Refer to parts breakdown diagram that comes with your Atlas S2/S4 Locomotive:
Plastic insulator #1 must be in place before installing decoder or short will occur when powering up decoder burning it out. If plastic insulator #1 is missing, order it from Atlas, or remove motor mount screw, flip motor over in chassis, and use the bottom of the motor as the top for decoder mounting. Most times plastic insulator #1 is missing.