EASILY MODELED WESTERN PACIFIC FREIGHT CARS

Flatcars, Gondolas and a Tank car

Dave Pires

WPRRHS Convention

April 17, 1999

FLAT CARS

CAR NUMBERS:	TYPE:	BUILD DATE:	BUILDER:
2161-2175	*60' Flat*	1964	St. Paul Car & Foundry

Colors: Black w/white or yellow lettering.
Some cars were repainted mineral brown in mid to late '70s.

Model: MDC 60' flat — Correct out of box except truck centers need to be moved in so they are 44' 6" apart. Find center of car and measure out 22' 3" toward each end. Glue bolster mounts in new location. Trucks: ASF A3 Ride Control Trucks (Kato).

Article and Photos: May/June 1983 Prototype Modeler.

****

1401-1410	*60' Center Beam Flat* (Now in use on Copper Basin Railway)	1977	Thrall

Color: Black w/white lettering.

Model: Front Range/Mckean (Both out of production) — Kit with oval cut outs is correct out of the box. ASF A3 Ride Control Trucks (Kato).

Article and Photos: May 1993 Railmodel Journal. Photos: WP Locomotives and Cars, Pg.85. WP Pictorial, Pg.280.

****

8801-9000	*89' 6" Flat* (Some of these cars went to KCS and are still in service.)	1980	Pullman Standard

Color: Black /white lettering.

Model: Accurail 89' TOFC Flatcar — Correct out of box. Set it up for either trailers or containers. (Note: These cars were originally built for Trailer Train and were painted yellow. TT sued so some of the cars were repainted black. I photographed 8961 re-stenciled for KCS (but still WP car number) in yellow paint in Roseville in 1997.) Kit comes with correct style container mounting brackets for WP. For correct trailer hitch refer to prototype photos.

Photos: Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue #33, Pg. 16.

1101-1124 *85' Flat* 1959 Pullman
1701-1725 Some cars set up for trailers; some for 20', 35', and 40' containers. (Some of these cars are still on UP roster.)

Colors: Black with yellow or white lettering.

Model: Walthers 89' Channel Side Flat F89F
Shorten the car by 4'. This will give the correct length and truck centers. Remove lip or flange that runs along the bottom of the car side. Add drop in car side using .020"x.040" strip of styrene approximately 51' long, centered on bottom of car side. Shape the ends of this strip with a hobby knife and sandpaper. Some cars have the brake lever on a stand and some have it mounted at deck level on the car side (Refer to photos of car you're modeling). Add car body stiffeners on opposite ends of the car, "kitty corner"from each other, using .010"x.020" strips of styrene. If you're modeling a car that will carry containers, use the container brackets from an Accurail 89' TOFC car. If modeling a car that will carry trailers check photo for type of trailer hitch. Details West makes several different trailer hitches (Style 1, ACF, PS) if you have a good photo you're modeling from just try to match the prototype. If modeling a car carrying trailers, add short or long bridge plates depending on what's correct for the car you're modeling. Trucks: ASF A-3 Ride Control (Kato).

Photo: WP Pictorial, Pg. 279. (For further information on 85' and 89' piggyback flats and modeling them, see the August and September 1995 issues Railroad Model Craftsman.)

****

1451-1490 *66' Bulkhead Flat* 1978 Thrall

Colors: Blk w/white lettering.

Model: MDC Bulkhead Flat Model is 5' too short between the bulkheads (ie: it's 56' and should be 61'). Deck should be flush to sides and not overhang. Trucks: ASF A-3 Ride Control (Kato). 36" wheels.

Photos: WP Pictorial , Pg. 280. Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue#33, Pg. 4.

****

1852-1853 (A&B articulated) *50' Flat cars* /and Nov-Dec 1942 Mt. Vernon
1866-1870 (A&B articulated) *2-50' Flats semi-permanently coupled together.* Carried Containers. Converted in 1950's.
13001-13025 (A&B articulated)
2401-2699 (50' Flats)
13201-13217 (50' flats-renumbered from 2401-2699 series).

Color: Black w/yellow or white lettering. Some cars repainted Mineral Brown.

Model: Red Caboose 42' Flat w/fish belly side sill Cut and splice 2 cars together to make a 50' car. The number of stake pockets will be incorrect. Drill out holes for stake pockets to .020" then plug holes with .020" round Evergreen or Plastruct styrene. Correct number of stake pockets per side is 15. Cut nubs off the back of the stake pockets and space them 4 ½ deck boards apart when mounting. If modeling the cars which were semi-permanently coupled together add container mounting brackets to the decks using brackets from Accurail 89 ' TOFC flat. Trucks: Barber S-2 (Kato).

Photos: WP Locomotives and Cars, Pg.126.

****

2851-2925 *50' Bulkhead Flats* Converted in 1950's by WP Mt. Vernon
(Most cars had 48' 6"between bulkheads. Cars used in wallboard service.)

Color: Black w/yellow or white lettering.

Model: See conversion of Red Caboose 42' Flat above. Scratch-build single bulkhead first and then use it to build a jig if you're planning on building more than 1 or 2 cars. Height of the bulkhead from the deck of the car is 6' 7" for the 50' cars. (WP also stretched some 50' cars to 56' and added 8' 6" bulkheads but some of these cars are different in that the decks overhung the sides and bottom of car side had a flange sticking out-refer to prototype photos.) Some of these homemade bulkheads were made out of heavier/larger-sized "I" beams than others. Bulkheads constructed out of heavier steel used 3 diagonal supports on the ends to brace bulkhead, and those made out of lighter steel used 6 braces. Trucks: Barber S-2(Kato).

Photos: Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue#33, Pg. 6.

****

2231-2250 *53' 6" Flat* 1953 WPRR
(Converted from 50' cars in 1978.)
1926-1941
(Converted from 50' cars to carry 1- 40' trailer.)

Color: Black w/yellow or white lettering.

Model: Life-Like AAR Standard 50 ton Flat Model is a riveted car while prototype is welded. Sand off rivets. Add lip to bottom of side using Evergreen styrene strip, HO scale 1x4. Car is now correct except it has the wrong number of stake pockets being 2 short on each side. The amount of trouble to change this is too much in my opinion since this car has the stake pockets cast on. (Since the deck of this model car is cast separately it can be easily bashed into a 50' or 56' which would be correct for WP if the rivets are removed and the flange added to the bottom of car side.)

Photos: Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue#33, Pg. 4. (While the WP Pictorial doesn't have any photos of these cars, it does have photos of 50' cars that could be bashed from this kit, Pg. 280-281.)

****

1601-1602 *Heavy Duty Depressed Center Flat* 1974 Maxon Corp.
(1601 still on UP roster.)

Color: Black w/white lettering.

Model: Walthers Depressed Center Flat WP purchased these cars to carry transformers from *North American Transformer* in Milpitas, California to their destinations. The model appears to be of a higher capacity car than the WP prototype which was rated at 150 tons, and there are some physical differences, but the model is close enough to do it up so it comes out reasonably accurate. The depressed portion of the main car body has a steel deck while the raised portions (ends) are covered with wood. The brake platforms have a tread pattern on their surface. I super detailed the brake equipment on the platforms using Detail Associates AB Brake set and I formed the brackets to hold the parts out of thin sheet brass cut with a #11 Xacto blade. (Use a steel rule, make sure the blade is a new one and keep scribing until you cut through.) I used different diameter brass rods from Detail Associates to make the air brake piping attaching the pieces of brake equipment and running along the side of the car. Walthers makes a transformer you could put on this car as a load.

Photos: WP Pictorial, Pg. 370.

****
****

GONDOLAS

9101-9400 *GS Gon* 1953 General American Transportation

Sac North
4001-4020 (Built 1957)

Colors: Black w/ yellow or white lettering.

Model: Detail Associates GS Gon Correct out of box. Trucks: ASF A3 Ride Control (Kato).

Photos: WP car: WP Pictorial, Pg. 283. SN car: WP Pictorial, Pg.143.

****

5001-5070 *Woodchip Gon* 1953 GATC
(Converted from cars
9101-9400)

Colors: Black with green lettering on gondola extension and yellow or white on car body. Some of these cars were later converted to alfalfa service and had a sprayed on foam insulation applied to upper portion of the car to prevent the product from freezing. If modeling 1 of these cars the upper portion should be painted white.

Model: Detail Associates GS Gon. Scratch build upper portion of the car using wood or styrene. Trucks: ASF A-3 Ride Control (Kato).

Photos: Western Pacific Locomotives and Cars, Pg.126. WP Pictorial, Pg. 282. Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue 33, Pg. 12.

****

6501-6600 *52' 6" Mill Gon* 1945 Mt. Vernon

Color: Black w/ yellow or white lettering.

Model: Life- Like 52' 6" Mill Gon with drop ends Correct out of box. Trucks: Delivered with National B1. (Eastern Car Works).

Photo: Headlight, Winter 95/96, Pg. 2, Model Railroading, Jan '89, Pg. 24, WP Pictorial, Pg. 284.

****

6051-6060 *Covered 52' 6" Gon* 1945 Mt. Vernon

Colors: Black w/ yellow or white lettering. Orange feather (Decal from Champ WP Boxcar set)

Model: Life-Like 52-6" Mill Gon. Splice 2 Athearn Covered Gondola Covers together. Cover is a model of a 3 section cover which is correct for WP, but it's too short. Make a cut along 1 of the section dividers. Take a 2nd cover and cut off a piece 21' long. When these 2 pieces are spliced together they will give you the new cover. Remove section dividers carefully with hobby knife. Remove a spare roof stiffener or diagonal from 1 of the extra pieces as you'll need it to fill in a gap. Splice both roof pieces together. Using styrene fabricate new sectional dividers. I fabricated the "lift rings" for each section from brass strips. I pieced together the roof walk from 2- 40' box car cut to length. Cover is not an exact copy of prototype but it's the easiest way to make a cover that is very close. Trucks: Delivered with National B1's.

Photo: WP Pictorial, Pg. 283.

****

9001-9050 *65' 6" Mill Gon w/ Drop Ends* 1949 Greenville Steel
(At time of Merger 40 were still in service.)
6061-6062 (renumbered) got covers later in their careers.

Color: Black (original) w/Silver (original), yellow or white lettering, some cars repainted Mineral Brown w/White lettering.

Model: Eastern Car Works AAR Mill Gondola Correct except lower the car by cutting or filing down the bolster to height of center sill. ASF A3 Rid e Control (Kato).

Article and prototype photos: Headlight, Issue #5, Pg. 26. Photo: Freight Cars Journal/FRRS, Issue #33, Pg. 16.

****

9051-9065 *65' 8" Mill Gon w/ Drop Ends* 1970 Maxon

Color: Black or Mineral Brown w/ yellow or white lettering.

Model: Walthers 65' Mill Gon Correct dimensions except you need to straighten out bottom of car side (eliminate tapered sill). Cut away angled portion of sill. Use Evergreen .040"x.060" styrene to fill in gap and form straight sill. Then glue a piece of Evergreen HO 1x3 to bottom of the styrene pieces you just added to form a small extension that hangs down at the four ends of the car. Change the spacing of the ribs by removing the last 3 ribs on each end of each side of the car. Remove cast on details while you're at it. Replace these ribs with .040" by .060" styrene. The third rib in goes in the exact location as the one that was removed, then the last 2 ribs are spaced further apart. Trucks: ASF A-3 Ride Control (Kato)

Photos: Unfortunately, I know of no published photos of these cars in any of the literature. I've written an full article on how to model these cars and I have photos collected from various sources and maybe the Headlight will publish these photos and the article in a future issue.

****
****

TANK CARS

1201-1250 *12,500 Gallon Tank Car* 1929 GATC
In 1953 all 50 cars were placed in MW service. In 1966 47 of the cars were still in use. 34 were still in service in 1978.

Colors: Black w/white(delivery scheme) or re-lettered in silver or yellow. Cars with white dome were used in water service; cars with a yellow dome were used in fuel or fuel oil service. Blue dome used in waste oil service.

Model: Athearn 40' single dome tank car Sand away double row of rivets on each side of the dome. These are not necessary since they represent a car with 3 compartments. The dome is too short (should be 24" high) so remove it and replace it with a Detail Associates dome. Remove and replace handrail brackets with ones from Tichy or Precision Scale. When mounted these brackets should slant upward. Remove cast on brake set and replace with an after market AB Brake set such as the one from Detail Associates. Remove 2 of the 3 discharge pipes from bottom of car. Trucks: Symington Side Frame Trucks (delivered with), but I've seen photos with ASF Ride Control Trucks and in later shots, Roller Bearing trucks on these cars.

Articles and Photos: Headlight, Spring '90, Pg. 27. Photos: WP Pictorial, Pg. 256 and 260.

****

Decals needed for these projects are generally not listed because lettering color and even style varied greatly on the WP. For these cars I primarily used Microscale lettering sheets. The lettering type most often used for WP is, " RR Gothic". Data for cars is taken from different data sheets.

For information on Friction and Roller Bearing truck prototypes and models, see the Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., 1993 and Jan., 1994 issues of Mainline Modeler.