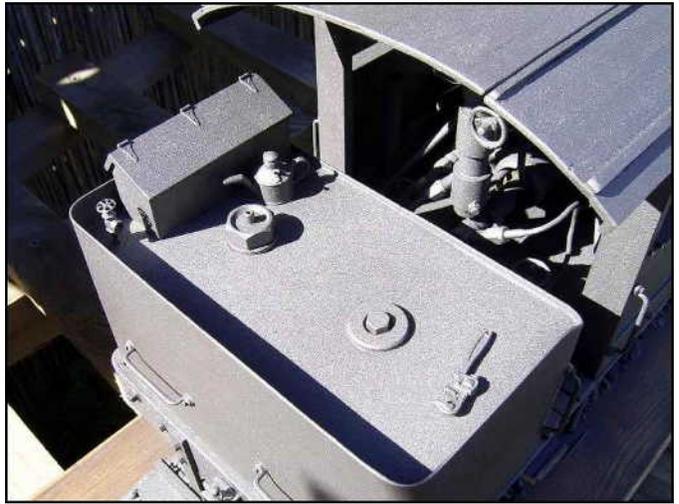
(27 Jul 2012) - Update:

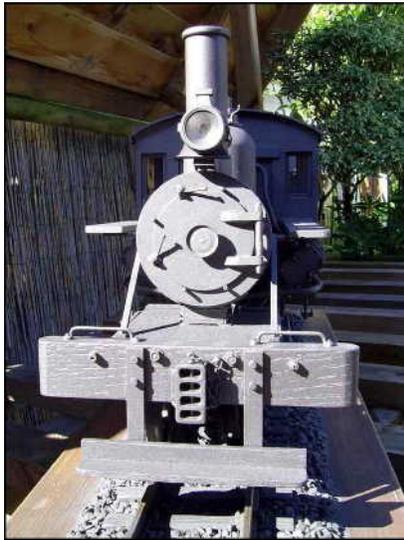
The Heisler is almost ready! Thanks again for watching and until next time. Loek. Hoi.



(01 Aug 2012) - Update:
The Nostalgic Heisler is ready!







It was a very nice and interesting project. Now I'm going to build wagons, and of course driving with the Heisler! I make another video soon for you.
Regards Loek, Hoi.

Comment Carl Weaver:

Magnificent !

Comment Henner Meinhold:

Loek: This is one beautiful loco! Congratulations. And last not least you are fast and paint your loco right away. I wish I could do at least these 2 tasks like you.

Comment Richard Kapuaala:

WOW!!! Beautiful work Loek!!! BTW... if Henner wasn't so generous with his times and skills he would be smoking fast ;-) Thanks for your help Henner, much appreciated.

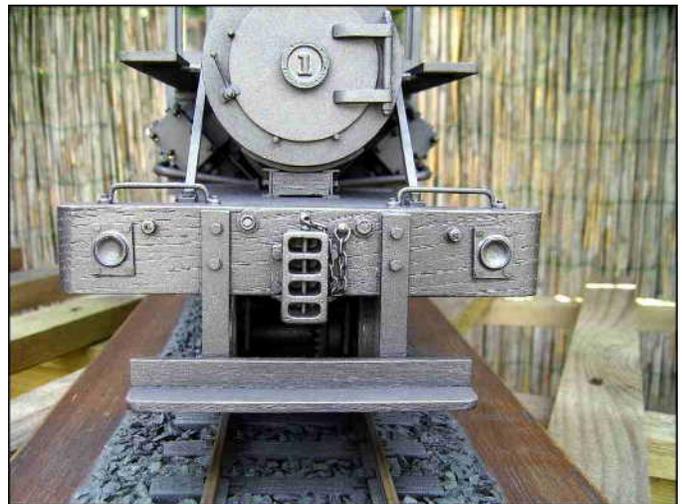
Comment Eric Schade:

That is great! I look forward to seeing it running with a line of cars!

Comment Henner Meinhold:

Now you should try to move your loco with the donkey, just like on the famous photo on your wall!

(13 Aug 2012) - Update:
Hi Steamers. The Heisler is now ready!



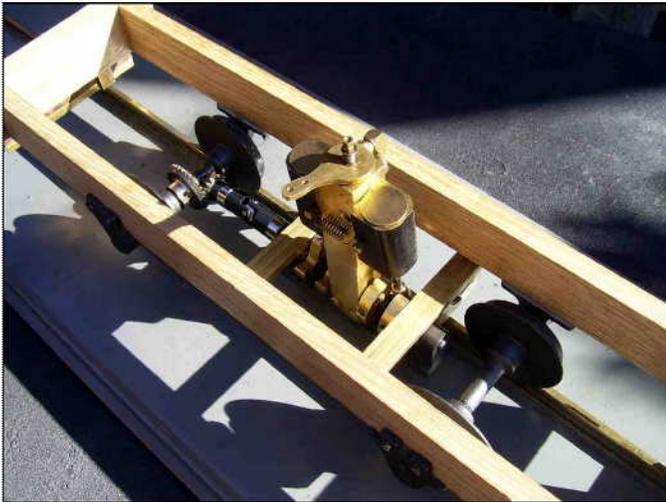
Thanks again for watching!
Until a next time.
Regards, Loek.
The Hague, Netherlands, Europe.

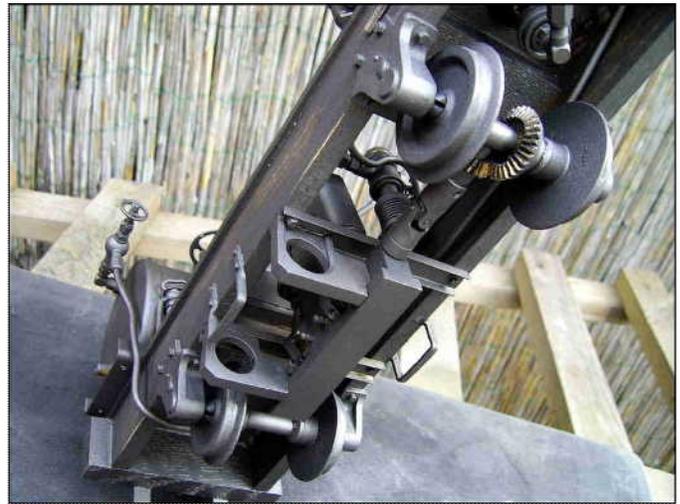
Comment Henner Meinhold:

Hi Loek, a very nice engine. I admire the way you pull something like this through in no time. I always hit some roadblocks and need tinkering to get it solved... Anyway, congratulations for some fine work!

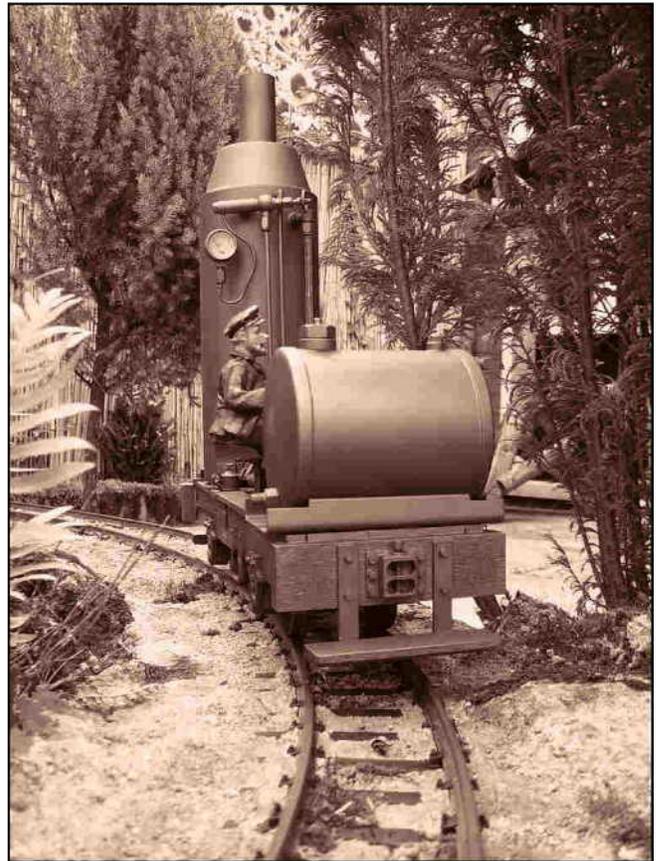
(20 Aug 2012) - Update:

Hi all. **I have a small logging locje created this weekend.** Fortunately I still had all the parts.....





It looks like a small Class A Climax.....



Video of the logging Locje.

(05 Sep 2012) - Update:

Hi all: I have created a new test track. The Heisler took to the track for the first time...



Heisler on the New Test Track



The logging train also runs well on the new track.

Comment StevenJ:

I thought you built that engine to a wider gauge than 45 for some reason. Very nice!

Comment ChaoticRambo:

Both of your locomotives look great - are they scratch built?

Comment Randy Lehrian:

Loek: These museum quality locos are outstanding before you see them run. Once you do see them run. All I can say is... WOW! They run smooth and slow, very nice. I'm looking forward to more of your projects.

(15 Nov 2012) - Update:

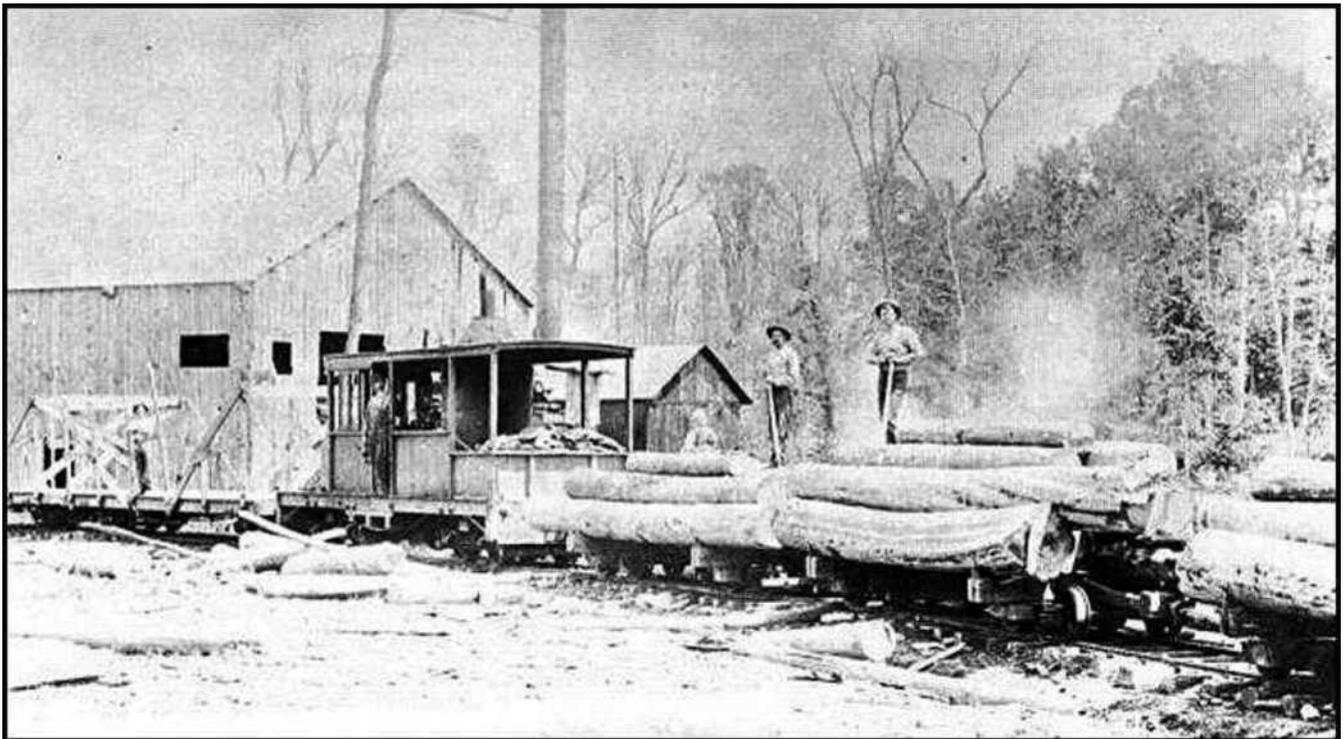
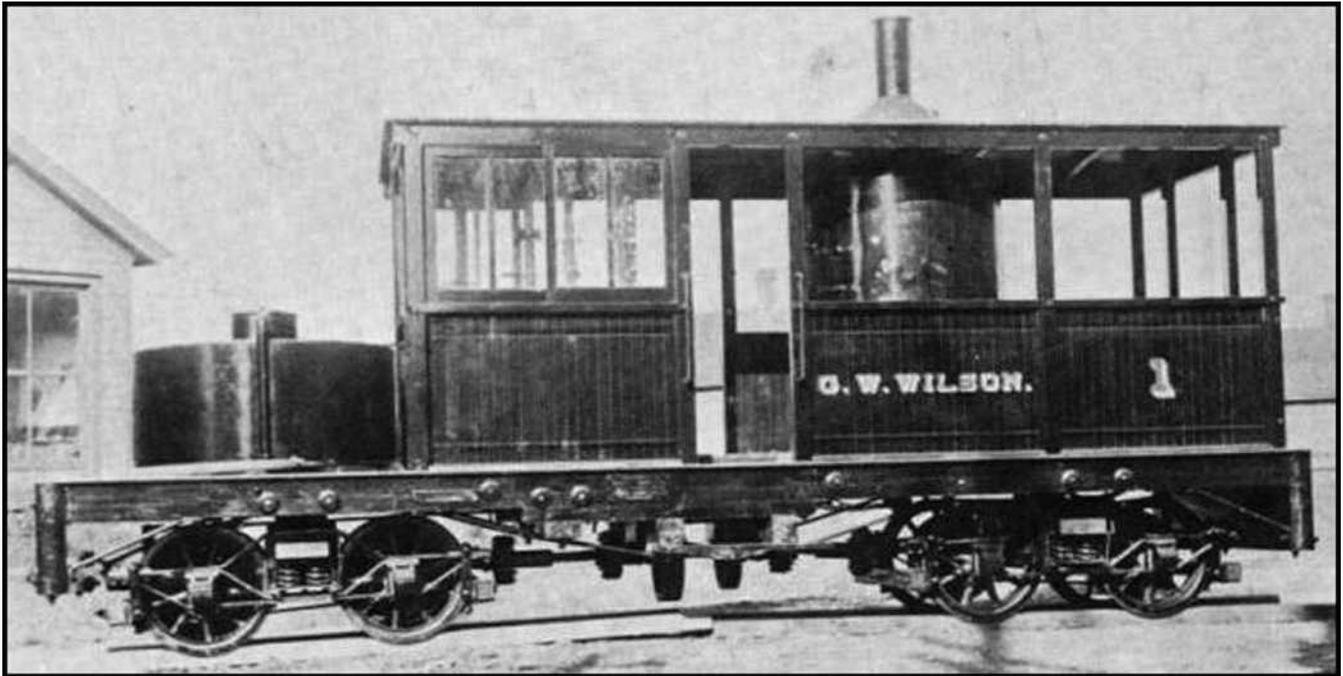
Hi Steamers.

On the small video that I've previously posted (see first video on this page) on this *fantastic forum*, all the details were not yet installed but now here is the *Heisler*, with all its details, ready!





I've now started the construction of a *Dunkirk Class 'A'*. It's a 13 ton locomotive from 1890. The Live Steam Dunkirk is being built in the same scale as the Live Steam Heisler....



I'll keep you informed. Thanks again for watching!

Regards Loek.

The Hague, Netherlands, Europe.

[The Puffing Chimney - 1890 13-Ton Dunkirk](#)

Comment Eric Schade:

That is a great looking engine Loek!!! I like the red roof and top to the toolbox. I would remove the paint from the safety, whistle and bell as well as the numbers and letters on the number plate on the front of the smoke box... but that is just me! i like to see some brass.

(15 Nov 2012) - Reply:

Hi Eric: Thanks for your comment.

All that is painted? That's just my style. I see it as art. I see all my models like an old photograph from nostalgic years; hence there is almost no color appearance... I'm planning the Dunkirk not to paint; so all brass and wood are natural. But if I keep this up? We will see...

Comment Henner Meinhold:

Loek: Do you envision something like this?

This was my first attempt in live steam scratch building, so it is not yet "perfect". Did the Dunkirk also have the offset bevel gears in the trucks? If yes, how will you tackle that? I was lucky and got some from a fellow live steamer.



(16 Nov 2012) - Reply:

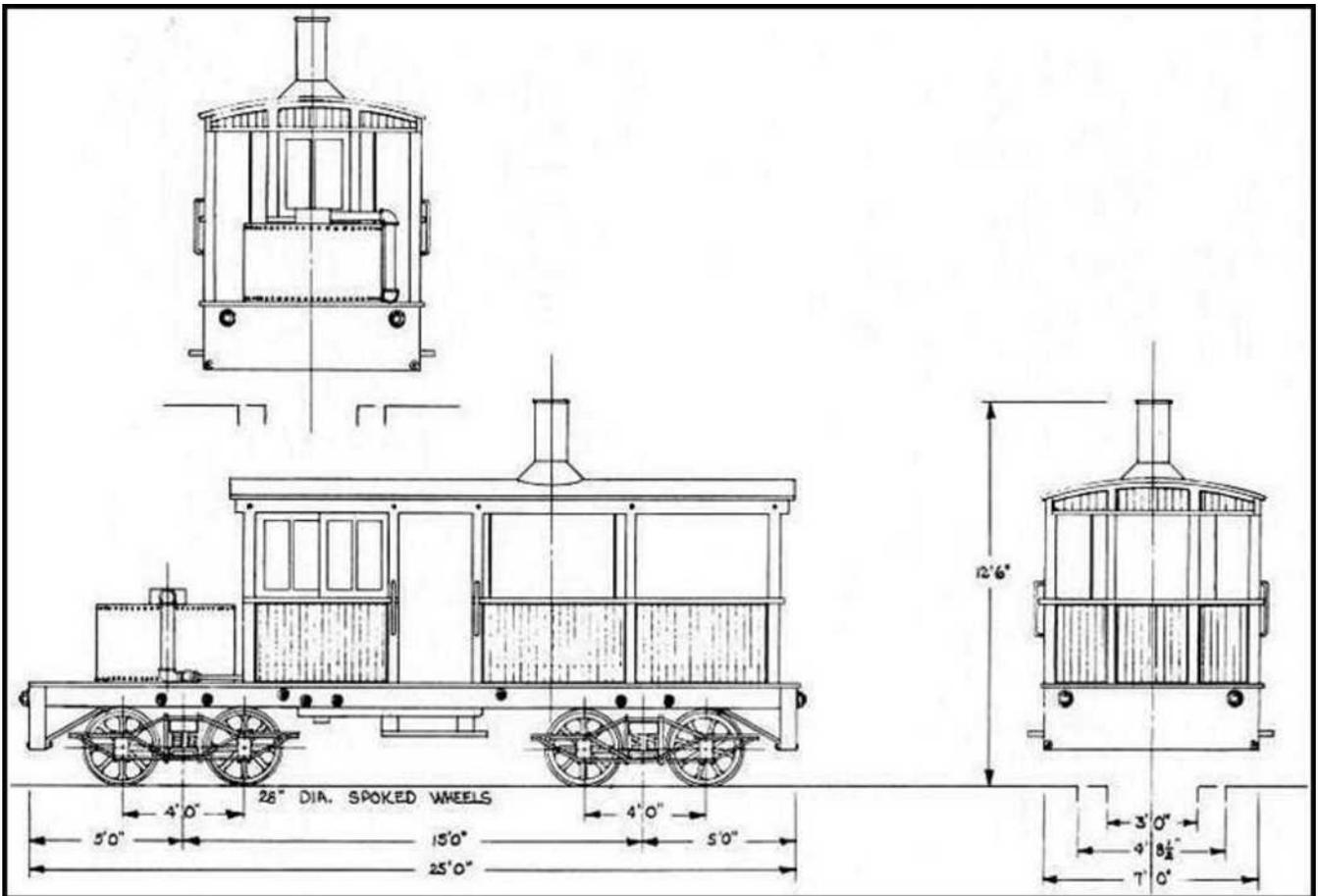
Hi Henner: I use the same gear that I've used in the Climax Class 'A.' Now of course, two axels, so two gears by truck. Thus a different construction. Going just fine...

[The Puffing Chimney - Climax II, Class 'A'](#)



These gears are just for sale in various sizes...



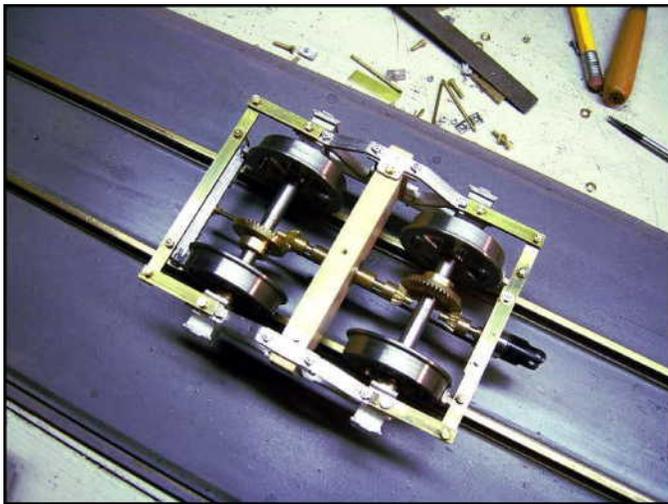
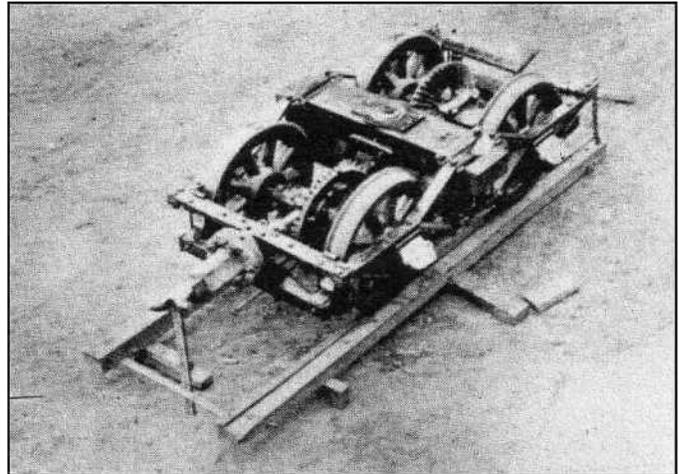


Comment Henner Meinhold:

I guess you have to go with Kozo's "cheater" design 😊, as you can't cross over the axles with plain bevel gears, right?

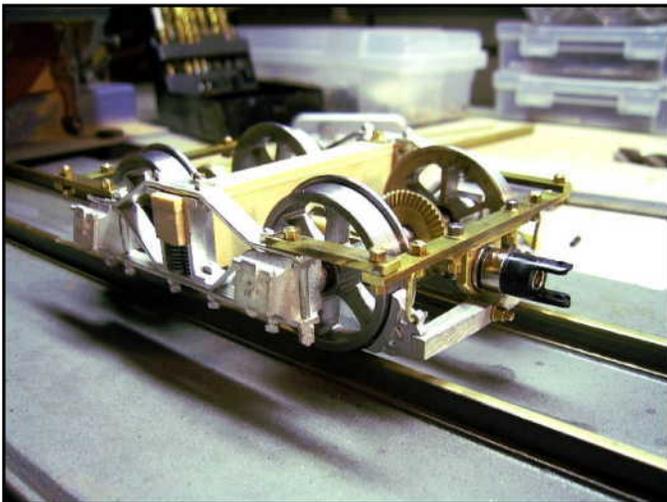
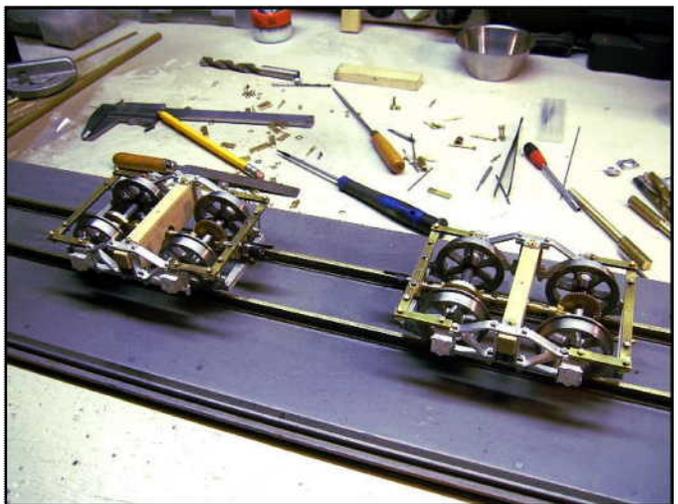
(16 Nov 2012) - Reply:

Henner: I use the "construction paket trucks" from OZARK. The trucks are adjusted. When I'm ready, you see the pictures, OK? But thanks for thinking!



(09 Dec 2012) - Update:

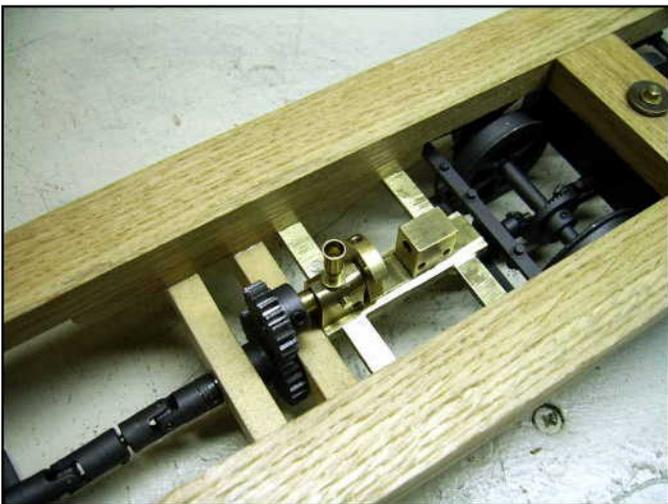
Hi Steamers: The trucks for the *Dunkirk* are almost ready. They are also sprayed. The trucks are not made springy, because of the drive unit. I have made a simple construction for driving, as you can see. Gear ratio is 1:3. Axles run in *bronze bushes*, the rest has *bearings*.



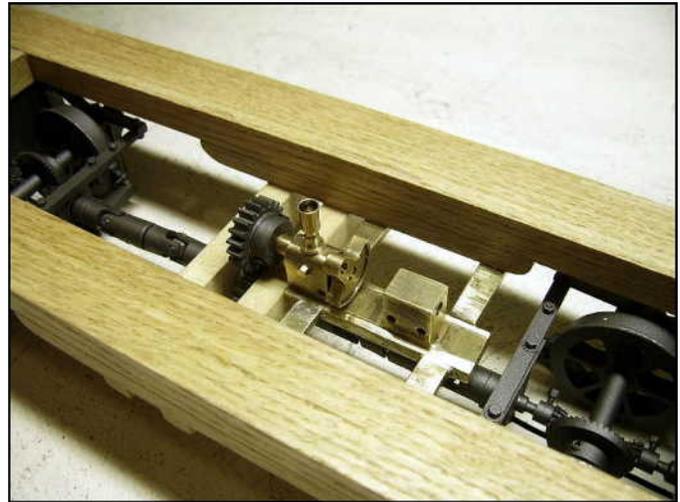
(10 Dec 2012) - Update:
I have now painted the trucks. Looks so much better...



(21 Dec 2012) - Update:
The axes / couplings are now mounted.....



Hi, a small upgrade... This frame is for the Regner 2 *cylinder* engine.



Comment Jason Kovac:

Loek: Some beautiful modeling here. Its rare to see so many things built using Regner parts. As the US sales point I am starting to bring in more scratch building parts for such projects. I think the hardest part is getting the time to devote to building and modeling.

Comment Mike McCormack:

Loek: Wonderful model work! I have been reviewing your Heisler build as I am working on one as well. I'm stuck on the gears for the trucks. Can you advise what you used for gear ratio, etc? It would be most helpful.

(24 Dec 2012) - Reply/Update:

Hi Jay: It's fun to build with Regner parts. Most work is indeed thinking how or what. Which is also a part of the hobby.

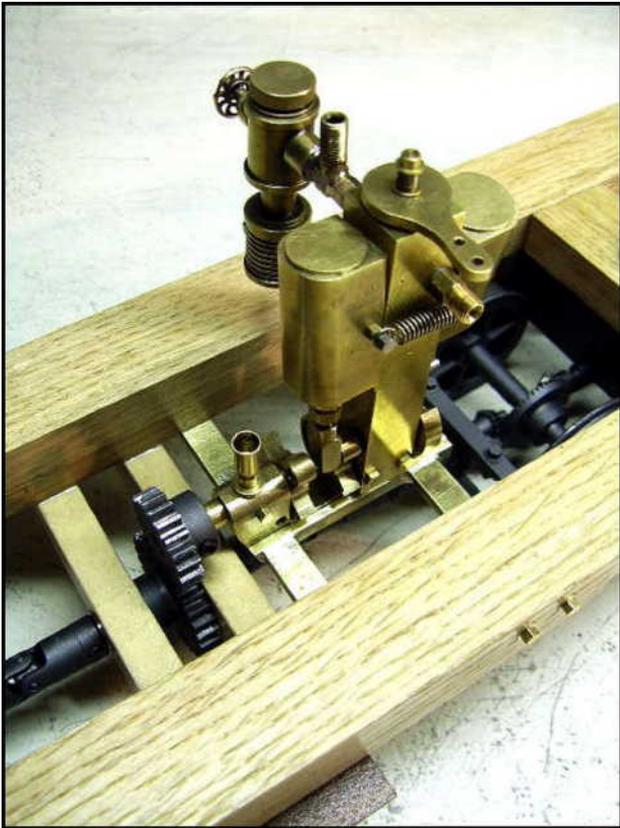
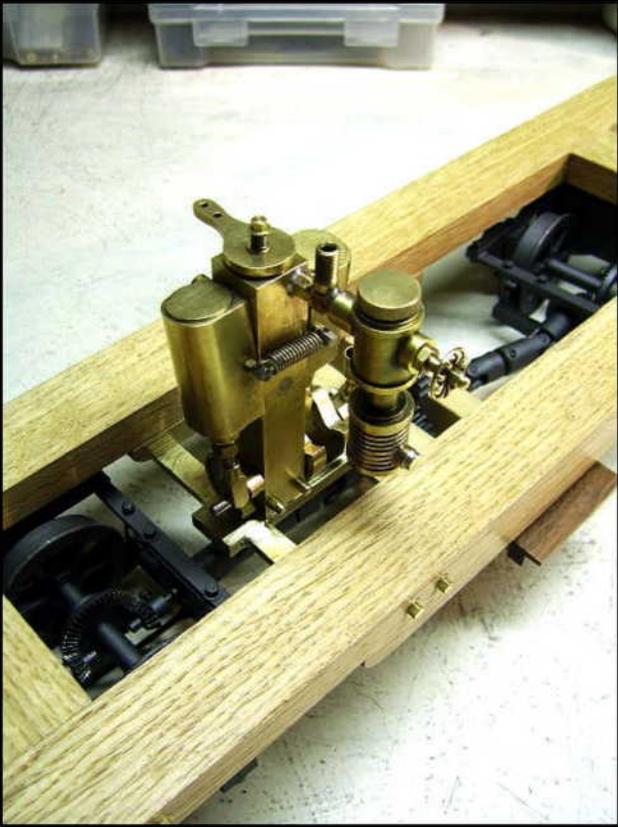
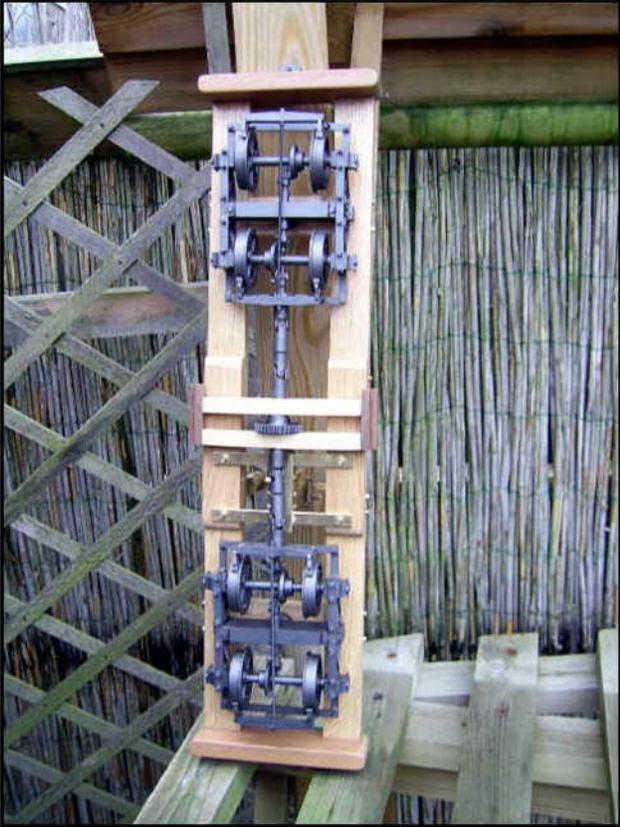
Hi Mike: The gear ratio is 1:2. I just bought the gears here:

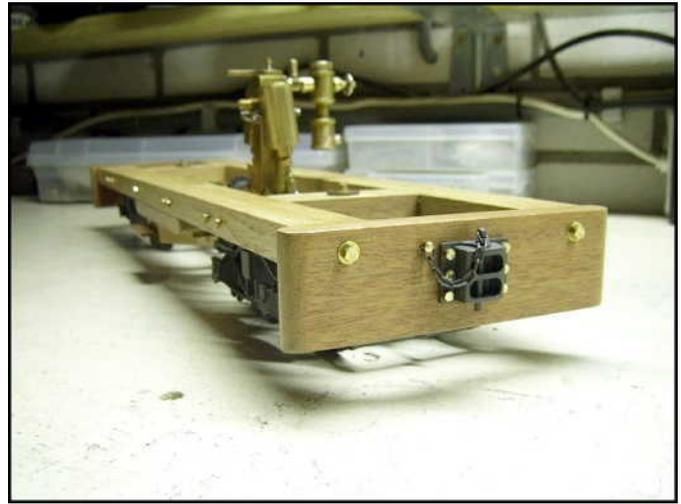
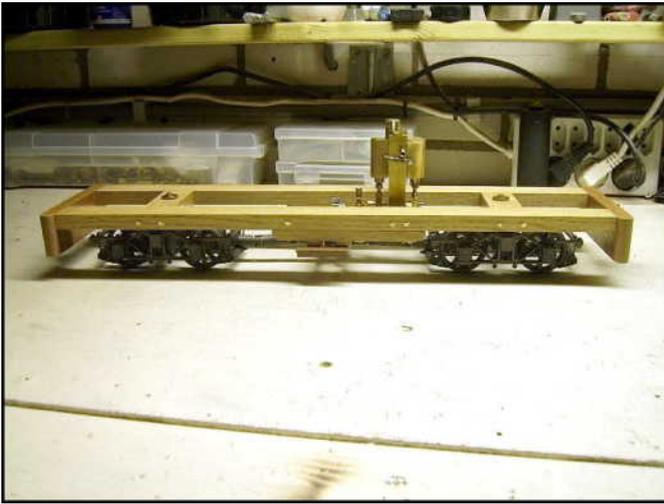
[Conrad Electronic - Bevel Gear Search Results](#)

If you can not get the gears: I would be willing to order them for you. If you have more questions about the Heisler, please email me, OK?

<http://depuffendeschoorsteen.come2m...l/contact/>

I have now placed **the machine**. Custom Regner steam engine...





(29 Dec 2012) - Update:
Hi all: Small photo upgrade - Dunkirk.



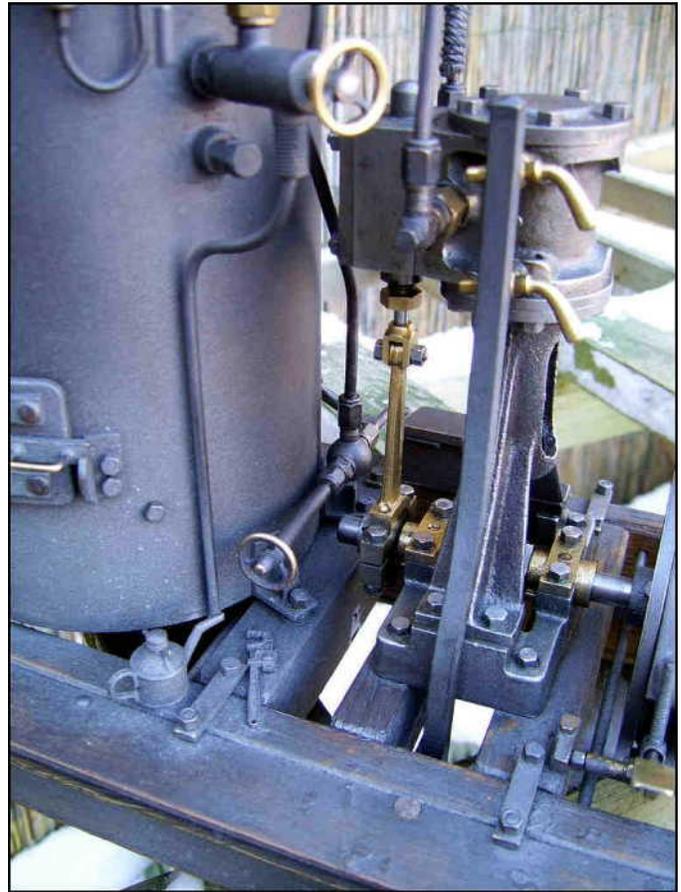


(25 Jan 2013) - Update:

Hi Steamers. I'm waiting on parts of the *Dunkirk*. Parts ordered from Regner now, this time, takes very long!

Therefore I have now improved the steam pipes of the *Dolbeer Steam Donkey*.





I also have made a condenser with a crane.

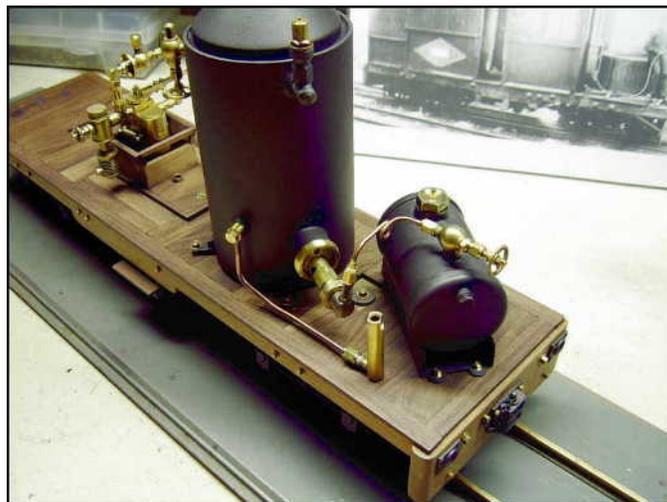
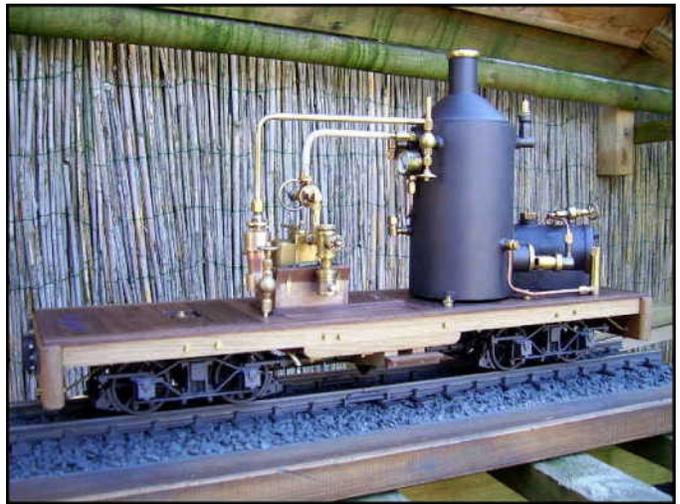
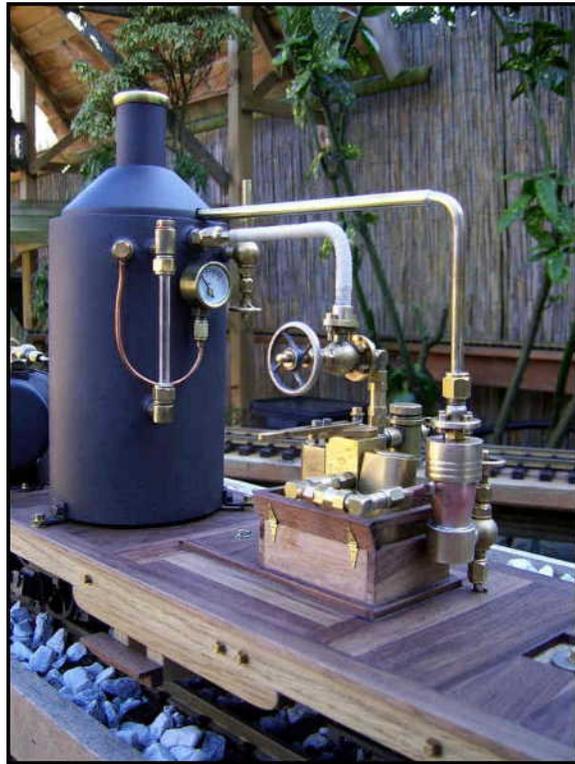
The Video.



(12 Mar 2013) - Update:

Hi steamers. (I waited *two months, for nothing*, on an order of Regner. They can not deliver many parts!?) Here is a photo-update of the Dunkirk. I had now made a boiler and more.....





I hope you liked it. **Soon I'm going to** test drive! I will make a video about the first test run! I keep you informed.



Test-run Dunkirk 'Class A'! Beautiful scale speed.....

(22 Mar 2013) - Update:

Hi steamers. **Upgrade - Nostalgic Dunkirk 'Class A.'**



Now the roof construction. If this is done, varnishes, details and more!

(27 Mar 2013) -Update:

Nostalgic Dunkirk: The roof is placed. I can now go varnishes. Then the "water tank" & details!

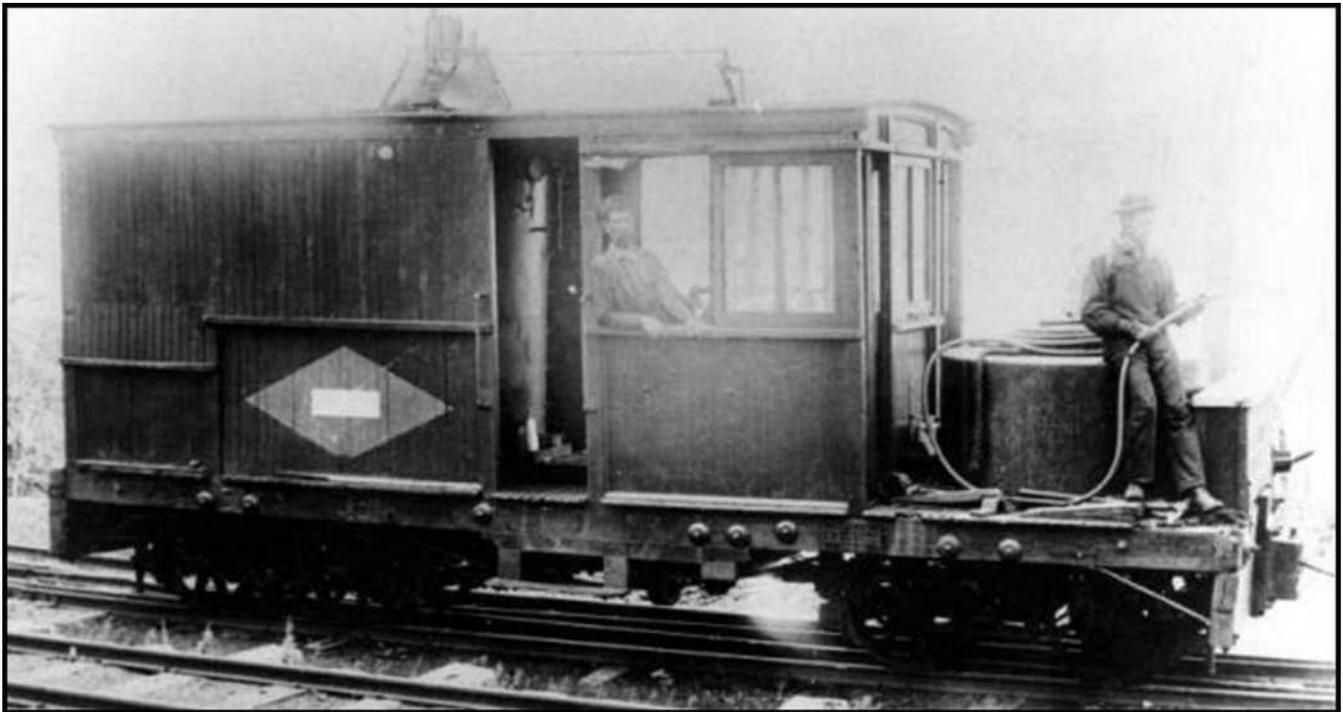


Comment Henner Meinhold:

Loek: I am curious how you will tackle the water tank. Keep the progress reports coming.

(29 Mar 2013) - Update:

Hi steamers. The Nostalgic '**Class A' Dunkirk** is ready!

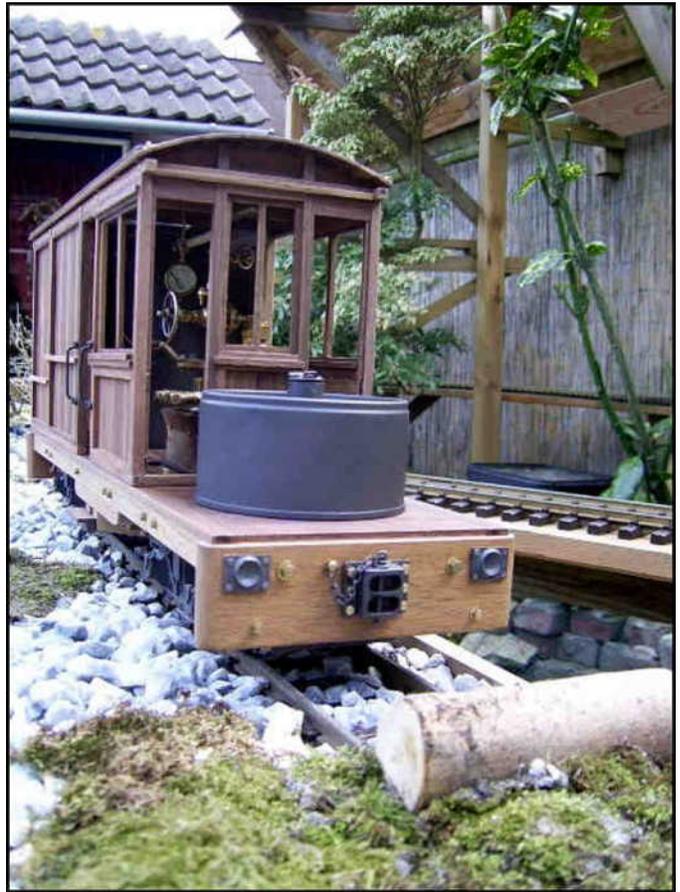




The hole in the roof is for filling/accessibility gas tank.









Soon I'm going to make wagons. I will first thinking about what kind of wagons... I hope, like me, that you liked the build report. Okay, soon I make a video(s) of the Dunkirk. Construction information of the *Live Steam Dunkirk*, in three parts:

<http://www.depuffendeschoorsteen.com/dunkirk/>

Comment Jake Smith:

I'm in awe of your craftsmanship. You are truly talented.

Comment Dave Meashey:

Loek: The locomotive is just beautiful. The water tank looks familiar to me. Is there any chance that it once held deviled ham? If so, that is a great way to recycle the can.

(29 Mar 2013) - Reply:

David, the cats have indeed eaten delicious fish!

Comment BigRedOne:

Great craftsmanship there! Thanks for all the pictures showing your progress.

Comment Jerry (MLS - Naptowneng):

That is just spectacular. I very much enjoy the sequence of photographs and will save them for, hopefully, future inspiration.

Comment Eric Schade:

Great job on this project... I love the woodwork and enjoy the natural finish. Is it walnut? What did you seal the wood with? I look forward to seeing it's train!

Comment Victor Spear:

Stunning, astounding, remarkable, extraordinary talent and craftsmanship....and superb engineering ! Priceless I believe.

(31 Mar 2013) - Reply:

Hi Eric: It is indeed walnut. The frame is made of oak wood. Painted with transparent interior water-based varnish and then sprayed with transparent - matt ! - varnish. Thanks everyone for the nice comments!

Comment Rail Planet:

Wow! Beautiful... Like Victor said, "priceless." I can't wait to see your future projects.

(01 Apr 2013) - Update:

The Dunkirk Is Alive.

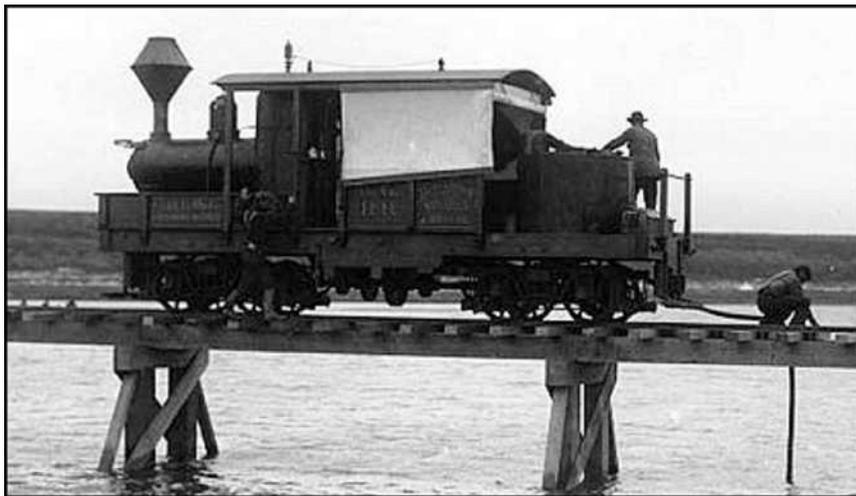




Dunkirk in action.

(24 Apr 2013) - Update:

Made some more details - Nostalgic Dunkirk Class A. So was the water refueled at this type of trains?



" Steam water pump "...



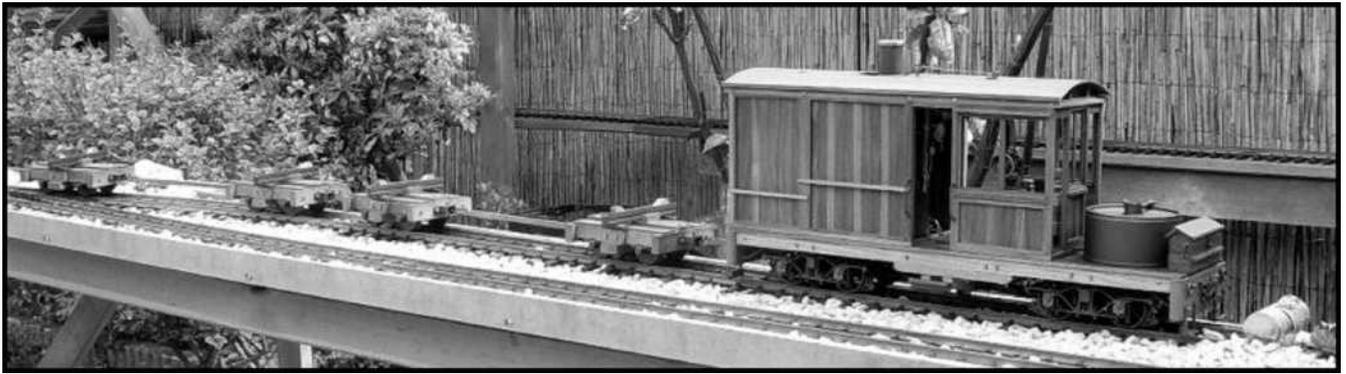


Now I'm waiting for the ordered wheels for some wagons. I would like now to drive with logging cars... See you next time!

(08 May 2013) - Update:

Hi steamers: I made some simple log cars, no brakes and springs, for the Dunkirk. Example like on the nostalgic picture below.





About for a while I'm going to make more different wagons.

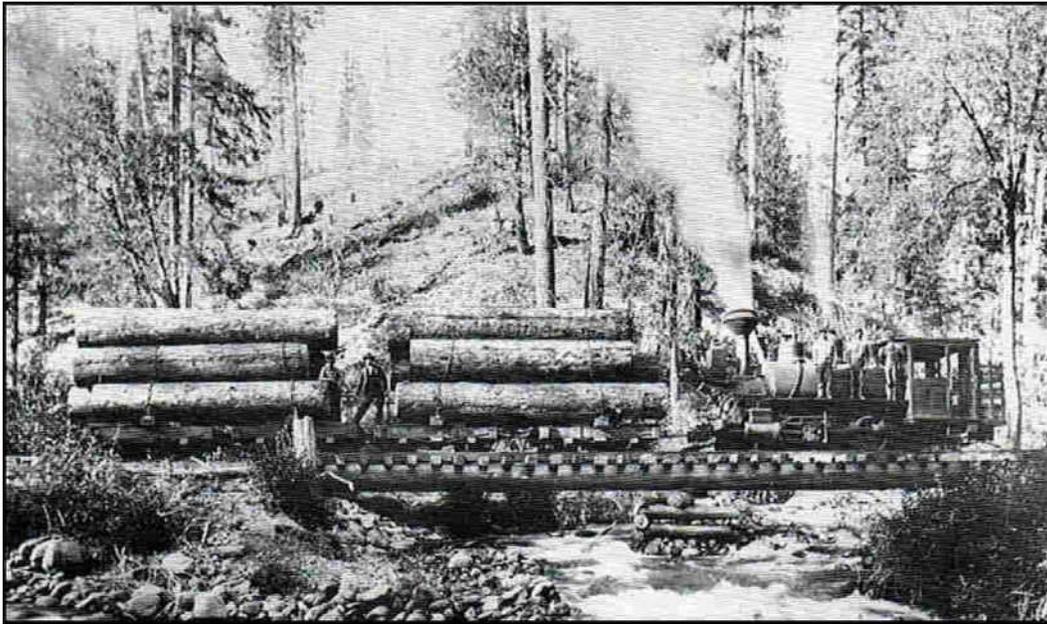
I also have some details improved - manual pressure gauge more beautiful confirmed and... the handles are now fixed with small nails.



Soon I'll make a video about the Dunkirk with the logging cars.

(16 Jun 2013) - Update:

Hi Steamers. I have added a few things again. Log car Brakes.....



.....but also a Bell.





Steam on a beautiful Sunday morning.....



As you can see - the Dunkirk remains interesting!

(17 Jun 2013) - Update:

Hi Steamers. Today added some details to my *favorite* Dunkirk! Oil lamp on the front of the water tank.



Gearbox control:



I hope you appreciate that I keep you posted through this photo report.... See you next time.

Comment Henner Meinhold:

Loek: At least I love to see your creations and all the creative little details. Please keep on posting.

Hi Steamers: *Here is the last video about the Dunkirk - end of project.* It was very windy, but no problem for the Dunkirk.

This short movie was created on the steam club track



Soon I get a Live Steam **Shay** - *Accucraft* - in my collection! I'll keep you informed!

Comment SteveC

Oh, Henner, isn't the only one that gets pleasure from seeing Loek's fine modeling. 🙌😊