

Replacement splashers for Bachmann MR/LMS 4F 0-6-0s

The splashers on the Bachmann 4F are about 1.5mm diameter oversize, which of course makes them over-length as well as too low on the model. The Hornby ex-Airfix ones are even more oversize.

4Fs numbered up to and including 4011 had beaded splashers; those from 4012 onwards had plain. The etch provides both options.



- Remove boiler from cast footplate; there are screws front and back. The cab side bottoms have two tabs inserting into the footplate, and sometimes there is a little superglue holding these and the cab handrail under the roof.
- Cab slides upwards off the firebox which has a slot in it for the cab front. This cab front has two tabs projecting into the firebox sides so the two sides need easing outwards to release these tabs (this is quite scary but will be ok!), the left hand handrail needs easing out of the cab front carefully otherwise it will scratch. Once slid off, thin down these tabs as they are excessively large.
- The plastic splashers are superglued onto the mazak footplate and have two or three pins at the back corners – drill these out with a 0.8mm drill and snap off the splashers.
- The rear splasher needs carving off on the firebox side - the new splasher fits inside the position of the old one. Do this a little at a time with snippers and a sharp craft knife. Sand the firebox lower sides flat, finishing with very fine emery paper and glass fibre brush.
- Decide if you want beaded or plain rear splashers and if appropriate push out the rivet detail from behind.
- Form the splasher tops by rolling round a 10-14mm diameter object - the splashers will spring back to near the radius required.
- Cleaning all surfaces of the brass with a glass fibre brush and solder the splasher tops into the half-etched rebate in the top edge of the splashers with excess top at each end. We do this by applying liquid flux to the splasher top inner, holding the side in a hairgrip in the vice, carefully positioning the splasher top perpendicular to the side and then 'tack soldering' with a tiny amount of solder on the top edge at the middle top. Examine and if it is fitting correctly solder around the rest of the join. Cut back the excess with clippers and file to exact size - it is important that the tops are perpendicular with the sides or the splasher will not sit correctly. Clean up with a file and glass fibre brush.



- If desired, remove the Bachmann cast frame extension between the front splashers.
- Fit the splashers with superglue, 3mm from the edge of the running plate behind the cast detail strap.
- If fitting, clean up all cusps and file the replacement frame extension so that it fits perfectly between the front two splashers and is in-line with the framing by the smokebox.
- Superglue the frame in place.



- There will be slight gaps between the firebox and the rear replacement splashers. Fill these with 10 thou plasticard glued onto the firebox side. The gap around the front splashers and the smokebox wrapper will need thicker plasticard. Fill the gaps with filler. (Note – the 4F is shown below before gap filling).

