

RPM 25

CHICAGOLAND

RPM CHICAGOLAND

2018 RPM Conference in Lisle, IL

25th Annual "Naperville" Meet

October 18th - 20th, 2018

2018 Attendee Program

Sponsored By:



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Celebrating 25 Years!



Welcome!

Welcome to the 25th annual “Naperville” show. We’re well established now as the RPM Chicagoland, but that doesn’t mean that we’ve forgotten our roots.

As we planned the silver anniversary event, we wanted to honor those roots. Roots that extend to the early days of the Naperville meet run by Martin and Tricia Lofton of Sunshine models. And the roots of the Railroad Prototype Modeling movement that started even earlier. RPM has always been an effort toward better models through education, joint research, and encouragement toward manufacturers to raise the bar.

In the model display room this year we’ve encouraged attendees to bring older models to help build a timeline of modeling. We will have models from as early as 1930 on display as we show the story of progression toward today’s highly detailed and highly accurate models.

Those state-of-the-art models will also be on display as usual, and we encourage you to strike up conversations with fellow modelers in the ballroom around these fantastic models.

As in year’s past, we’ve once again been inspired by Frank Hodina to offer a Mini-Kit to early bird registrants. This year’s resin parts and decals will convert an HO Accurail wood reefer into a 40 ft truss rod reefer of FGEX design. Tom Madden was kind enough to cast the HO parts, and Ted Culotta once again created the fantastic decals. I took inspiration from Frank’s HO conversion, and created the masters and castings for O, S, and N scale as well so that all modelers can join in this unique resin-plastic hybrid. Let’s share our finished models next year.

But first, we have a full slate of clinics and other festivities lined up all the way through the RPM After Party at Lombard Hobbies this Saturday! This program is meant to provide an overview of the clinic topics and help guide your participation in this year’s event. It looks even better than it did in year’s past due to the graphic artistry of Kristin and Jeremy Dummmler. And for that I thank them.

If you have any questions or comments throughout the event, please find me or one of the other “hosts” in a red name badge. Besides our team of Katie Skibbe, Matt Gaudynski, Harz, Kristin and Jeremy Dummmler, and Eric Hansmann, all of the members of HO Mod-U-Trak and N Modutrak layouts have host badges as well and would be happy to point you in the right direction or help answer questions.

As always, if there are any complaints, you can save those for me. I apologize ahead of time for any glitches that occur. But hopefully anything that does go wrong won’t ruin your overall enjoyment of the event.

All the best,



Mike Skibbe



OP Sessions & Layout Tours

Thursday – October 17th



4:00 PM – 9:00 P.M.

Open House – Norfolk & Western Pocahontas Division

7761 W. Peterson Ave.

Chicago, IL 60631

(close to O'Hare and Des Plaines Hobbies)

nwpoca@hotmail.com or 773 763 1516

Mike Ritschdorff's N&W Pokey Division is set in the late 1950's with full fall colors and complete scenery. Motive power includes steam, diesel, electric and the Jawn Henry. All locomotives are sound equipped. Coal is the main industry, with two working loadouts, a huge brewery keeps 3 crews busy switching cars. There is also a steel mill, coal slurry breakdown plant and a tractor plant. Car cards and waybills are used with telephones used for dispatching.

Other visits can be arranged during the meet by emailing me at nwpoca@hotmail.com

Saturday – October 20th



4:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Open House – Prairie Scale Model Railroaders

3 East Ash St

Lombard, IL 60148

www.psmrr.org

Prairie Scale Model Railroaders is an HO Scale model railroad club in Lombard, Illinois. What makes us different from most model railroad clubs is that while we have varied interests and skill-sets, we're primarily interested in prototype modeling and prototypical operations.



4:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Open House - Elmhurst Model Railroad Club

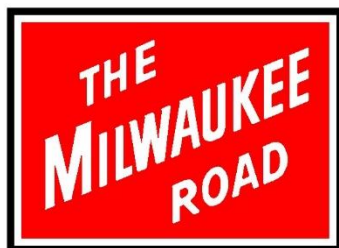
111 E. First St.

Elmhurst, IL 60126

www.emrrc.org

The Elmhurst Model Railroad club was founded in 1969. That year there were 15 members in a 1,000 square foot basement with plans for an HO layout. By the time 5 years has passed, the club had grown to over 200 members and 3 layouts; HO, HOn3, and N Scale.

Sunday – October 21st



OP Session – 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Please contact Ted Schnepf at the show or email: railsunl@sbcglobal.net

Ted Schnepf's O scale Milwaukee Road layout features numerous opportunities for switching action and lots of operation.

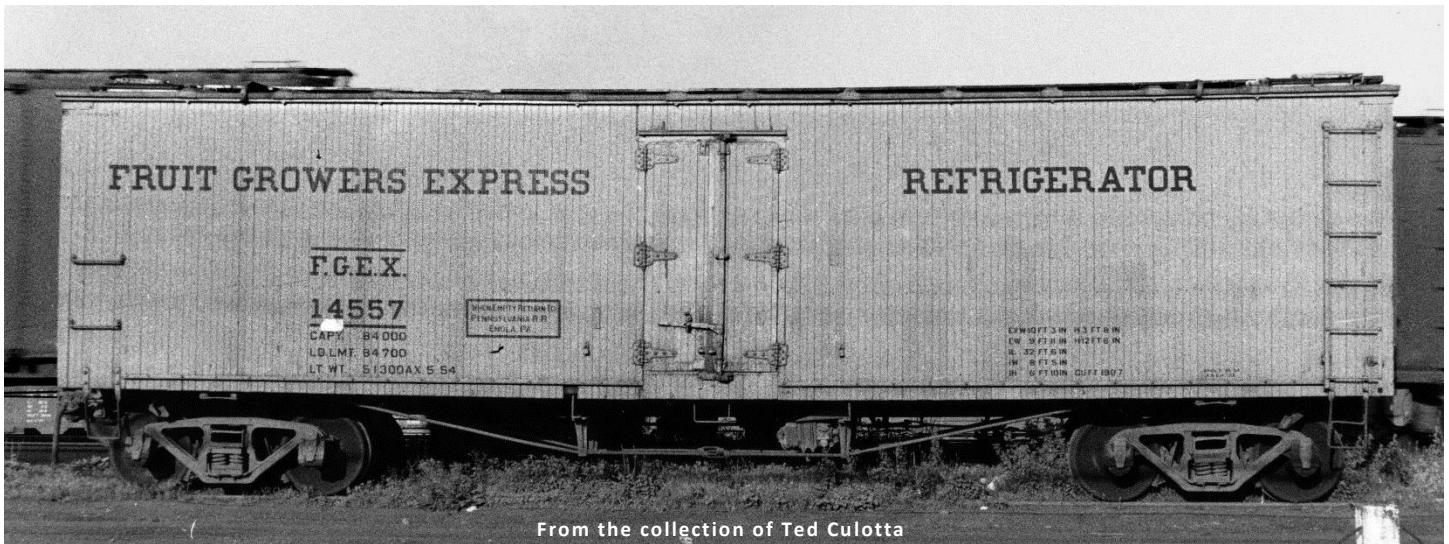
Table of Contents

Hotel Map	2
<i>Welcome!</i>	3
OP Sessions & Layout Tours	4
Thursday – October 17 th	4
Saturday – October 20 th	4
Sunday – October 21 st	4
Table of Contents	5
2018 RPM Chicagoland Mini-Kit	7
FGEX Truss Rod Reefer – Series 14000 & 20000.....	7
HO Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes	8
O Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes.....	12
S Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes	14
N Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes.....	16
Seminar Descriptions	18
Layouts	18
1 - A 21 st Century Approach to a 19 th Century Steam Layout	18
2 – Zeroing in on Zearing.....	18
3 – 40 Years In: The Twin Ports Layout	18
4 – Modeling the C&NW’s Alco Line	18
5 – Researching and Modeling a Major Industry	18
6 – A Family Resemblance	18
7 – Rock Island’s Decorah Branch	18
Tips and Techniques.....	19
8 – Freight Car Weathering	19
9 – Real Sky	19
10 – Electronic Soldering Skills.....	19
11 – Modeling with Low Vision II	19
Freight Car Research	19
12 – 1900-1930 Pre-Depression Era Modeling	19
13 – CB&Q XM-32 Boxcars	19
14 – TOFC Act 1: Flat Cars	19
15 – TOFC Act 2: Trailers	19
16 – Tank Cars of the 1970s and 80s	20

17 – Which Shipped First, the Chicken or the Egg?	20
18 – New York Central Steel Freight Cars Part IV: Flat Cars.....	20
Modeling	20
19 – Modeling the AAR/ARA Standard Steel Boxcars in 1/87 th Scale	20
20 – Steam Locomotive Parts, Appliances, and Fittings	20
21 – The 2017 Mini-Kit Finished to the Nines: CGW 1937 AAR Boxcar	20
22 – Weathering Transition Era Freight Cars	20
Time Table & Train Order and Prototype Operations.....	20
23 – Tailoring a Freight Car Fleet for Operations.....	20
24 – Building your TT&TO Crew	21
25 – Realistic Operations: From Here to There.....	21
Prototype Railroad Operations & Industries.....	21
26 – 1950s Frozen Fruit, Vegetables, and Food	21
27 – Shipping Milk and the Chicago Milk Shed	21
28 – Track Design for Prototype Model Railroads	21
29 – Bucyrus Erie and the Railroads.....	21
30 – Rail Marine Operations in New York Harbor.....	21
31 – Prototypical Modeling and Operational Opportunities: Look at the Illinois Railway Museum	21
Passenger Equipment	22
32 – Passenger Terminal Operations	22
33 – Transcontinental Mail and Express Operations	22
34 – Building a 6-3 Sleeper * SPECIAL HANDS-ON CLINIC*	22
35 – Soo Line Passenger Trains in Illinois 1957-1958.....	22
DCC & Sound	22
37 – Soundtraxx DCC and Sound.....	22
Other	22
36 – Arrowhead Models.....	22
38 – A look at the Ritzman Collection of Midwest Photos.....	22
2018 RPM After Party.....	23
Local Hobby Shops.....	23
Thank You	24

2018 RPM Chicagoland Mini-Kit

FGEX Truss Rod Reefer – Series 14000 & 20000



The Mini-Kit concept goes back to the Sunshine Models days, when the event was hosted by Martin Lofton. Martin used to entice early registrations to the event by offering a limited run Mini-Kit as a gift. Some years it was simply a set of custom decals, some years it was a few smaller resin parts, like a set of doors or boxcar ends. The idea was that the Mini-Kit could be used to dress up a readily available plastic freight car as a new prototype model. You can actually view the list of past kits on the web at www.sunshinekits.com

This year we bring you the Fruit Growers Express Truss Rod Reefer mini-kit. This year's mini-kit is intended to allow the conversion of a readily available model into one of the former L&N truss rod cars (numbered 21357) or one of the former B&O cars (numbered 14409).



The “new” Fruit Growers Express formed in 1920 and inherited a large number of cars from the former subsidiary of Armour Incorporated that was known by the same name. At that time, 4279 cars were part of the fleet. In December of that same year, FGEX began purchasing additional second-hand refrigerator cars from the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, and Frisco Refrigerator Line. By the end of 1920, FGEX was operating over 5200 cars.

In 1923 the Louisville & Nashville joined their refrigerator fleet with FGEX and their cars were numbered into the 20000-21849 series. In 1925, the Baltimore & Ohio followed suit, and brought their own

group of older cars into the fleet including truss rod cars. Those cars were numbered into the 14000-14998 series under FGEX.

More information on these cars can be found in the article “Truss Rod Refrigerator Cars of the Fruit Growers Express / Western Fruit Express / Burlington Refrigerator Express Consortium Part One: The Prototypes” by Bill Welch and published in the book “Prototype Railroad Modeling” Volume Two available from Speedwitch Media. www.speedwitchmedia.com

HO Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes

The HO Scale Mini-Kit consists of resin parts and decals to convert an HO Accurail wood reefer into a 40 ft. truss rod reefer of F.G.E.X. design. In addition to the Accurail model, modelers will also need to acquire a Tichy Bettendorf steel underframe (part #3030), 10" queen posts (part #3074), turnbuckles (part #8021), 0.0125" brass wire or 0.015" fishing line, brake gear of choice (K or AB), and Kadee No. 158 semi-scale Whisker couplers, and additional styrene.

General Information

- ▶ First give the resin parts a good cleaning with Dawn and a toothbrush to remove any mold releasing agents. A light sanding of joints also helps parts to bond.
- ▶ The cast parts are best attached with CA. When the term "cement" is used in these instructions, it refers to CA. CA is a strong adhesive which dries quickly. It can easily attach a part where it is not supposed to be. It will glue skin. Be careful. Place a few drops on a plate of glass and use a wire or pin to transfer small amounts of CA to the area to be joined. Always wear safety glasses. CA de-bonder is a useful tool for removing smudges of ACC from surfaces where it shouldn't be. Place a drop on the offending spot and wipe up.
- ▶ GOO or other such products are not recommended for construction except in small quantities as it will soften the casting material.
- ▶ When a measurement is given it's in prototype feet and inches.
- ▶ When the word "scrap" is used it is referring to an item that the modeler is to supply.

Completed HO scale mini-kit conversion of FGEX 14356. Courtesy Frank Hodina, Resin Car Works



Step 1



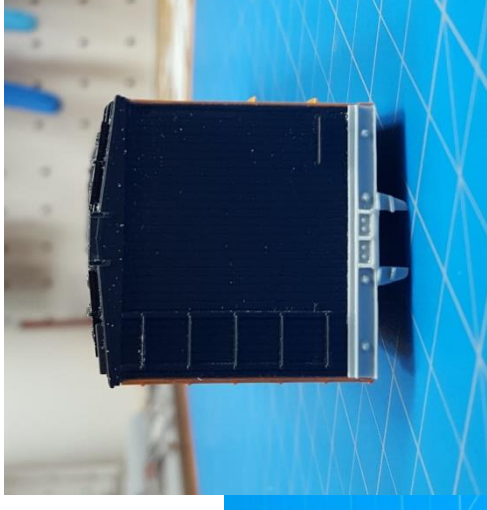
Score a line across the sup-side of the Accurail body 0.185" from the bottom. Saw down along the inside of the sub-side at the ends. Now snap these bottom pieces and remove them. You'll be removing the bottom of the car body up to the middle of the lower holes. Clean up with a file.



Step 2

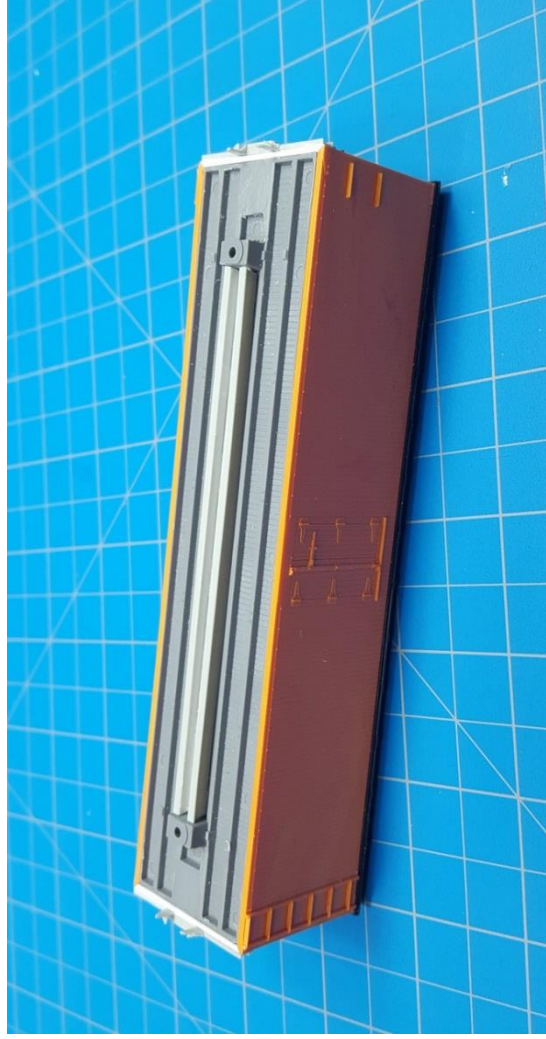
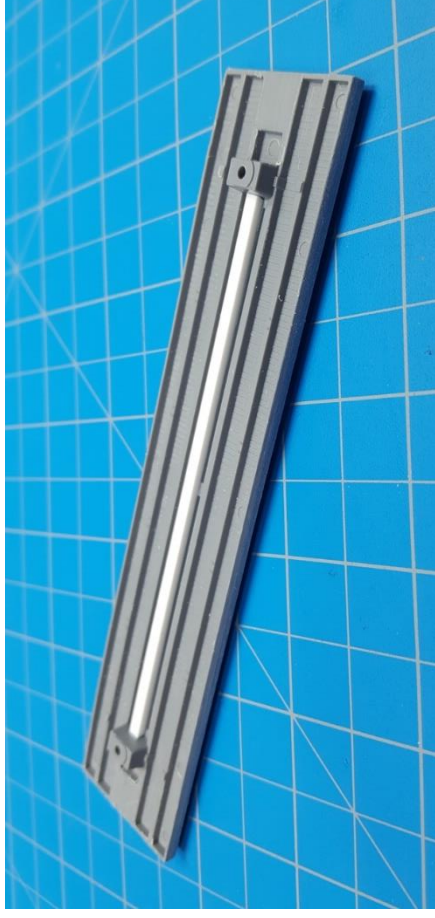
Remove the lower mounting pins located on the back side of the yellow sides and attach the sides to the body. Add a scrap piece of HO styrene 2x4 to the bottom of the end to even it up with the side. Attach the resin end sills to the bottom of end with the bottom of the end sill channel being even with the bottom of the styrene 2x4.

You can stop here with detailing the body, or remove the cast on details and install new grabs, ladders and hatch supports



Step 3

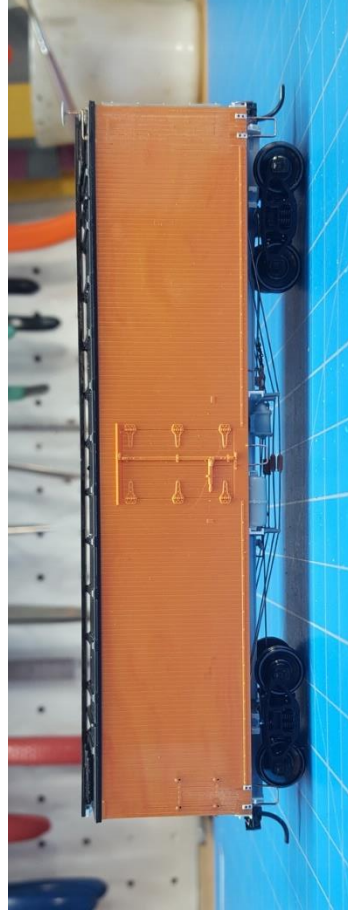
Narrow the Tichy floor until it fits into the modified Accurail body and remove the coupler pad down to the level of the floor stringers. Attach a piece of scrap HO 0.060" x 0.10" styrene between the bolster centered on the floor. Attach the resin center sills to the 0.060" x 0.10" styrene. Attach the cross-bearer channels. These are located four feet from the center of the car or 8 feet apart. Set the floor in the body (don't glue yet) and attach the coupler boxes to the underframe fitting them between the gussets located on the resin end sills. Drill and tap holes for 1-72 screws for the couplers. The coupler boxes will accept only Kadee No. 158 semi-scale Whisker couplers. Now remove the underframe.



From the collection of Ted Culotta

Step 4

Complete the underframe as shown in the photos below by adding the brake gear of choice (K or AB). Attach the queen post in the locations show. Use 0.0125" brass wire of 0.015" fishing line for the truss rods. Don't forget to slip the turnbuckle onto the truss rod before installing them. Complete body detailing by adding roof corner grabs, roof walk supports, brake wheels, stirrups, cut levers, etc.



Step 5

It's easier to paint the model with the underframe separated from the body. For FGE yellow I've found that UP Amour Yellow is a good match. I use an old bottle of Floquil I had. For the brown any boxcar red will work.



O Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes

The O Scale Mini-Kit consists of resin parts and decals to convert an Atlas O 40 ft. wood reefer model. Besides the model, modelers will need to acquire Grandt Line O Scale queen posts, Tichy O turnbuckles (#2004), .025" wire, and Kadee couplers. You will also need two pieces of Evergreen #267 ¼" C Channel styrene.

Please read the "General Information" section of the HO scale mini-kit construction notes before beginning the build.

Step 1

Remove all underframe components from the Atlas O scale reefer.

Step 2

Slice off the side sills by running an X-Acto blade along the seam between the molded metal side sill and the wood sheathing. This can be snapped off once well scored. Carve the end sill flat in preparation for the new resin end beam.

Step 3



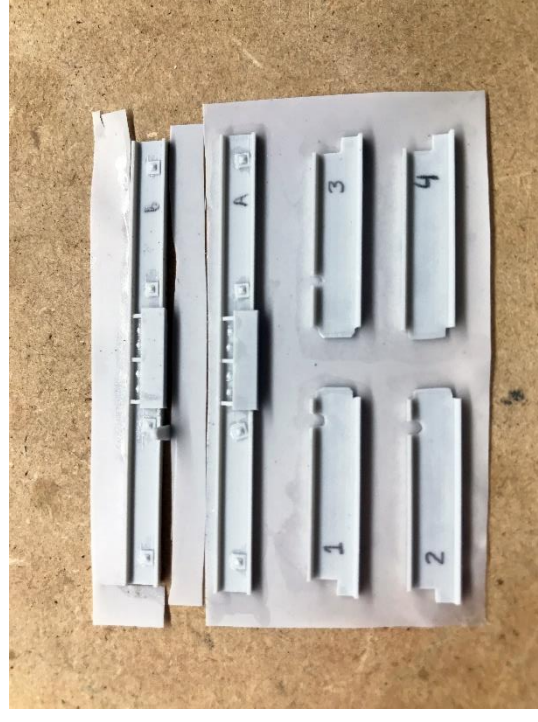
Carve the end sill flat in preparation for the new resin end beam.

Step 4

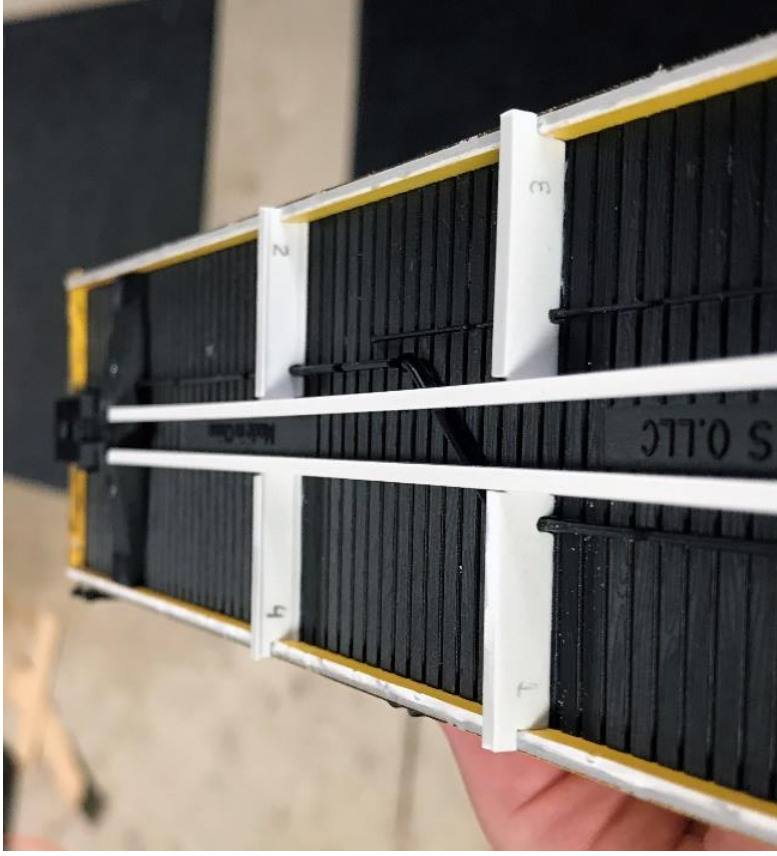
Remove the bolsters from the stock underframe and screw back into place on the floor.

Step 5

There are 4 different cross members on the resin sheet. Parts 1 and 2 have large slots and are meant to fit over the molded main brake line. Part 3 has a small slot to fit over the retainer pipe. Part 4 has no slots and fits in the final location. Using the molded floor boards as a guide, locate the board right in the middle and pencil it as location 0. Count boards away from center (1, 2, 3...) and glue the cross members on board 8. (Additional photo on next page.)



Step 5 (Continued)



Step 6

Cut two pieces of Evergreen Channel to fit between the bolsters. This will snap into place into the cross members you glued into place in the previous step.

Step 7

Cut remaining channel to serve as the exposed ends of the bolsters, visible from side of car. See photo for Step 4.

Step 8

Add resin end beams to the proper ends. Detail with brakes, queen posts and truss rods. Paint per the HO scale instructions.



S Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes

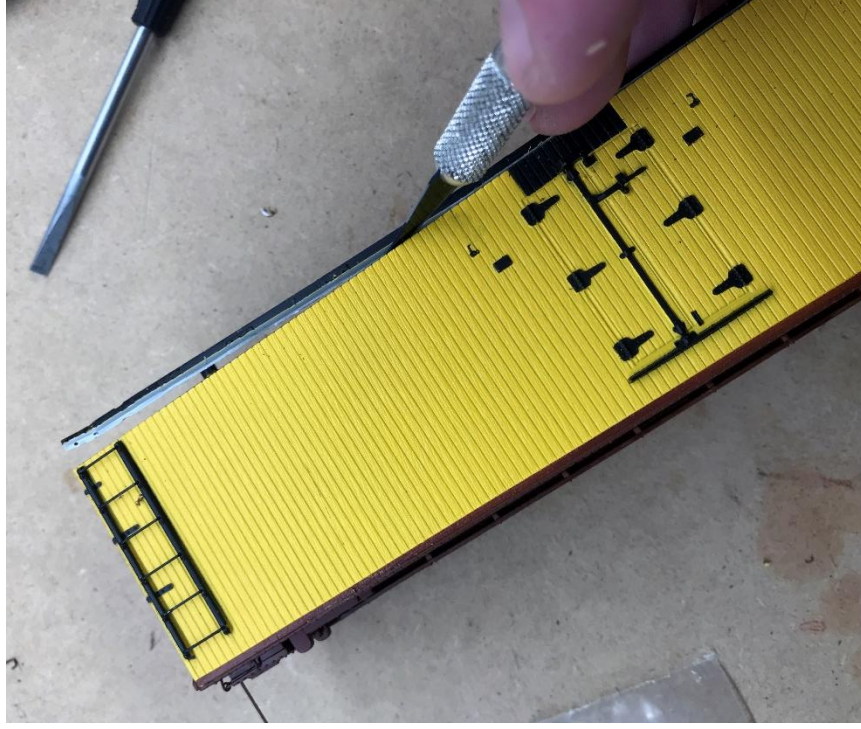
The S Scale Mini-Kit includes resin parts and decals to convert an S-Helper Service 40 ft. Wood Reefer. The modeler will need to acquire a reefer model, as well as Grandt Line 10" Queen Posts (#5053), Tichy S Turnbuckles (#3504), .020" wire, and Kadee couplers. Please read the "General Information" section of the HO scale mini-kit construction notes before beginning the build.

Step 1

Remove the underframe from the model.

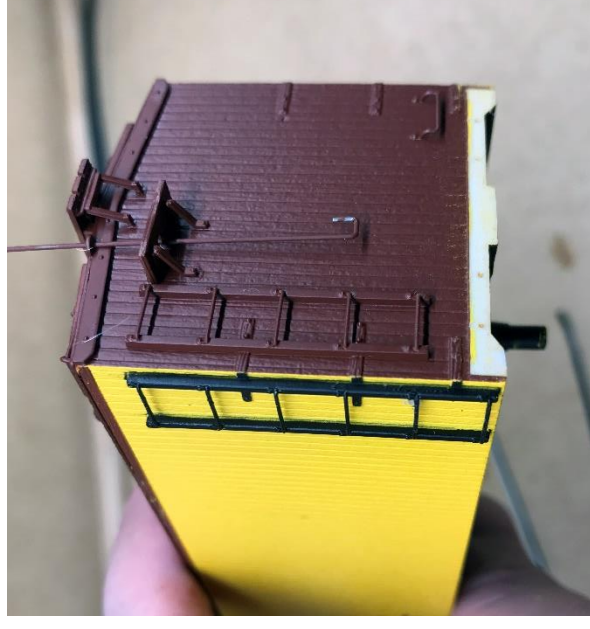
Step 2

Slice the side sill from the model, to make way for the truss rod conversion. You can run an X-acto blade right along the seam between the metal sill and the wood siding.



Step 3

Carve the end sill detail off and smooth the end in preparation for the end beam casting.



Step 4

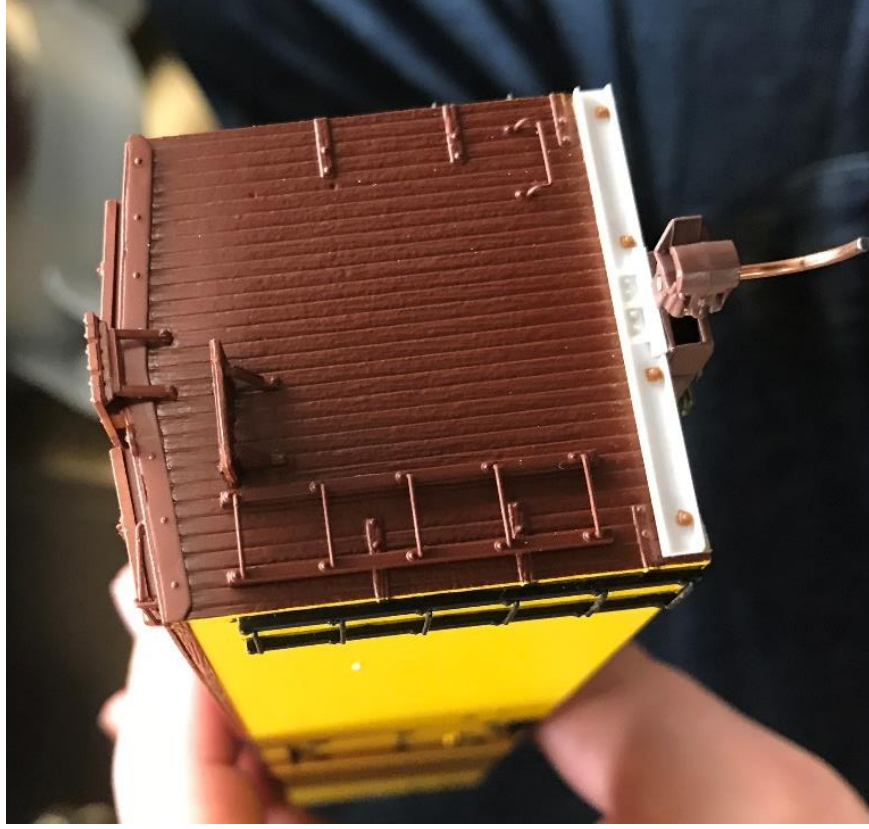
Remove the bolsters from the stock fish belly underframe and reapply to the car floor.

Step 5

Clean the castings for the main underframe channel and the cross members. Attach these to the floor of the model per the photos.

Step 6

Glue the end beams on both ends.



Step 8

Reuse the models K brake system if modeling an early car or apply the AB brake components per the HO directions.

Step 9

Bend .020" brass or phosphor bronze wire for the truss rods. Slide on a Tichy turnbuckle prior to gluing in place on the queen posts.



Step 7

Add Grandt Line queen posts in locations shown on the cross members.

N Scale Mini-Kit Construction Notes

Unlike the larger scales, it was easier to provide a casting of the entire modified car body rather than add on components. Therefore, you're a step ahead. The Mini-Kit includes the main body and associated resin parts. You'll need to provide trucks, couplers, etched ladders (Gold Medal Models suggested), wire for any brake gear and steps, and a brake staff and wheel.

Step 1

Wash the castings and clean up any flash.

Step 2

Add a couple weight to the floor of the car body and secure in place to bring car up to NMRA weight standards.

Step 3

Glue the roof in place and add the roofwalk.

Step 4

Bend wire or use etched steps per prototype photos.

Step 5

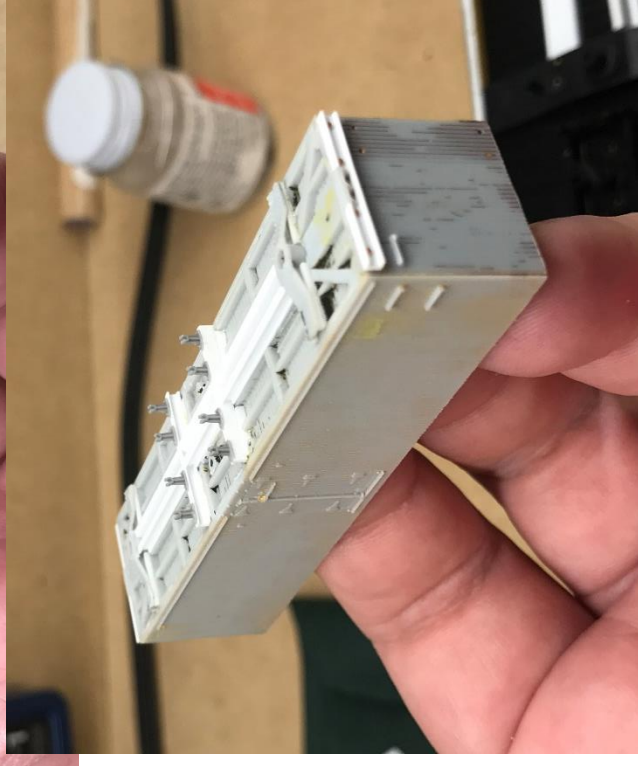
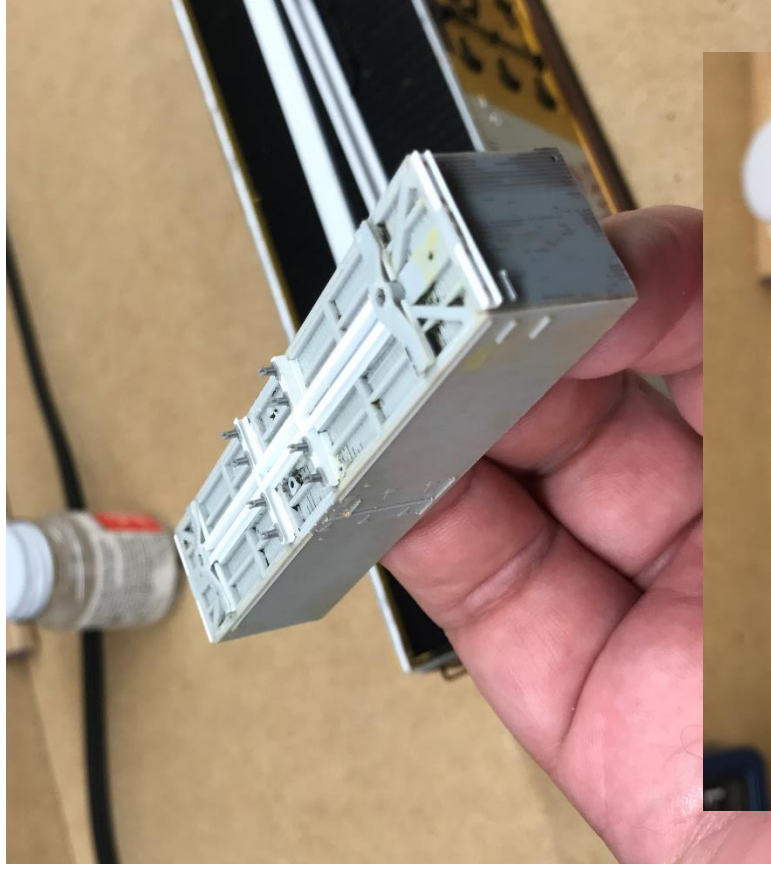
Add etched ladders to sides and ends.

Step 6

Add a wire brake staff and etched brake wheel (Gold Medal Models has a selection).

Step 7

Paint and letter.



Completed F.G.E.X. Mini-Kit



Completed HO scale mini-kit conversion
of FGEX 14356. Courtesy Frank Hodina,
Resin Car Works





Seminar Descriptions

Layouts

1 - A 21st Century Approach to a 19th Century Steam Layout

Bernie Kempinski

While Bernie's USMRR Aquia Line Civil War era layout is set in Virginia in 1863, the modeling techniques are state of the art. He has used every tool and manufacturing method available to create an impressive layout with outstanding rolling stock.

2 – Zeroing in on Zearing

Clark Propst

Clark discusses the last and final town on his layout while sharing his Midwestern scenery techniques.

3 – 40 Years In: The Twin Ports Layout

Dan Holbrook

Dan has been working on the same layout for 40 years. He recaps the journey and discusses the progress toward modeling prototype railroad movements in the Twin Ports area.

4 – Modeling the C&NW's Alco Line

Dennis Egger

Dennis will discuss his Alco Line layout with a focus on the 1970's era diesels, freight cars, and track needed to provide the full ambiance of the decade.

5 – Researching and Modeling a Major Industry

Hunter Hughson

You'll recognize his name from the magazines. Hunter discusses what it takes to plan and build major industries on your layout.

6 – A Family Resemblance

Ken Hojnacki

Join Ken as he discusses how railroads maintained a standardized appearance on structures and equipment. Use his tips to provide a family resemblance on your own layout.

7 – Rock Island's Decorah Branch

Steve Hile

Author and historian Steve Hile will present his research on Rock Island's Decorah Branch in Iowa. This subject has been intriguing to several of us as a great concept for a Proto:48 layout.

Tips and Techniques

8 – Freight Car Weathering

Chris Vanko

Join Chris as he discusses tips and techniques for freight car weathering using a multimedia approach.

9 – Real Sky

Craig Wilson

Learn about a photoshop technique to increase the realism of model photos by replacing the background with real sky images.

10 – Electronic Soldering Skills

Dick Harley

By request of Bill Welch, and with the help of George Bogatiuk, Dick Harley will present on soldering skills necessary for electronic work including circuits, DCC installs, and more. The presentation portion will be in the Arcadia classroom, while Dick will also post times that he is available for demonstrations in the Ballroom.

11 – Modeling with Low Vision II

Jeremy Dummler

Jeremy will present updated information on how to increase the quality of modeling through better vision. This is worthy information for all modelers, not just those with poor eyesight.

Freight Car Research

12 – 1900-1930 Pre-Depression Era Modeling

Eric Hansmann

A look at the challenges and opportunities to model freight cars used in the first three decades of the 20th Century.

13 – CB&Q XM-32 Boxcars

Jerry Hamsmith & Ed Rethwisch

The researching duo is back at it in this in-depth look at the Q's dominant box car. They will explore both the prototype and the available models.

14 – TOFC Act 1: Flat Cars

Jim Panza

In the first act of the trailer on flat car story, Jim Panza pulls information from the TTX archives to discuss selected flat cars from the 1960s and 1970s fleet.

15 – TOFC Act 2: Trailers

Mont Switzer

“Piggybacking” on Jim Panza’s presentation on Trailer Train flat cars of the 1960’s, Mont Switzer will follow up with two semi-trailer projects that can prototypically be loaded on the cars described by Jim. Piggyback trailer loads are among the most interesting, flexible and operationally challenging flat car loads available to modelers. This clinic will cover modeling one refrigeration semi-trailer and one van semi-trailer in HO scale.

16 – Tank Cars of the 1970s and 80s

Kevin Kayser

Kevin is back with a discussion on the center sill tank cars of the 70s and 80s along with appropriate models that match those prototypes.

17 – Which Shipped First, the Chicken or the Egg?

Kristin Dummmler

Kristin returns to discuss live poultry cars, live poultry shipping, and modeling ideas. These unique and custom cars rode the rails delivering live fowl from farms across the country to the large poultry markets in urban centers from the late 1800s, until as late as the 1950s. In the presentation, we will take a look at history of these unique cars, discuss the differences in car design, operations, and explore prototype modeling information.

18 – New York Central Steel Freight Cars Part IV: Flat Cars

Roger Hinman

Roger will present the first steel flats built in 1899 through the mid-fifties. General Service cars as well as Special Purpose cars will be included.

Modeling

19 – Modeling the AAR/ARA Standard Steel Boxcars in 1/87th Scale

Bill Welch

Extreme Modeler Bill Welch expounds on a cornucopia of standard steel boxcars in HO Scale.

20 – Steam Locomotive Parts, Appliances, and Fittings

Frank Peacock

Looking at steam locomotive photos and wondering what the thingamabob is behind the whutzit? Let Frank help you identify those appurtenances and help you make better, more informed modeling choices.

21 – The 2017 Mini-Kit Finished to the Nines: CGW 1937 AAR Boxcar

George Toman

George is back to share his step-by-step approach to an outstanding build of last year's Mini-Kit. If you've postponed your own build from last year, don't miss this. If you are a fan of modeling in any form, don't miss his tips and techniques.

22 – Weathering Transition Era Freight Cars

Tony Thompson

While there are numerous articles and examples of extreme, modern day weathering and graffiti, things were a bit different in the transition era. Tony will expand on weathering patterns and the chalk mark graffiti of the day.

Time Table & Train Order and Prototype Operations

23 – Tailoring a Freight Car Fleet for Operations

Al Kempf, Jr.

With an eye toward an operating layout, Al looks at what is necessary to put together an appropriate freight car fleet.

24 – Building your TT&TO Crew

Lowell Smith

Time Table and Train Order aficionado Lowell Smith returns to talk about gathering individuals for your operating group from the perspective of running a successful TT&TO session.

25 – Realistic Operations: From Here to There

Tony Koester

Tony's goal is to provide (almost) everything you need to know to build out operations on your layout in under an hour.

Prototype Railroad Operations & Industries

26 – 1950s Frozen Fruit, Vegetables, and Food

Charles Hostetler

Charles shares his research into the movement of food on the railroads including infrastructure, freight cars, traffic patterns and waybills.

27 – Shipping Milk and the Chicago Milk Shed

Dave Leider

Dave Leider provides a meticulously researched look at milk shipments on the railroads including a look at the milk shed in Chicago.

28 – Track Design for Prototype Model Railroads

Dale Muir

Starting with documented designs for roadways, curves, easement curves, turnouts, and yard ladders, Dale will share how we can adapt those designs for model railroad use. The presentation will demonstrate how to layout accurate spirals, with or without a computer, and show how easement curves can be used to disguise sharp model curves. Learn "the truth about curved turnouts" and discover how to maximize yard capacity using the "curve beyond the frog" technique for yard ladders. Advanced topics, such as spirals between curves of different radii, and how to use spirals to naturally increase track centers on curves, will also be discussed.

29 – Bucyrus Erie and the Railroads

Keith Kohlmann

Join Keith as he presents a look at a large industrial operation, Bucyrus Erie, and how they interacted and shipped equipment on the rails.

30 – Rail Marine Operations in New York Harbor

Mike Boland

Take a look at the intersection of water and rail as Mike Boland discusses the rail marine operations in New York Harbor.

31 – Prototypical Modeling and Operational Opportunities: Look at the Illinois Railway Museum

Tyrone Johnsen

We will look at an operating railway museum for a wider variety of modeling opportunities and operating possibilities. A museum is home to equipment from all past time periods and from any location including

international. The Illinois Railway Museum illustrates this through a variety of equipment and track arrangements. Modeling this can be prototypical and feature an unequalled array of equipment while still offering a variety of operational experiences.

Passenger Equipment

32 – Passenger Terminal Operations

Bob Chapman

With lots of photos, we'll fully explore passenger terminal operations, beginning with several examples of prototype passenger terminal types and the modeling ideas they suggest. We'll cover prototype passenger train examples, their terminal operations, and how to model the consists that Walthers doesn't offer.

33 – Transcontinental Mail and Express Operations

David Lambert

Dave returns to present his graduate level course on mail and express operations. This material is updated since his last presentation on the topic at this event in 2006.

34 – Building a 6-3 Sleeper * SPECIAL HANDS-ON CLINIC*

John Greene

This hands-on clinic is offered one time only on Friday. Advanced sign up at the registration table is necessary as there are only about 18 seats available. The cost is \$15 for the parts and can be paid in cash at the seminar. Attendees will leave with an HO model of a 6-3 heavyweight Pullman sleeper.

35 – Soo Line Passenger Trains in Illinois 1957-1958

Marshall Skibbe

Take a look at the passenger trains that were running in and out of Chicago with consists and prototype equipment matches.

DCC & Sound

37 – Soundtraxx DCC and Sound

George Bogatiuk

George from Soundtraxx will present two different sessions, each looking at DCC, Sound, and how to get the most out of your locomotive models.

Other

36 – Arrowhead Models

Blaine Hadfield

Blaine will present a behind the scenes look at the creation of Arrowhead's first HO freight car, the Committee Design hopper.

38 – A look at the Ritzman Collection of Midwest Photos

Jim Singer

This year Jim takes a break from passenger specials and presents a deep dive into the Ritzman Collection from the Lake States Railway Historical Association Archives.

2018 RPM After Party

Join us after the meet at Lombard Hobbies for the RPM After Party:

RPM 25

CHICAGOLAND

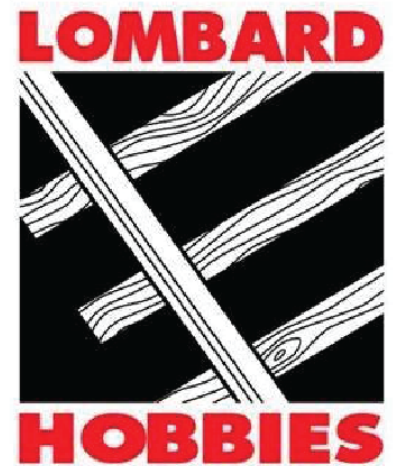
RPM AFTER PARTY!

Saturday, October 20th
5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Complimentary
Beverages & Snacks
\$\$ Specials \$\$

**2 Local clubs will be hosting
open houses for RPM attendees
Saturday evening as well!**

Prairie Scale Modelers, Lombard www.psmrr.org
Elmhurst Model Railroad Club, Elmhurst www.emrrc.org



Lombard Hobbies
524 East St. Charles Place
Lombard, IL 60148

Bring your RPM Name Badge for admittance!

Local Hobby Shops

Can't find what your looking for in the Vendor Room? Check out these great local hobby shops in the area!



Lombard Hobbies
www.lombardhobby.com
524 East St. Charles Place
Lombard, IL 60148
Ph: 630-620-1084



Des Plaines Hobbies
www.desplaineshobbies.com/store/
1524 Lee Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018-1517
Ph: 847-297-2118

TIMBERLINE TRAIN SHOP, LTD

Timberline Train Shop, LTD.
www.timberlinetrainshop.com
5228 Main Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Ph: 630.324.6136

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Thank You!

Much thanks go out to everyone that helped make this year's show a success. Thank you to Katie Skibbe and Harz for running the registration table. Thank you to Matt Gaudynski for keeping everything in check. Thank you to Kristin and Jeremy Dummler for their work making this attendee program a wonderful document on a tight deadline. Thank you to Eric Hansmann for being an editor extraordinaire for this program and all the RCW and RPM Chicagoland Facebook posts throughout the year. Thanks to Frank Hodina, Ted Culotta, and Tom Madden for bringing together the components for the Mini-Kits. Thanks to the HO Mod-U-Trak and N Modutrak groups for bringing layouts. Thanks to all of the top notch presenters giving seminars this year, as they are the heart of the meet. Special thanks to Steve Hile for helping pull together, and moderating, the Friends of the Freight Car panel discussion once again. And finally thank you to all the attendees for coming out for this special 25th anniversary, to celebrate and to share the many models on display.

RPM Baby!