

Reviving an HO Diesel (Project 24)

modeltrainsounds.com (April 2024)

In this Project we examine how to proceed with diagnosing and managing some common problems seen with older model Diesels sold new during the 70's and 80's. These include diesels from Life Like, Tyco, Bachmann and Model Power. As an example a poor performing Life Like F7 Diesel model is used here.

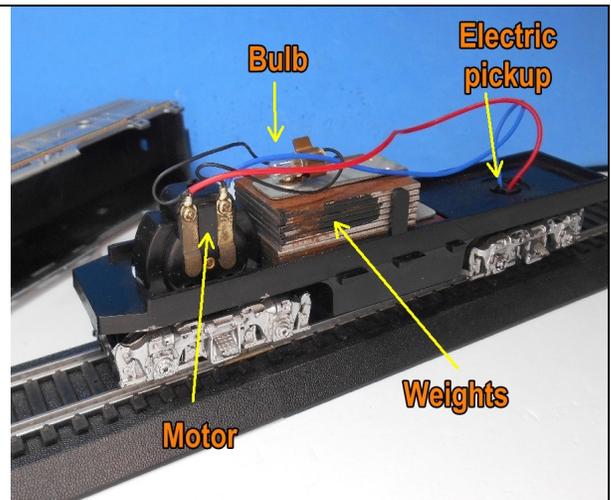
Most of the problems with poor running can be traced to the condition of the electrical conduction between the track and the motor. Causes could include

- * a bad motor
- * interruption in the wiring from the track to the motor.,
- * Dirty wheels , wheel pickup or motor commutator.
- * Broken parts including wheels, lights or the motor's gearing .

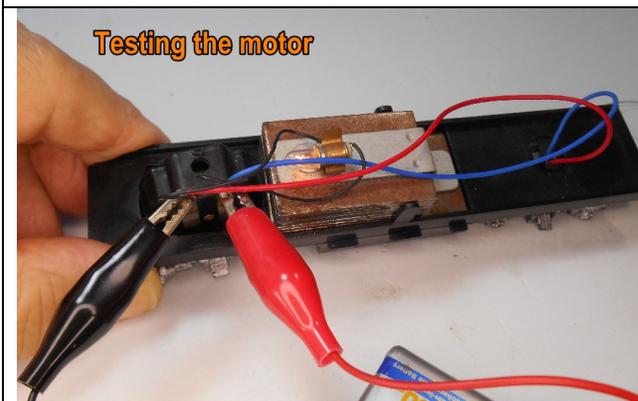
To analyze the problem and come up with a solution generally requires the removal of the model's shell followed by examination and testing of the inner workings. The YouTube Video shown here will explain this process on this Life-Like Diesel. The techniques described can be used on other models of this type.



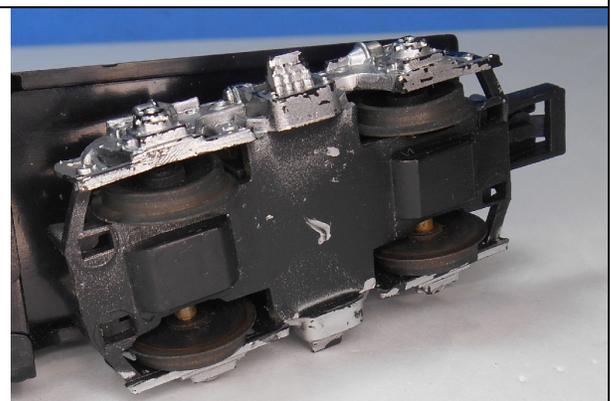
Remove the cabin from the chassis using small flat screw driver or blade



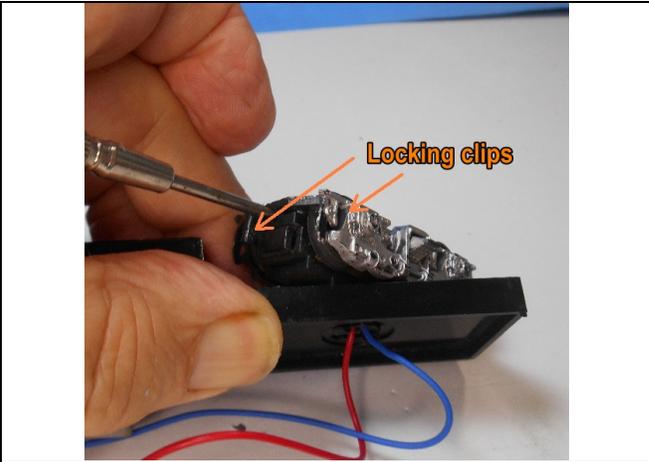
Review the internal components and wire connections



Directly test the operation of the motor via the terminals using a 9 volt battery..



Check the pickup wheels for dirt and grime which is obvious here.



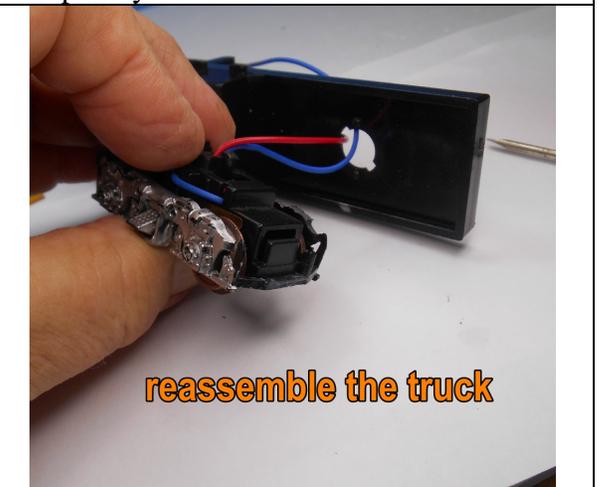
Disassemble the wheel housing to release the wheel sets.



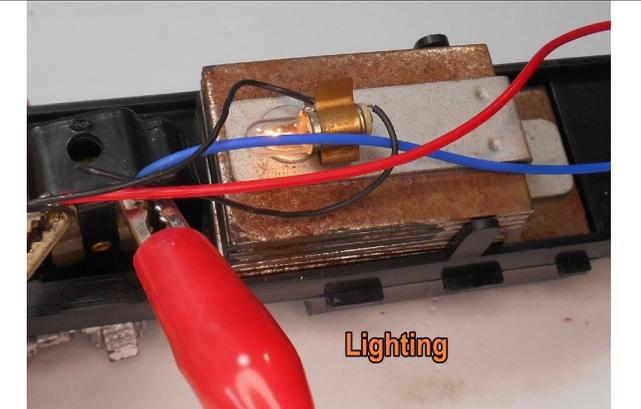
Clean the wheels after soaking in cola. Use mineral spirits and Q tips to clean completely.



Also clean the pickup wipers that contact the wheels using the same solution.



Reassemble the wheels onto the truck and reattach to the chassis.



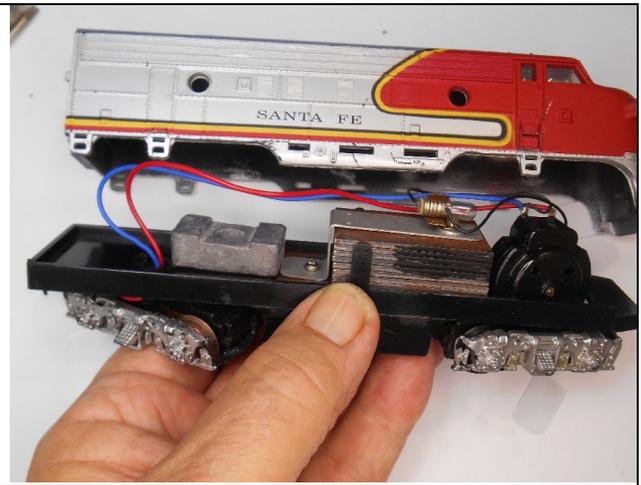
Check that the bulb lights. Replace if necessary. An LED kit is available to replace.



This one bulb lights both the cabin and the headlights.



Add a weight to the rear pickup wheels to improve track contact.



Lubricate the wheels with a drop of light oil.



Test on the track with and without a load of cars .