

New Haven EP-5 “Jet” Electric Locomotive Pilot Steps

The New Haven’s EP-5 “Jet” locomotives were delivered from General Electric with a pair of single steps mounted to the rear of the curved pilots at each end of the locomotive. These steps allowed a brakeman to ride on either side of the EP-5 nose during switching moves.



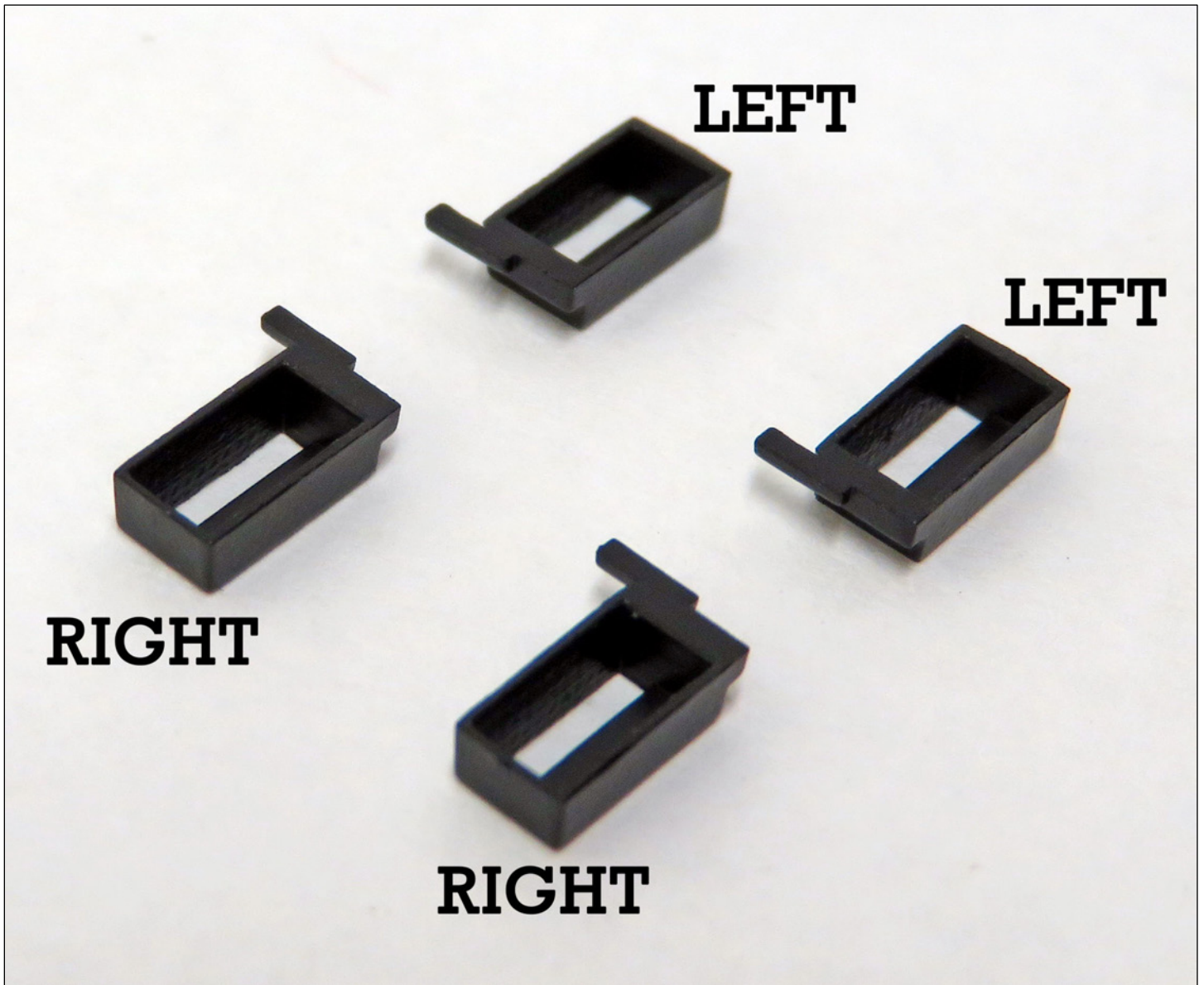
The Rapido HO scale model of the EP-5 includes these steps, but they were not installed at the factory for a very good reason; *if installed, they prevent the shell from coming off the chassis without removing the steps first.* Therefore...

DO NOT USE A PERMANENT ADHESIVE TO ATTACH THE PILOT STEPS!

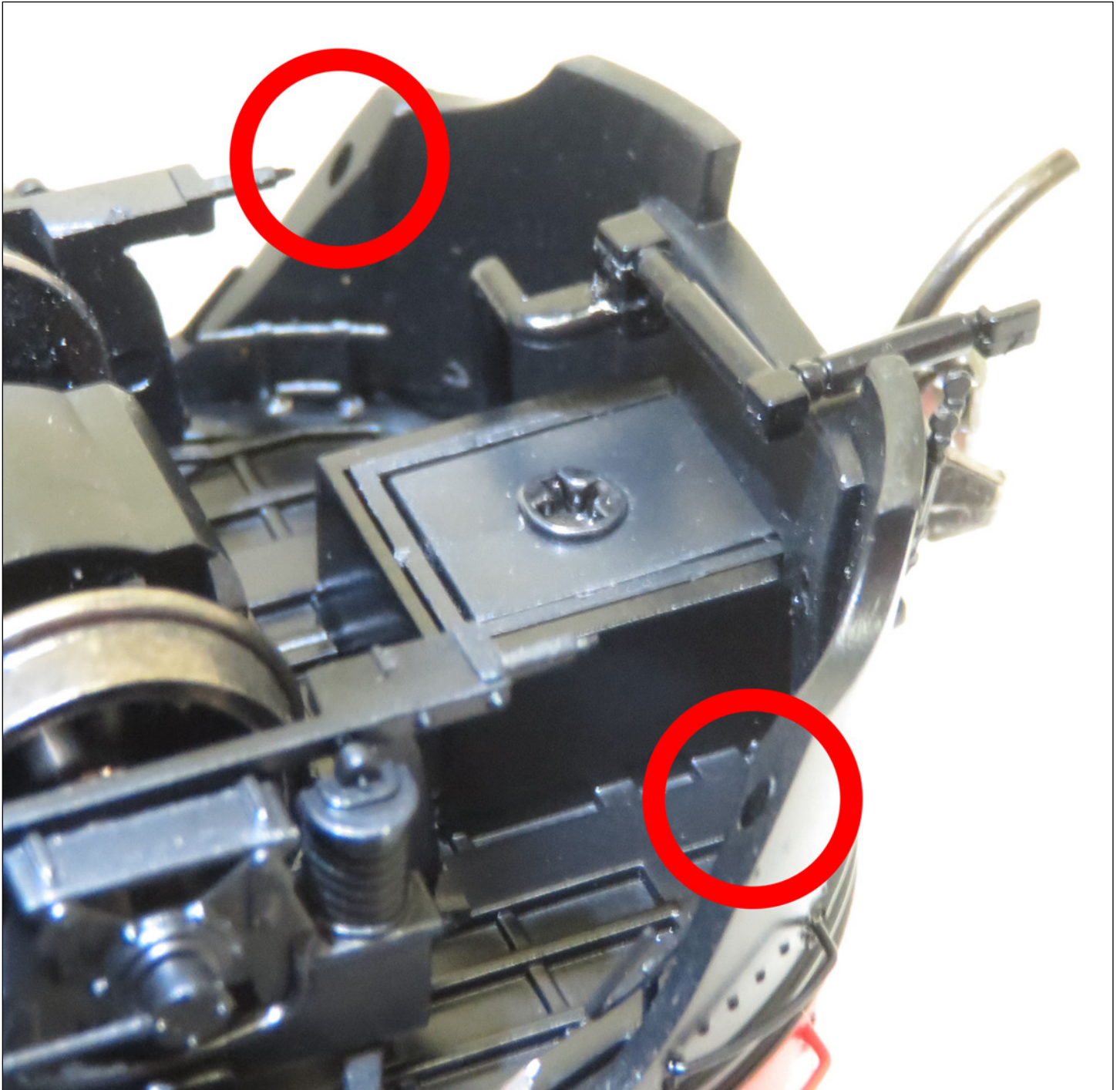
Inside the box of every Rapido EP-5, one should find a small plastic bag with four rectangular pieces of hollow black plastic in it. These pieces are the pilot steps that mount to the underside of each pilot. There are two left and two right steps: a pair for each end of the EP-5.

To install these parts, follow these instructions:

1). Find the parts in a bag in the box; you should have two lefts and two rights as seen here. The open side of the step is up in the photo.



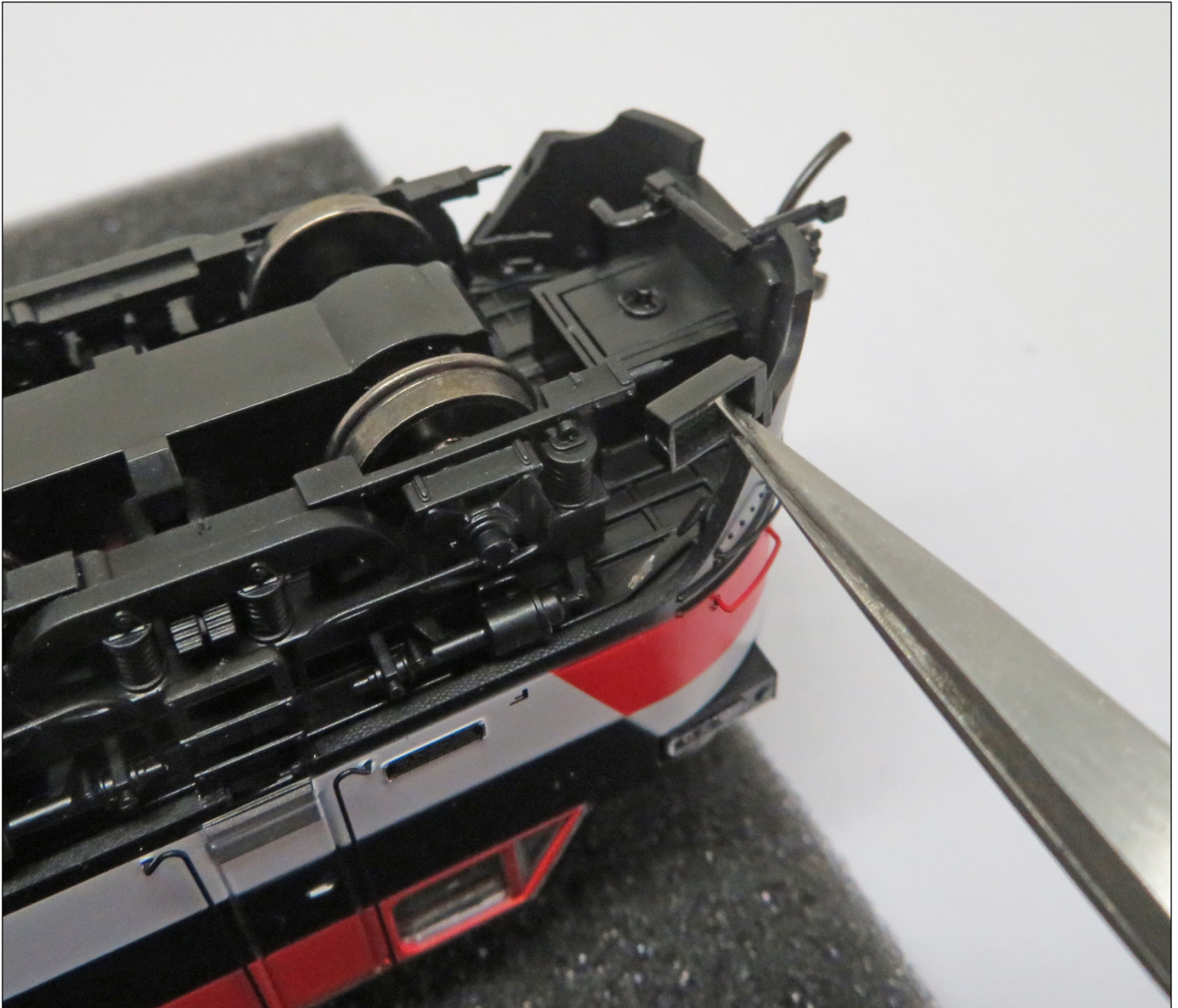
2). Carefully turn your EP-5 over on a piece of foam and look at the edges of each pilot. You should find two holes cast into the pilot's edge, shown here circled in red.



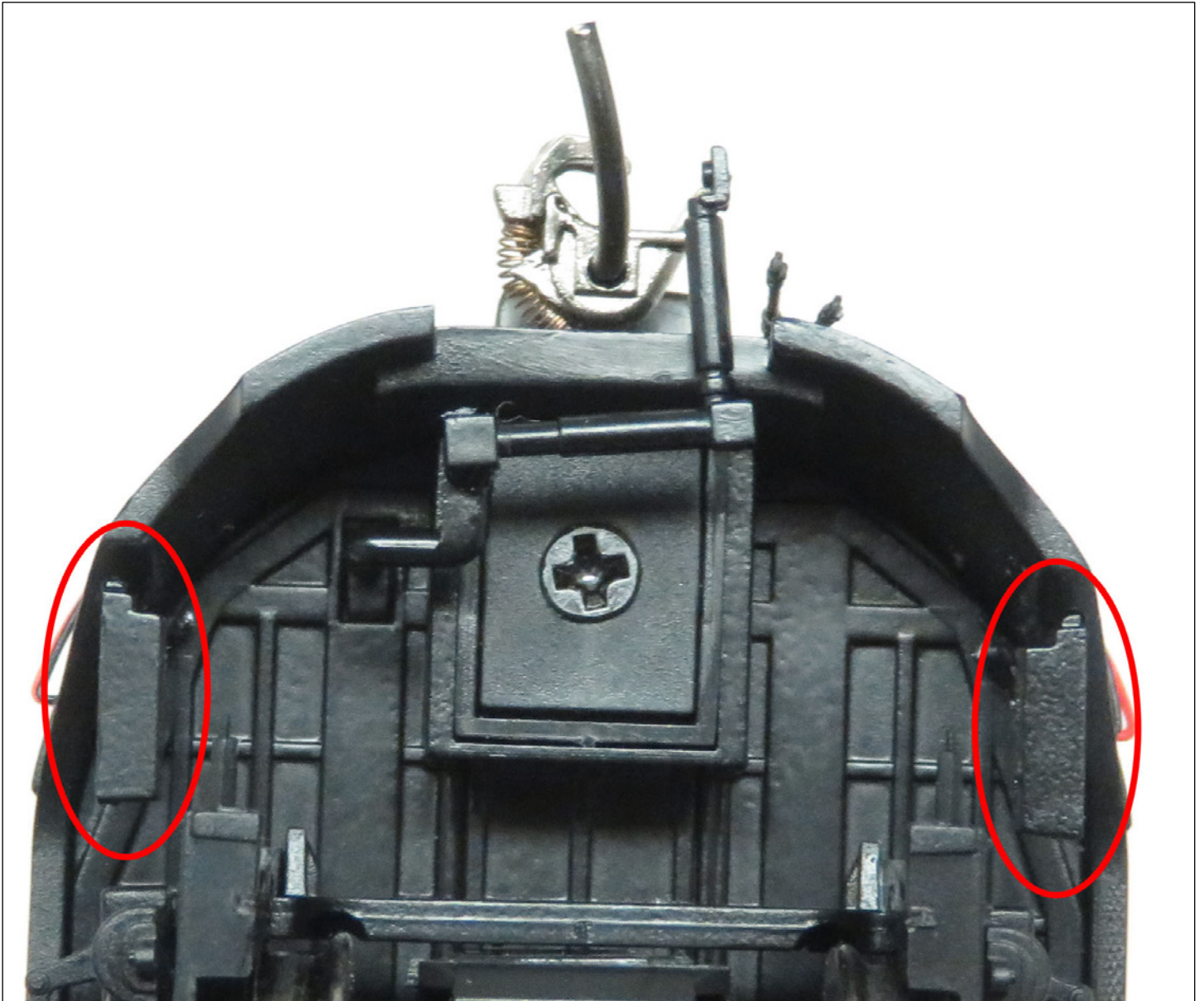
3). The steps can be identified left and right by looking at the open side of the step and the mounting peg's location. The open side of the step box should always face outward on the model and the mounting peg should be closest to the nearby coupler.

4). We recommend white glue (like Elmer's) to attach the steps to the model. You could use another kind of adhesive like Hob-E-Tac, Kristal Klear, Liquitape, etc., if it's a temporary adhesive. **DO NOT USE** Superglue, CA, or any plastic solvent cement.

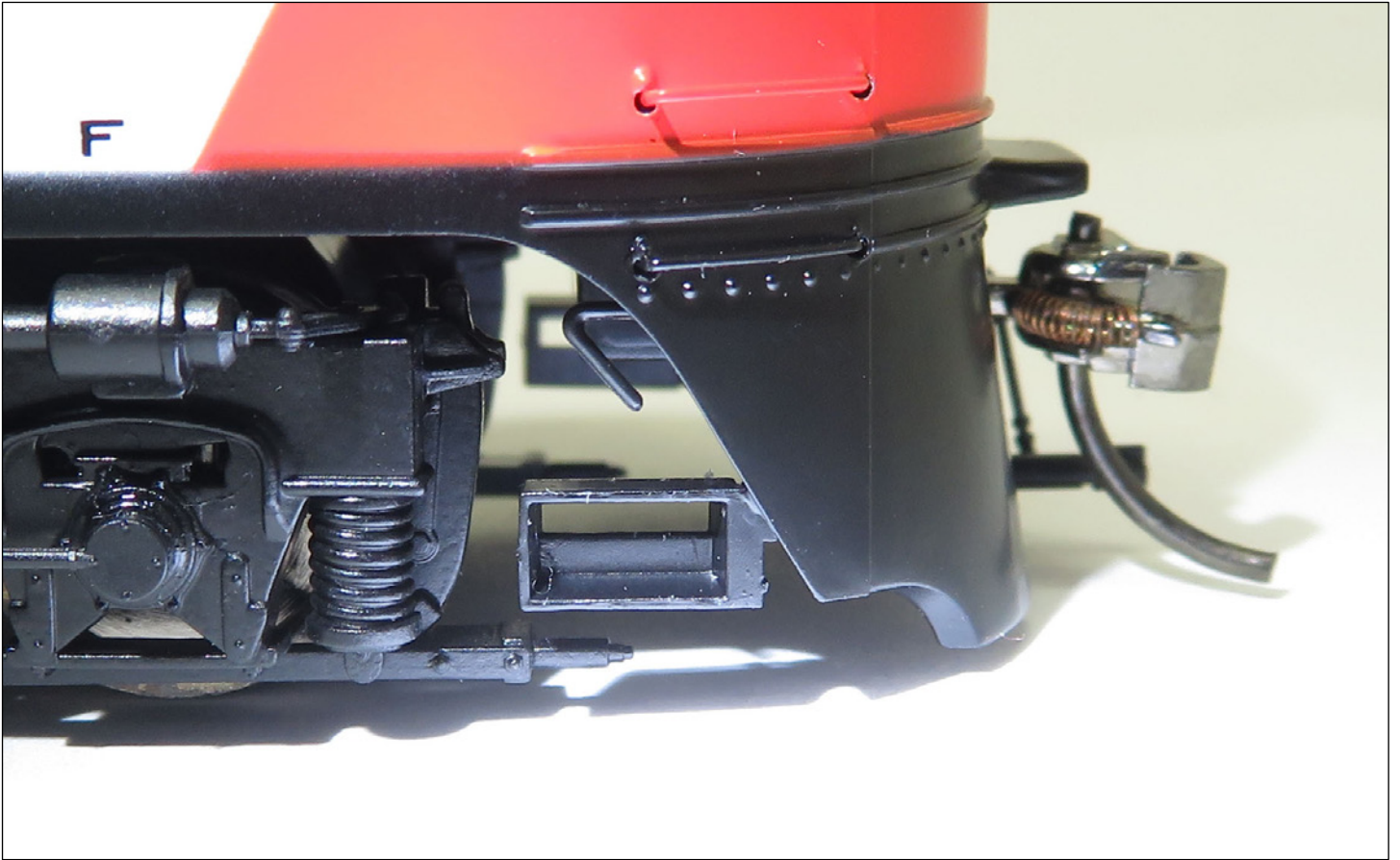
Make a little puddle of glue on a disposable surface. Use tweezers to grab the open side of a step and dip the mounting peg into the glue to get a tiny amount of adhesive on the peg. Insert the step's mounting peg into the hole on the bottom edge of the pilot as shown in the photo. Push it in all the way; it should go in easily.



5). Before the glue sets, orientate each step so it is parallel and in line with the track as seen in the red ovals in the photo. Note how the steps are now out over the chassis, which prevents the shell from being removed with the steps installed.



6). The finished installation should look like this:



7). If you need to remove the shell to gain interior access to the EP-5 after the steps have been applied, simply twist gently on each step to break the (hopefully) weak glue bond. With white glue, it won't take much force. If you used a permanent adhesive and you want to remove the shell, we're sorry but your steps are going to get broken (we did warn you!).