Western Pacific RR Modeling Notes

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These notes are for HO models that may represent the Western Pacific Railroad rolling stock. Some may need modifications and changes to correctly reflect the prototype railroad car for the WP. Others may represent the WP cars without much modifications at all. Some do not represent the prototype at all and would need to be checked using drawings, photos and help from other modelers.

Models and model numbers, **do not** reflect all the WP models that have been manufactured over the years, these are just a few that I make note of. There are several model manufactures that have produced WP models. Brass Models are not covered in these notes at this time.

You can find a listing of HO rolling stock by model manufactures at:
https://www.wplives.org/wphistory_modeling_ho.html

There is another document on the FRRS website, ***Guide to 1950's WP Freight Cars***.
This document has been provided by Garth Groff with revisions from R.J. Dial and Kerry Cochran (revised in 2019 and 2021) and provides a wealth of information on WP freight cars. It can be found at:
https://www.wplives.org/modeling_material/GUIDE_TO_1950S_WP_FREIGHT_CARS.pdf?1610648646829

The *Headlight* # 2 Winter 1990 a joint issue with *Freight Cars Journal* is a great resource.
(Freight Cars Journal # 33)

Several of the Feather River Rail Society/Western Pacific Railroad Museum "The Headlight" magazine have good articles on modeling various Western Pacific equipment.

Look for the Headlight index at:
https://wplives.org/wphistory_headlights.html

Other books that will be of great help:

- John Ryczkowski, Dan Crews and Peter Miller - *Western Pacific Pictorial*
- Jim Eager – *Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment*
- Patrick Dorin – *WP Locomotives and Cars* Vol 1 and 2
- Many other WP books that have been published.

Besides the above-mentioned books, there are several photo CD's available from Peter F. Arnold. These photos shows WP Locomotives, Boxcars, Covered Hoppers, Gondolas, Flat Cars, Hoppers, Cabooses and MOW Equipment.

Jerry Quinn has a collection of WP and Sacramento Northern photos on CD.

C.G. Heimerdinger has a collection of WP equipment covering the end of the steam and early diesels.

HO Models

Accurail

40' wood side Z braced boxcar with wood ends WP paint scheme # 4001
AAR 40 boxcar # 3224

Accurate Finishing (Front Range) (out of business)

(Hard to find, Front Range and Accurate Finishing out of business, check eBay)
Painted covered hopper (Gypsum service)
Kit numbers

112-1045	Single Car
112-1046	Two Car pack

Athearn

50' Double Door, outside braced boxcar WP # 5077

50' PS-1 double door auto cars is a close representation of the WP cars
Side sill will need some work to make it look like the prototype.
There is an article in the *Prototype Modeler* August-September 1985 issue starting on page 29 by John Ryczkowski.

#92261 40' Express Boxcar

Genesis WP 60' Berwick Car.
Ken Edmier did an article on this car in the *Model Railroading*, May 2003 issue starting on page 30 (*Freight Cars Journal* had some photos of this car).

Tank Cars
Athearn # 1570 tank car is a good starting point for a WP tank car.
Needs dome and other detail work on the car.

In their Genesis line, they did their Pullman 60' double door boxcar in a few different WP paint schemes. This model is accurate for some WP auto-parts cars. The Berwick 60' car is also correct for WP and was also used in auto parts service

Both GP7 and GP9s have been done in WP, both silver & orange, and green. Sacramento Northern 711 and 712 are due in 2021.

Bay window cabooses #481-486 were done in the Genesis line, very nice models.

Blue box and RTR 50 exterior post (outside braced) car is actually based on an SP car. The former MDC car is a better representation of the WP car.

RTR version FMC 4700cf covered hopper is an improved model of the MDC car. It's a good representation of the WP prototype that was used primarily in bulk gypsum powder loading out of Gerlach/Empire.

ATH6462 Outside Braced Ballast Hopper

Atlas

EMD GP7 w/Dynamic Brakes for WP/SN (Limited Run?)
PS-2 Covered Hopper # 1820 in WP road number 11301 or 11312

Alco S-2 and S-4 Switchers

# 8700	S-2 Undecorated
# 8711	S-2 WP # 552
# 8712	S-2 WP # 553
#8750	S-4 Undecorated

U23B in Perlman scheme Road # 2258 and 2260

Their GP7 is an earlier phase than the WP ones. They have a smaller (36") dynamic brake fan than the 48" fan on the prototypes and no vent openings on the skirting above the fuel tank.

Atlas also did some FMC double door exterior-post boxcars over the last few years, both centered opening (the WP prototype) and offset (many prototypes, lots of shortlines). They're probably a little nicer than the Athearn (originally MDC) cars. One thing with the Atlas model of the WP car. It is modeled after cars that were modified by UP at some point after they acquired the WP. The UP replaced the original Youngstown doors with Superior doors, which were painted a lighter shade of brown, which is readily noticeable on both the prototype and the model.

Bowser

41538 100 Ton Hopper Rotary End

Broadway Limited

SW1500 WP 1503

C&BT Shops (out of business, try eBay)
3 different WP paint schemes 40’ 10 panel boxcar with 7’ doors
Kit numbers:
HO-0208 1940’s Scheme
HO-0209 1950’s Scheme
HO-0210 1960’s Scheme

Con-Car
WP painted kits
9152 54’ Flatcar with Trailer
9418 40’ PS-1 Boxcar
9521 PS-2 Covered Hopper

Details Associates
General Service Gondolas

200 GS Gondola Composite Sides 1940’s and 1950’s drop bottom
(Photo in Model Railroading October 1987, page 44)

220 GS Gondola Steel Sides 1940’s 50’s drop bottom
220 is correct out of the box, (steel sides) for the WP

Peter Solyom did an article about the GS Wood Chip Gondolas in the *Mainline Modeler*, August 2000 issue starting on page 64. This is the GS Gondola with the wooden sides (tall) added to the car for wood chip service.

Details West
52’ Double Plug Door boxcar
BC-500 Undecorated
BC-512 WP

The double plug door car is not close to any WP boxcar. The model is based on a prototype built by Evans Car at their plant in Blue Island, IL. There are several correct road names for the car, which was popular with several railroads and shippers with their own car fleets for transporting plywood, canned foods and beer among other things.

Unfortunately, this particular model is dimensionally inaccurate account of DW trying to do several different models utilizing the same roof and ends. Atlas did a much better rendition of what is often known as a "Blue Island reefer" compared to the DW model.

The DW 50' car with the exterior-post plug door is a good starting point for modeling a series of plug door cars that WP had rebuilt in the early 1970’s.

Eastern Car Works (Out of Business, try eBay)
Stock number 3010 65’ mill gondola, correct for WP gondolas # 9001 – 9049

They first offered a 65' gondola with sides representing a PRR prototype. Sometime later they did a model with different sides that they called an "AAR gondola". Which is this model that is correct for WP.

Athearn has also released essentially the same model as the AAR car in their RTR line and offered in in WP paint.

They also have a WP auto rack due soon.

Eel River Models (out of business, however can still find some new stock on eBay)
PC&F Beer Car

ERM did models of Pacific Car & Foundry beer cars with 10'6" and 12' doors. WP had both types.
ExactRail also did a model of a PC&F beer car, but only did the 10'6" version. I believe they offered theirs in WP.

6033 PC&F 6033 cubic ft. Boxcar
7100 Greenville 7100 cubic ft. Auto Parts boxcar
EP8100 series Magor 4750 Covered Hopper

E&C Shops (out of business, can still find some on eBay)
50’ PS-1 Boxcar with Yellow lettering Item # 1701

Grandt Line Products
Now owned by San Juan Details.com

Detail parts, Architectural parts, Building kits and Model Railroading

Intermountain
40’ PS-1 boxcar WP four different road numbers

45451-01	Road # 1961
45451-02	Road # 1965
45451-03	Road # 1969
4541-04	Road # 1970

Notes on 50’ Intermountain Boxcars.

WP had several hundred of the welded cars like the Intermountain 50’ model in several different WP paint schemes.

Two things about the Intermountain model though:

1. The doors Intermountain produced are two 8' wide Youngstown doors, while most of WP's had double 7'6" Youngstown doors. From what I know most of the prototypes had the 15' door opening, and quite a few other roads used a combination of 8'+7' doors, while WP and I think a few others preferred the double 7'6" doors.
2. The WP equipped practically all of their boxcars in the 1950's and possibly into the early 60's with Morton roofwalks (round hole grid). Intermountain models have Apex roofwalks (rectangular grid).

#45279 Bi-Level Auto Rack on TTX Flat car

IMWX (out of business)
WP AAR 1937 Merchandise Dispatch boxcar (FRRS Convention Car date (around 1995))

Kadee
Has done several PS-1 40' and 50' boxcars in various WP and Tidewater Southern paint schemes. Kadee is (to my knowledge) the only company that has done the 50' double door boxcar with the double 7'6" doors and the Pullman 8'-7' doors, which WP also equipped some of their cars with.

6511 50' PS-1 Double Door 15' Youngstown doors WP Car # 3818
6510 50' PS-1 boxcar WP Car # 3812
6505 50' PS-1 boxcar WP Car # 3838
6405 50' PS-1 Single Door Tidewater Southern boxcar Car #516
6407 50' PS-1 Single Door Tidewater Southern boxcar Car #519
6406 50' PS-1 Single Door Tidewater Southern boxcar Car #501

Unfortunately, Kadee has only modeled the Apex roofwalk with the rectangular opening. Replacing the Kadee roofwalk with a Morton roofwalk from Plano Model Products will require some filling of the roofwalk mounting holes.

Kadee also released their PS-2 2-bay covered hopper in WP paint several years ago in two different car numbers, but have not released any additional WP painted covered hoppers since that time.

LBF Company (out of business)
51701 50' PS-1 Single Door Boxcar

Life-Like (now Walthers)
50’ smooth side boxcar, correct for WP 40511 series cars
(Have to repaint into WP colors.)

52’6” Mill Gondola with drop ends in WP Black (Proto 2000 series)
Correct out of the box

Proto 1000 WP boxcar

# 170-23945	WP # 4052
# 170-23946	WP # 4057
# 170-23947	WP # 4060

The "50' smooth side" car, essentially correct for the WP 4051 series was acquired with other Life-Like models by Walthers and released with an improved underbody in WP paint.

Rapido Trains recently announced they are working on a model of this car.

Life-Like has also released models of WP GP7 and GP9s in WP silver & orange paint. After Walthers acquired Life-Like, they released them in WP green paint (I don't recall LL having done so, but I could be wrong). They also released a high hood version of the LL GP20 in WP silver & orange.

Also, for those contemplating making a WP unit from the Walthers phase 2 type GP35, that model is NOT correct for WP, which only owned phase 1 type units (Athearn or Kato models).

LINES WEST

Lines West has released several new 3D printed WP models
https://lineswestproducts.com/product-category/ho-scale-2/freight-cars/western-pacific/

Western Pacific 1916 40’ Pullman Outside Braced Boxcar
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Outside Braced Boxcar, AB brakes, Plaster loading w/decals
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Outside Braced Boxcar, Stores Material version with decals
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Stockcar, Metal number boards, Wood Roof #76033-76232 AB brakes w/decals
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Stockcar, Metal Roof 75801-76000 KC brakes w/decals
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Stockcar, Wood Roof, Wood Number boards #75801-76032 AB Brakes w/decals
Western Pacific 40’ Pullman Stockcar, Wood Roof, Wood Number boards #75801-76032 KC Brakes w/decals
Western Pacific 50 foot AC&F Flatcar #2401-2700
Western Pacific 50 foot PC&F Flatcar #2350-2400

Proto 2000 (now Walthers)

GP-7

# 23013	WP # 711
# 23014	WP # 713

GP-9

# 23715	WP 728
# 23716	WP 731

U30B

#31119	WP 755

McKean Models and Front Range by Sky Lim, INC. (out of business)

McKean

749 makes a great 40 foot boxcar for a WP boxcar. Some new detail parts (Morton roof walks) and a few other parts makes this a good project.

MDC (Model Die Casting) Roundhouse (now Athearn – Horizon Hobbies)

FMC 100-ton grain hopper (WP Series 12051 to 12100?)

60’ Flat car (needs modifications)

Fifty foot Single Sheathed auto box car kit # 2150 (needs a little work on the details)
See Headlight # 11 article

RND14958 50’ Single Door Boxcar

MTH Electric Trains

#87-74133 40’ PS-1 Single Door boxcar

Red Caboose (now Intermountain)

See Dave Pires article on flat cars 50' riveted flatcar, fish belly side sill in *Model Railroading* September 2000 issue starting on page 30.
Need to use two car kits to make into a prototype car.

103W 10,000 Gal Tank Car (ACF car) I used tank car **WPMW 12107 for the prototype that is at Western Pacific RR Museum at Portola.**

RC-4221-4 R-30-12 refrigerator car WP
RC-2217c 42' Flat Car WP paint scheme
RC 4231 R-30-9 Reefer 12 different road numbers

Stewart Hobbies

FT A-B set # 5032 WP Orange and Silver

Richard Hendrickson – Freight Car Trucks (article)

This is a great article about freight car trucks and will help identify the various type of trucks found on most all freight cars. It can be found at:
https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bz_ctrHrDz4wcjJWcENpaDJYbUU/edit

WP 20001 series, ASF double truss trucks
WP 20201 series, ASF stabilized
WP 20551 series, ASF ride control A-3 & ASF ride control (no A-3 markings)

Tichy Train Group (old Gould)

Great for detail parts and kits

Tangent

#10724-01 ACF Welded 70 ton Gondola

Walthers

Bay Window Caboose

The Walthers bay window caboose is similar, but not an exact model to the WP #466-480 cars. The model is based on a Milwaukee Road prototype, with some difference in window placement. It makes a decent stand-in model.

#932-4359 WP factory paint

61' Wood Chip car
#932-4060

The Walthers wood chip car is also a stand-in model for the WP 5100 series car, based on a prototype used by GN, NP, BN, MILW and perhaps others.

50’ Exterior Post Boxcar
932-3605

Heavy Duty Depressed Center Flat car.
Dave Pires has a very good model of this car. See *Headlight* # 19 page 24 and 25
I have modeled one using the Walthers transformer (added more details to it)

65’ Mill gondola (Good article by Dave Pires on correcting these cars into WP delivered cars.)

WP 12 Panel Hopper cars.
James Kinkaid did an article on these cars in the *Mainline Modeler,* November 1999 issue starting on page 41

Westerfield
http://www.westerfieldmodels.com/
Resin car kits

WP Pacific Fruit Express reefer
- R30-12 with Hutchins rood # 6806
- R30-13 with Standard roof # 6904
- R30-13 with Hutchins rood # 6905

Stock car
- #5403 Original S-40-8 version
- #5453 Later Double Deck S-40-8 version

John Ryczkowski did an article on WP stock cars in the *Mainline Modeler* Issue, October 1990 starting on page 26.

Wheels of Time
60’ Tharll Flat Car

Yarmouth Model Works
http://www.yarmouthmodelworks.com/index.php/Home/Index

Great etched brass detail parts
Resin car kits

YesterYear Models (out of business)
#YYM51401-01 50’ PS-1 Single Door boxcar

Paint Scheme Drawings

A good resource for EMD Locomotive paint schemes is the Bruce Meyer Collection.

This can be found at:
https://www.nmra.org/library/kalmbach-library-collection/bruce-meyer-collection

This collection contains over 1,400 EMD paint scheme drawings from various railroads, operation manuals and other diesel locomotive items. There are 12 files for the Western Pacific in this collection.

These files have an index when you go to the main page. You will need to make a request to the NMRA Kalmbach Library for the files you need. (There is a fee for this service.)

This library also has a list for the Walthers collection, which includes over 1,900 model manufacturers with catalogs and kit instructions.
https://www.nmra.org/library/kalmbach-library-collection/walthers-collection-1

Paints

Several paint manufactures offer paint in prototypical WP color without too much modifications to the color of the paint.

Floquil is no longer making model paints in the railroad colors

WP green building paint Rust-Oleum Paint # 868 Cascade Green

Badger Model Flex

16-89 WP Orange
16-192 WP Green (dark)
16-14 Light Tuscan Oxide Red (good for some boxcars)
16-15 Boxcar Red (Tuscan)
16-53 Tuscan Red

Tamiya

XF-79 Linoleum Deck Brown (good for some boxcars and flat cars)

Vallejo
Has some very good paints that can be used in model railroading
Vallejo also has a large collection of model washes and weathering products

One source that has a great line of Vallejo paints is Michigan Toy Soldier Co.
https://www.michtoy.com/series-Vallejo.html

Scalecoat offers several colors adaptable for WP models.

TruColor paints also offer a large variety of colors, including some WP-specific colors for locomotives and boxcars.

Micromark
www.micromark.com

Has a good selection of paints and painting tools.

A very good reference for model paints can be found at Model Railroad Hobbyist website
They have both a free and paid subscription to their website content (very good resource).

www.mrhmag.com

http://mrhmag.com/subscribers-only/painting/acrylics -however using this link, I think you have to be a subscriber.

There is also what is called MRH Acrylic Painting Guide – Cheat Sheet describing several tips and tools for using acrylics.

Decals

Detail Associates has offered several decal sets for WP boxcars which are still available.

9001 15” White
9002 Early 50’s Silver 40 and 50 foot boxcars
9003 Late 50’s Yellow 40 and 50 foot boxcars
9005 The Western Way – Yellow block lettering 50 foot boxcar
9006 The Western Way – Yellow script lettering 40 and 50 foot boxcars

Founded by Pete Arnold, Bruce Boles, Pete Thorp and Charles Williams in 1975 who were also involved in other ventures individually, Detail Associates is a manufacturer of model railroad parts and kits. One of the founders sold his share of the company and two of them passed away, leaving one of them to manage the company. Because Detail Associates is a small company and the owner is busy with other endeavors, most of its products are hard to find and with over 600 SKUS in three scales and 30 year old tooling, it seems that that the owner cannot cope with the demands. Its line of products are usually out of stock and are hard to find. The brand is known for its detail parts and kits for diesels, passenger cars and caboose, freight cars, decals, scenery backdrops, freight car kits, and passenger car kits, as well as and modeling supplies such as wire, screws and flat brass.

Islington Station Decals offers a set (#330-290) to letter a WP 12051-12100 series FMC covered hopper.

Microscale Decals
Offers several sets of decals for WP

Archer Fine Transfers
Great resource for resin rivets on decal film

This information is from the collection of Kerry Cochran, with help from other modelers, Jack Palmer, Thom Anderson, Frank Brehm, Dave Pires and others. Without their help I would be lost as I did not start to model the WP seriously until the WP was long gone.

Dave Pires did a presentation on “Easily Modeled Western Pacific Freight Cars” at the WPRRHS Convention, April 17, 1999.

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