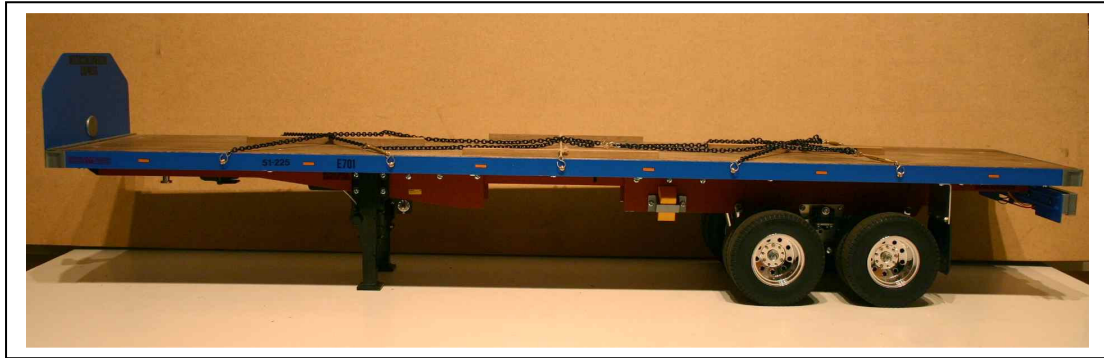
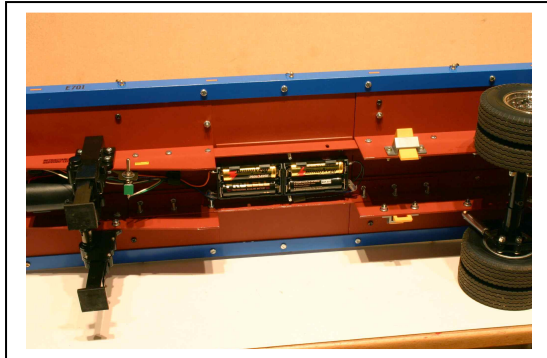


Tamiya Truck Range Flatbed Trailer #56306 Lengthening Exercise

(or how to make it longer...)



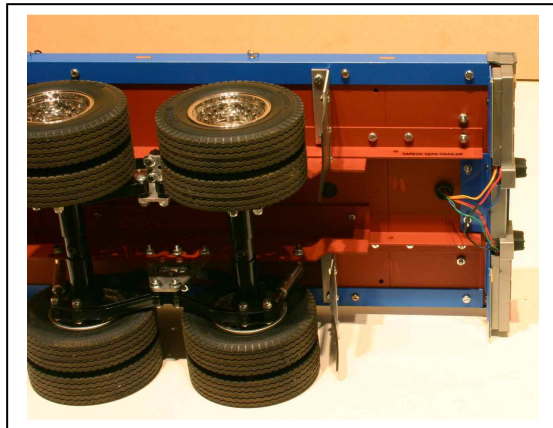
At 1/14 scale, if you measure the trailer and convert, its real world size is around 32' 6", maybe a bit over. A quick look once assembled and it seemed to me far too short, especially when coupled with the King Hauler tractor unit. I thought it should be longer, more towards a European size rather than US. Just moving bits around on the table it seemed that if I added around 5" in the middle and 3" at the tail, it would look a lot better. Quickly doing the calcs, this gave me a real world length of just under 42', just about right for a pair of standard 20' containers.



So, I chopped the chassis rails and base plate in two, about midway between the wheels and the support legs. I filled in the gap with a piece of 2mm aluminium (DIY store) and used sections of aluminium angle from the side rails (which will now be too

short) to join the chassis rails and base plates together. At the tail, I used another piece of 2mm aluminium and some more angle from the side rails. The side rails were replaced by single lengths of aluminium angle (DIY store) which were a perfect match for the originals. You'll need to re-drill the side post mounting holes though.

The rear bumper/lighting assembly is now 3" away from the back wheels, so having mud flaps that far away is no good! I bent up some more aluminium to make a couple of mounts and also took the opportunity of



changing from white (Ugh!) to black (Mmm!) flaps.



Having now got a nice long trailer – all the deck planking was too short. I could have bought some planking (How much?!) but went for a solid deck in thin ply instead. Using some old wood stain I splashed it on here and there to darken it down, added a bit of black here and there to simulate oil patches then a good coat of sanding sealer.

I carefully marked out the planks, 9mm wide, using a very fine waterproof marker, then 2 more coats of sanding sealer: hey presto, a 'planked' deck. The last thing to do was add some more deck supports as required, then I bolted the deck down using 3mm countersunk bolts so I could take it off when required, rather than use the kit supplied double sided tape.

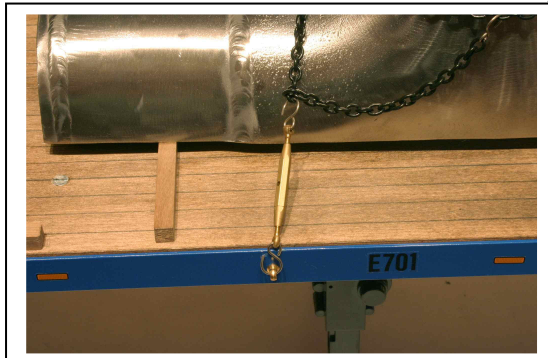
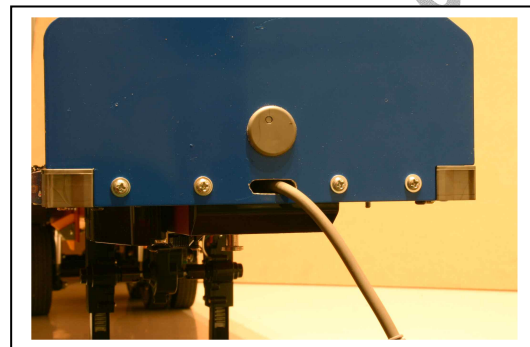


I sprayed all the underside red oxide and ended up with a not bad job, if I do say so myself!

I did wonder if I'd have to extend the trailer lighting kit at all, but no, it was fine, in fact there's miles of cable in the kit, well, not exactly miles, but quite a lot all the same! One change I made here was not to exit the cable up through the deck and out of the hole in the front bulkhead, but through the front cross

member. This also makes it easier to push all the cable back under the deck.

Having now got a nice long trailer, I had to find a suitable load, which I did, courtesy of the scrap bin at work (there are advantages to engineering after all!) The next problem was how to hold the load down. The supplied chains and side posts were no good at all, not for this load anyway. A trip to a local model shop, mostly a boats place actually, turned up some turnbuckles,



miniature eye bolts and some thin but remarkably strong stainless steel rigging eyes. I took the side posts off and fixed an eye bolt at each point. I then added a rigging eye to each end of each chain and turnbuckle, so everything ended in a hook. Now, holding a load on the trailer is no problem at all and it looks pretty much 'right' too. If I find some better looking hooks I'll change from the rigging eyes, but that's about it.

Time Tunnel Models are grateful to Michael Gardiner (very much an expert modeller and not just a kit assembler – as you can see!) for this contribution!

Got something to contribute? We'll publish it on our site for all to see, just send us an email and it's done!