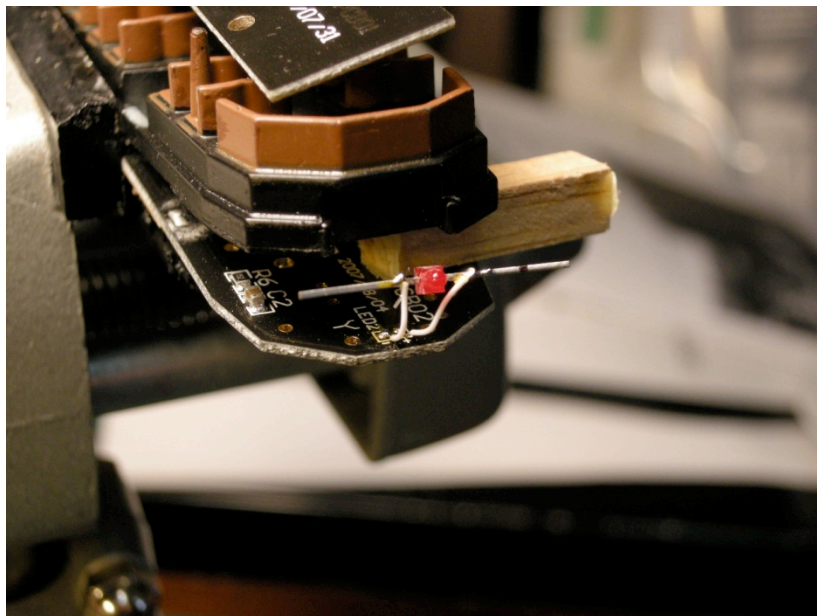


Replacing the Brake Light LED in the Bachmann Peter Witt Car.

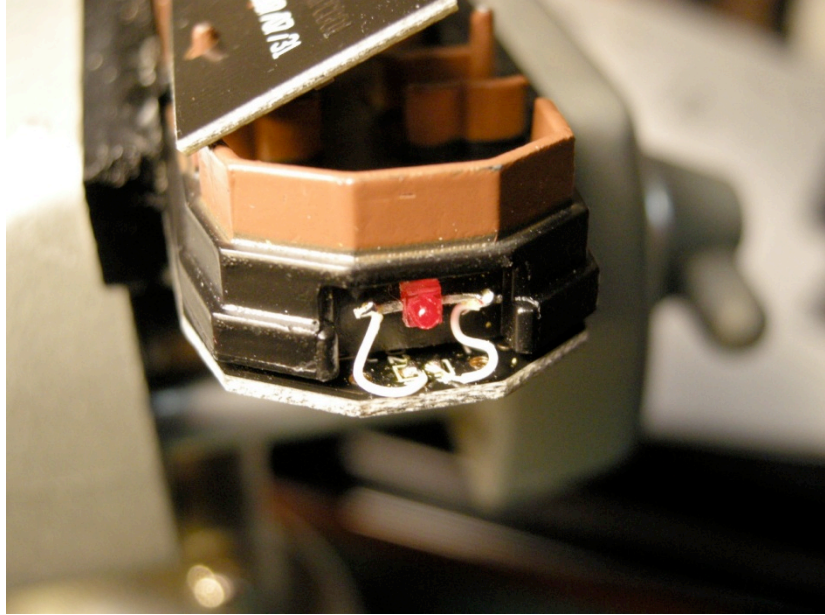
by Bill Hadley

Before I ordered a TCS M4T decoder from Custom Traxx intending to use it for the Bachmann Peter Witt, I contacted George Huckaby. He advised that it would enable the brake light but it might be very dim. At least it was on the car that he had so modified. As he warned, mine was dim to the point of being useless. I thought that replacing the tiny surface-mount LED with a larger one placed in the body taillight opening would make it much more visible.

I removed the four screws holding the PCB to the frame and a block of wood held them firmly apart. The SMT LED is soldered to two tiny pads, and removing it with a soldering iron went OK. It turned out that a sub-mini LED mounted on two 30-gauge wires would fit into the recess on the rear of the frame, rather than in the body shell itself. Two wire lengths were soldered to the pads, being careful not to bridge the two, and tugging on them to be sure the solder joint would hold. Then the LED legs were soldered to the wires, making sure it was mounted the right-way around, and tested on the track.



Then the LED legs were trimmed and the unit pushed back into the recess.



The new LED is bright enough to show through the rear body opening although the inner body should be painted black around the opening. The 30-gauge wrapping wire is stiff enough to hold the LED in position unlike the decoder hook-up wire I tried, although the LED could probably be held in place against the frame with a drop of glue.

The parts I used are shown below. Since the LED legs come out of the side rather than the back, it gave more clearance in the frame recess.

