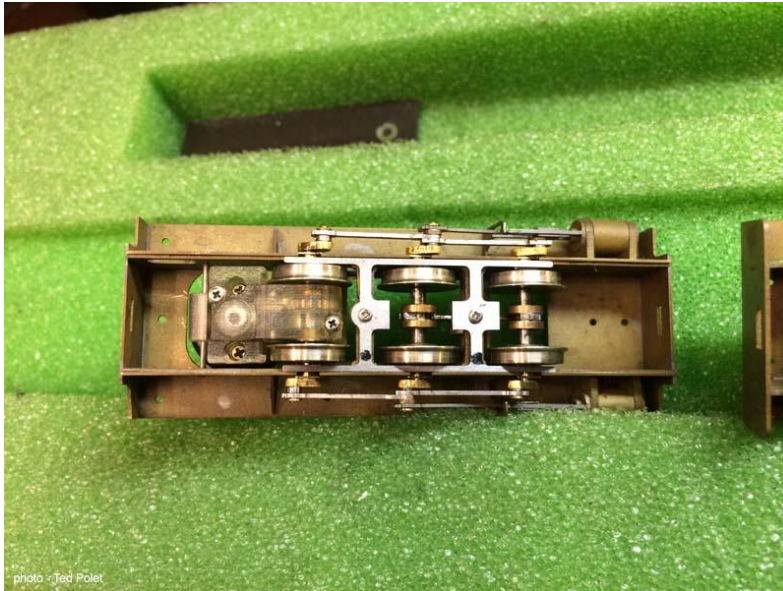


Compensation on 9 mm track (Ted Polet)

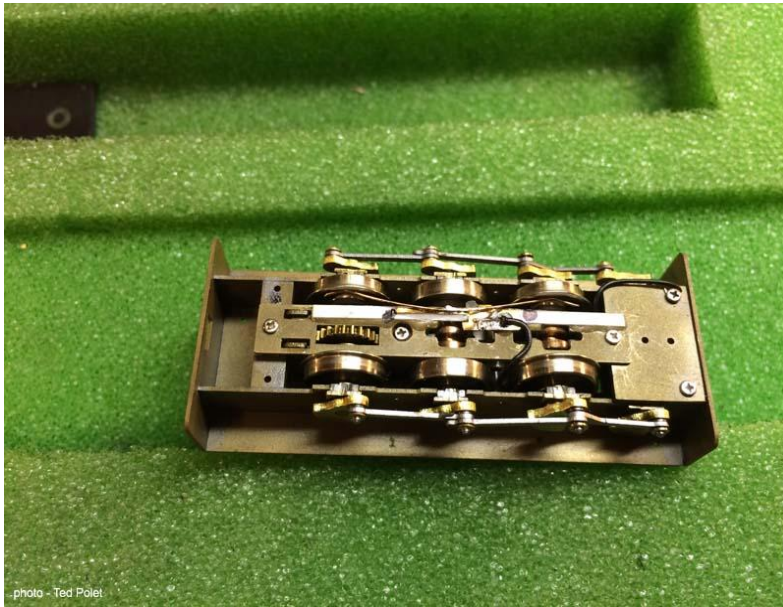
Six years ago, at the 009 Society Convention in Kegworth, I met Jeff Bissonnette, a fellow modeller from Hartford, Connecticut, USA. Jeff had been experimenting with building locomotive mechanisms on 9mm track for some time. He can cut metal sheet with a laser at work and experiments with 3D printing. His great passion is to build compensated suspension and gearboxes, regular watchmaking if you ask me. Jeff recently sent me two chassis, just for free. One is a six-wheel steam locomotive chassis, the other for a diesel locomotive with a jackshaft. Both chassis have a compensation system with a cantilever on the front two axles. Both shafts have a central bearing which the lever rests. The rear axle with the transmission is almost rigid in the frames. There are miniscule slide bearings in the frame plates, which keep the wheelsets in line - see the pictures. All I had to do was install current collectors. That turned out to be quite a job, because there was little room to do that. But after some fiddling it worked. Both chassis run like a dream.



Frame of the steam locomotive, with pickups ready for installation:



Diesel locomotive frame with pickups fitted:



I have now started the construction of the steam locomotive. For that I used an incomplete whitemetal kit by Five79, which fits on the chassis after a few adjustments.



The locomotive is already running, it now also has couplings and it runs really beautifully. Here is a video showing it at work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awe8XJZv7Tw>

Meanwhile, the locomotive is completed and painted except for a few details. I am awaiting name and number plates, which I will order from Narrow Planet. It will be named 'Caesar', to balance 'Brutus', for those who know the Classics...



Ted Polet photo



Ted Polet photo



Ted Polet photo