

A friction-type draft gear assembly includes a housing (200) having an open front end and a closed rear end forming a ledge to fit into a 0.625M (24.625 inch) draft gear pocket. The front portion incorporates an integral yoke portion with a pair of key slots (224) for attachment to the coupler. A coupler follower (230) is disposed within open front end and communicates with a pair of apertures (220) during buff and draft travel. A compressible cushioning means (18) is positioned within the second end with a seating arrangement abutting an end wall thereof and is extended longitudinally toward the open front end. A friction cushioning element (42) is provided in the open front end of the housing. A spring release mechanism (76) is adapted for continuously urging the friction cushioning element outwardly from the compressible cushioning means thereby releasing such friction cushioning element after compression of such draft gear assembly.