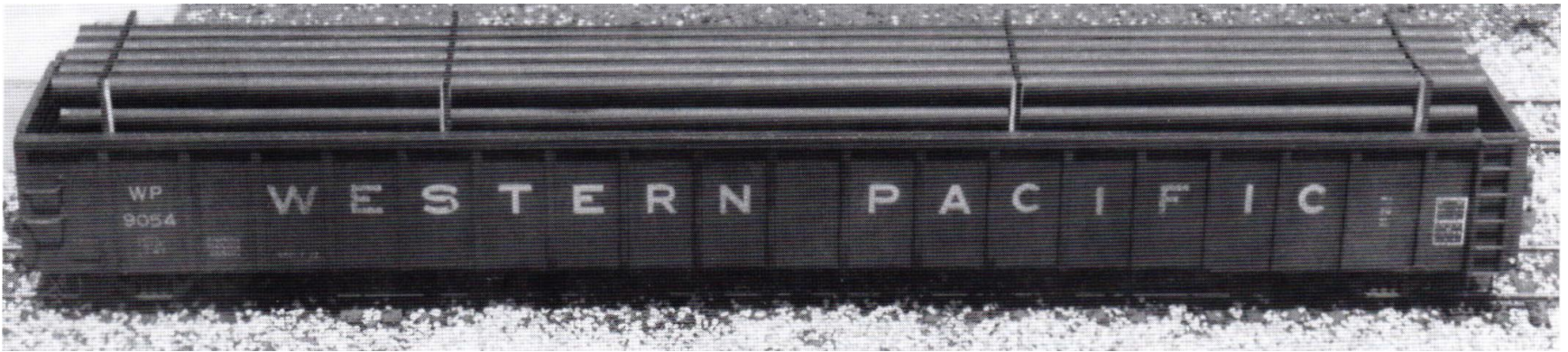


Modeling a WP 65' Mill Gondola



Based on article in *The Western Pacific Headlight* issue 22 by
Dave Pires

WP 65 Foot Mill Gondolas

- WP Purchased fifteen 65'-8" Mill Gondolas in 1970 from Maxon Corporation
- Cars numbered 9051 – 9065
- Featured drop ends and steel floors
- Designated for “hot billet loading”
(a billet is a short bar of iron or steel no more than five inches in diameter)

After WP Service

- Ten cars went to Chicago and North Western 370000 – 370009 in 1987
- Five cars reportedly went to Iowa Interstate Railroad and then sold to Vermont Railway

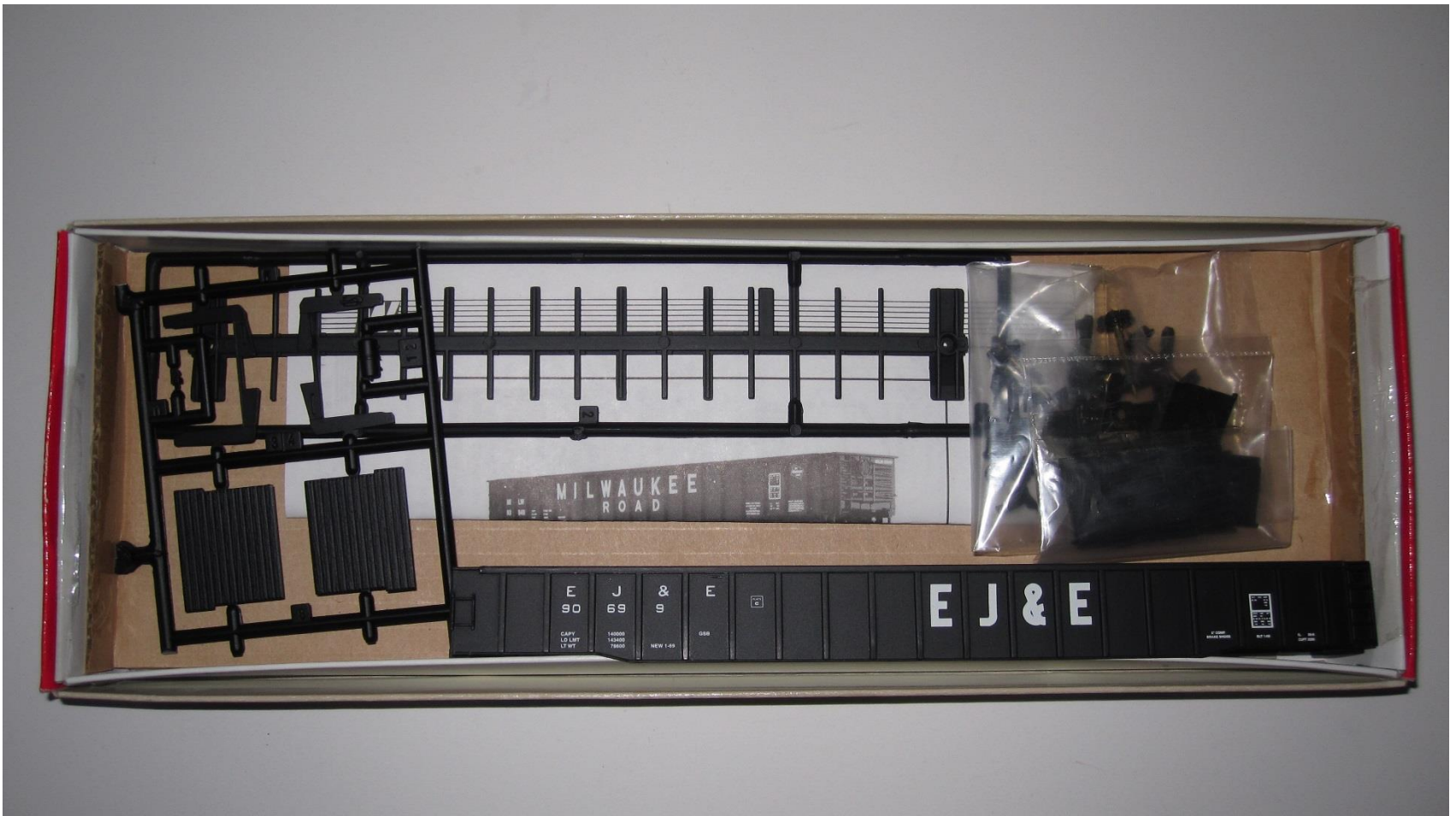
Modeling the Car

- Kitbash started with the Walthers 65' mill gon
- Model based on a Thrall prototype, but is similar to the Maxon cars
- Model is currently out of production, but can be found on eBay. I found several and purchased three.

Found on eBay



In the box



Modifications of Car Sides

- Side sill on WP car was straight across the entire length of the car.
- On the model, sill rises at an angle on the fourth rib from the ends.
- Remedy:
 - Cut away angled portion
 - Fit a piece of .040x.060” styrene on all four corners
 - Use body putty to clean up seams
 - Add a piece of Evergreen 1x3” to the bottom of added styrene to match extension below the vertical ribs

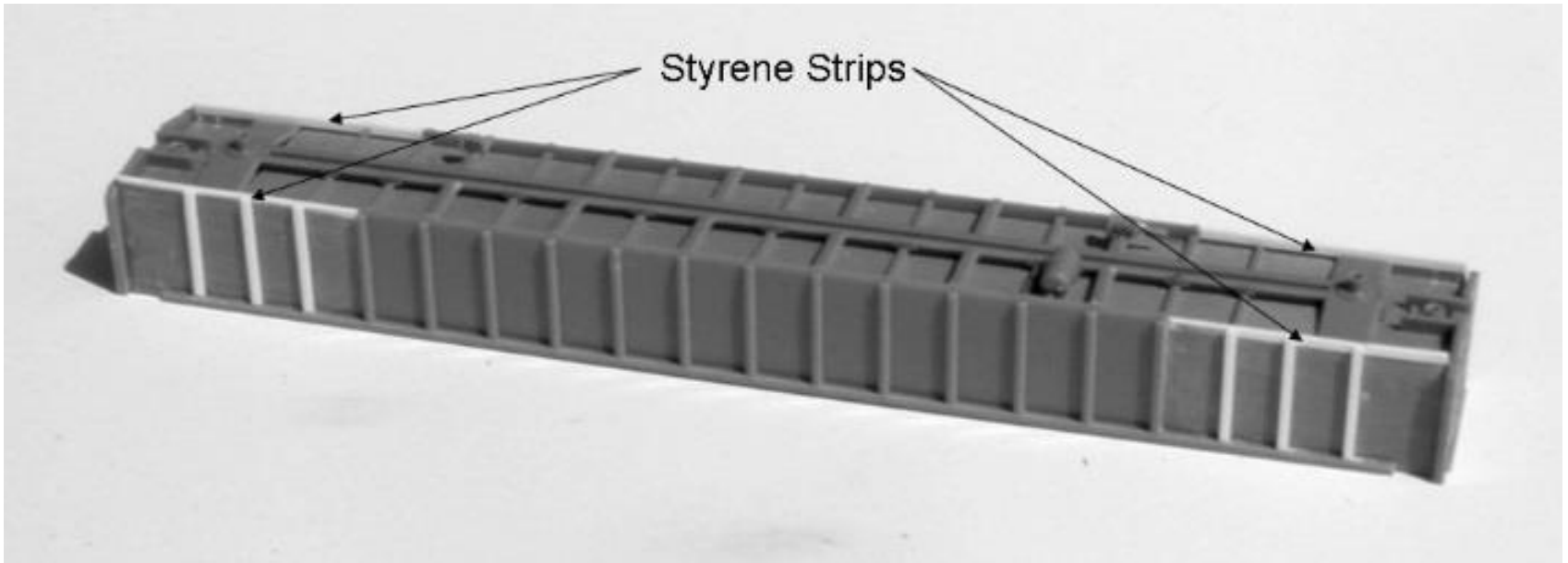
Modifications of Car Sides (con't)

- Correct spacing of ribs
 - Remove the three ribs at each end
 - Remove grab irons and ladder
 - Replace removed ribs with .040x.060" styrene
(Note there is a wider space between the last 2 ribs,
match spacing from prototype photo)

Ribs removed and sill cut down



Styrene Strips added (Dave Pires photo)



Progress



Modifications of Car Ends

- Remove the cast on brake lever from “B” end of car and replace with Details West hand brake and pulley mount using only the top half of the casting with the brake lever.
- Add brake chain.
- Add Plano boxcar brake platform.

End Detail (no brake chain yet)



Add Weight to Car

- Add the weight that came with the kit.
- Optionally (not easily seen)
 - Add piping to car bottom
 - Dave used Cal Scale set – included diagram very helpful to determine piping locations
 - Grandt Line includes a very nice diagram with their AB Brake Set

(Grandt Line was sold to the San Juan Model Co. in July 2018) Look under San Juan detail parts, may have to look for part number 5124

Finishing the Car Sides

- Add full length ladder to right side of each end, Dave used Grandt Line Freight Car Ladders
 - After cutting to length, add .020x.040” styrene under left riser of each ladder
 - Right rise of each ladder is glued to inside of drop end frame.
- Add 2 grab irons to left side
 - made from .012” piano wire from Detail Associates
 - One end of each grab iron attaches to outside of drop end frame
 - Add a NBW casting above ends of grab irons
- Add drop steps to all corners, A-line stirrup steps
 - type “B” on the left side
 - Type “C” on the right side

Completion of Car Ends

- Install on both ends of car:
 - Grab irons
 - Air hose
 - Coupler cut bar
 - Kadee No. 5 or No. 58 couplers
 - Trucks on car

Interior Details

- Interior details are unknown.
- If someone has interior photos of the car, please send to:
Historical_Archive_dept@wplives.org and we will publish them.

Paint and Decals

- Car painted with Accu-flex flat black car.
[Now under the Testors product line Number 16-119](#)
- Decal used were from various Western Pacific Microscale set, all lettering on the car was yellow.
- There is a photo of car 9057 from 1983 that showed it in mineral brown with yellow lettering.
- Weather car to your personal taste.

Dave Pires' Finished Model



Kerry Cochran
WP 9054 Finished with Load



Kerry Cochran WP 9056 Finished with Load



Bill of Materials

- Walthers 65' Mill Gondola © undec.
- Evergreen Styrene strips:
 - Item #143 .040 x .060
 - Item #8 103 HO scale I x 3
 - Item # 122 .020 x .040
- Details West: Hand Brake and Pulley Set
 - Item #HB 1016
- Plano: Boxcar Brake Platform
 - Item #131
- Grandt Line: Freight Car Ladders (now San Juan Model Co.)
 - Item #5124
- A Line: Stirrup Steps
 - Item #29001 Style B
 - Item #29002 Style C
- Accu-flex Flat Black / Testors 16-119
- Microscale: Western Pacific Freight-yellow
 - Item #87-253 WP Freight cars 1906's 1970's
 - Item #87-871 WP 50's 60's Yellow Lettering
 - Item # 87-1 RR Data Set
 - Other miscellaneous sets