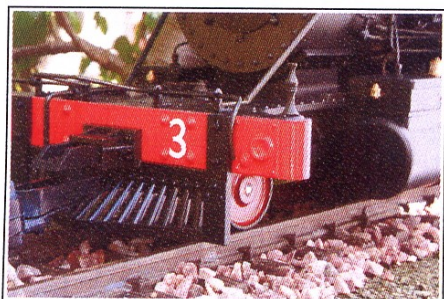


Fitting etched name and number plates the easy way



There's no need to attach your name or number plates to the engine with a semi-permanent adhesive straight away. Try this method!

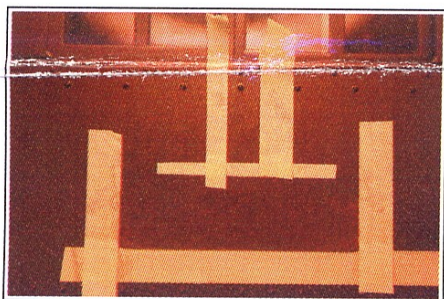
To provide the opportunity to change your mind (without damaging the paint on your valuable locomotive), use a very thin sliver of Blu-Tack to attach the plate in the chosen location. Leave it for a few days, then critically review the position. You may wish to change it.

Many modellers will be surprised to learn that Blu-Tack will also withstand the heat of a live steam garden railway locomotive.



Having decided upon the ideal positions, lay the locomotive upon its side. With an engineers' square (or a small set-square), check that your plates are correctly aligned, vertically and horizontally.

Add thin strips of masking tape immediately below each plate and also to each side. This forms a cradle which will be used to hold the plates securely whilst the adhesive sets (see later).



Remove the plates, clean their backs (cotton bud, lightly damped with lighter fluid) and also gently abrade the backs to create a 'key' for the adhesive.

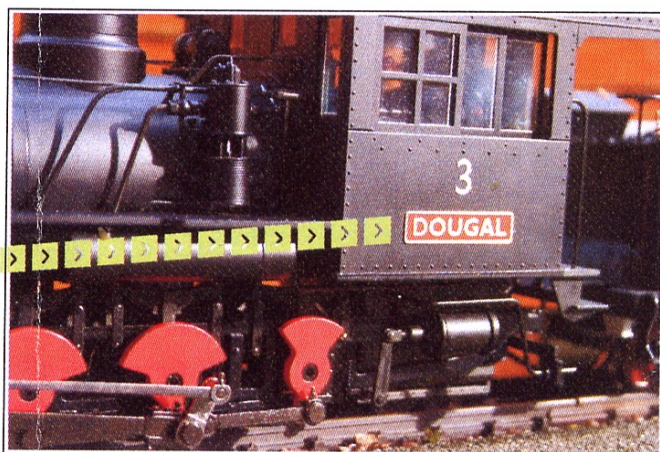
Mix the adhesive and, using a wooden cocktail stick, add a sparingly thin amount of adhesive to the middle of the plate. For numbers, just use tiny dots of the resin adhesive.

Using smooth jawed pliers (or tweezers) hold the plate about 1-2mm above the chosen location and drop it into position, allowing the masking tape to act as a guide to settle the plate. Don't press it down.



After the adhesive has set, carefully peel away the strips of masking tape. Repeat on the other side.

How's *that* for a nice neat result!



The 12mm-high numbers are from my etched sheet 230-206.
For Series I DOUGAL nameplates, order ref 231-106.

Rev 05 March 2015 TPN197f

NAMEPLATES : Alternative method for fitting using Clear Silicone Sealant.

A rather less permanent adhesive for the fitting of locomotive nameplates is Clear Silicone Bathroom Sealant. Better still, Granville Clear Silicone Sealant 0374 (supplied in a 40g tube) has an RTV grading and will withstand the working temperatures of the average garden railway steam loco.

1. Before fitting the plate, do a 'dry run' to assess its best position. You may prefer to use thin slivers of 'Blu-Tack' (see my information sheet 'Fitting etched name and number plates the easy way' as a decision-making aid, before final fitting.
2. Clean the back of the plate using a double-ended cotton bud which is *lightly damped* with lighter fluid. After cleaning has been undertaken, please do not touch the back of the plate.
3. Now follow my notes on the above-mentioned sheet and form a convenient cradle using low-tack masking tape.
4. Using a wooden cocktail stick, apply the clear silicone sealant in a THIN film on the reverse of the plate. Use a little less sealant than you *think* might be needed. Keep it away from the edges of the plate.
5. If some sealant should ooze out from beneath the plate, it can usually be removed (but only when in its UNCURED state) using a soft cloth damped with White Spirit to BSS 245.
6. Allow to set (some sealants take longer than others), then *lightly* polish the plate with a clean duster
7. Now fit a nameplate to the opposite side of the loco.
8. Please be aware that silicone sealants, once opened, have a fairly short shelf life.