

N Scale Vehicle Association

"For the modeler and collector of 1:160 scale vehicles and equipment"

Easy 'N' Inexpensive
ways to
Hitch Your Ride

Model manufacturers have been releasing N scale vehicle models in which the trailer and tow vehicle are permanently connected. This “inflexible” system can be easily modified so any vehicle can tow any of the trailers.

Cut the trailer tongue from the rear bumper of the tow vehicle with a sharp hobby knife. Keep the cut as close to the bumper as possible without cutting into the bumper.

Use a small file to give the end of the trailer tongue a rounded shape.

Use a #76 drill bit to drill a hole in the end of the trailer tongue.

Bend a piece of 0.020 inch brass rod into a “J” shape, this will become your trailer hitch. (0.020 inch music wire also works well for the hitch, but don’t attempt to cut it with rail nippers as it will damage the nippers)

Use a #76 drill bit to drill a hole in the chassis of the tow vehicle, forward of the bumper. Use the “J” shaped rod as a reference for locating the hole. You will want to have 6 to 8 scale inches of clearance between the rear bumper and vertical portion of the rod that will extend beyond the rear bumper and become the “ball” of the trailer hitch.

Secure one end of the rod to the tow vehicle chassis with the model glue of your choice. Cut the vertical section of rod that extends beyond the bumper with rail nippers to form the “ball” of the trailer hitch.

Wiking models with trailers attached at the factory



Wiking Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen with boat trailers as delivered



Wiking Opel and Chevelle with travel trailers as delivered

Small needle nose pliers can be used to bend the brass rod



Brass rod bent to form a trailer hitch



Trailer hitch installed on Atlas Ford F-150

Wiking boat trailers with “new” tow vehicles



Busch Mercedes-Benz M Class with Wiking boat trailer

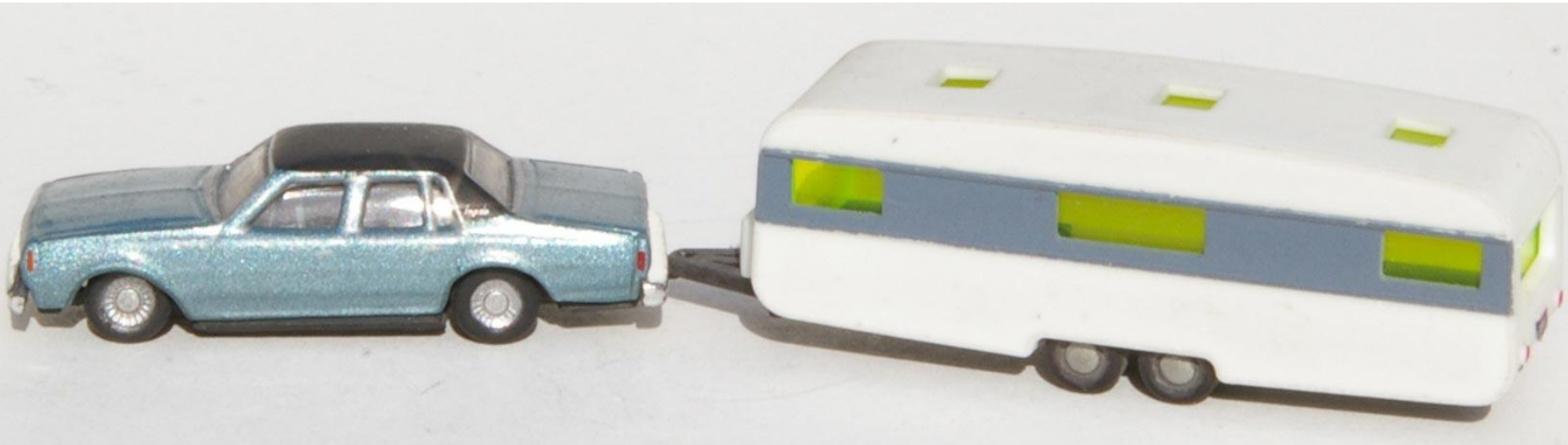


Atlas Ford Fairmont with Wiking boat trailer

Wiking travel trailers with “new” tow vehicles



Wiking Volkswagen T5 with Wiking travel trailer



Classic Metal Works Chevy Impala with Wiking travel trailer

Other trailers with tow vehicles



Atlas F-150 with Dmented tandem axle trailer and GHQ Ford Model A



Atlas Ford Explorer with Dmented single axle trailer

Another look at the installed trailer hitches



**Busch Mercedes-Benz M Class and Atlas Ford Explorer with the trailer hitches installed
(A dab of silver paint on the ML hitch makes it look more like a chrome ball.)**

Challenges

Bending the brass rod or music wire “just right” may take a little practice.

Note: The recently released Busch Mercedes-Brnz ML Class SUV and Sprinter van with boats have plastic trailer hitches. The “factory” installed hitches are rather long and fragile, but can be easily be replaced with the brass rod or steel music wire hitches. Replacing the factory hitches can considerably reduce the distance between the tow vehicle and the trailer.