



Hindsight II - Kit  
bashing FGE, BRE  
and WFE 1921 wood  
reefers using the  
Accurail 4800 FGE  
reefer kit.  
Fenton Wells



# The Prototypes



# The Models





# Carolina Modelers RPM Meet

Winston Salem NC, September 24-27<sup>th</sup> 2020

***FRUIT GROWERS EXPRESS CONSORTIUM OF WOODEN REEFERS***

PART I - THE FGE, WFE AND BRE 1921 BUILT CARS

PART II – THE FGE, WFE AND BRE 1927 BUILT CARS

FRUIT GROWERS EXPRESS

F.G.E.X.

35832

LT. WT. 57800 I.H. 11.38

VENTILATOR

AND

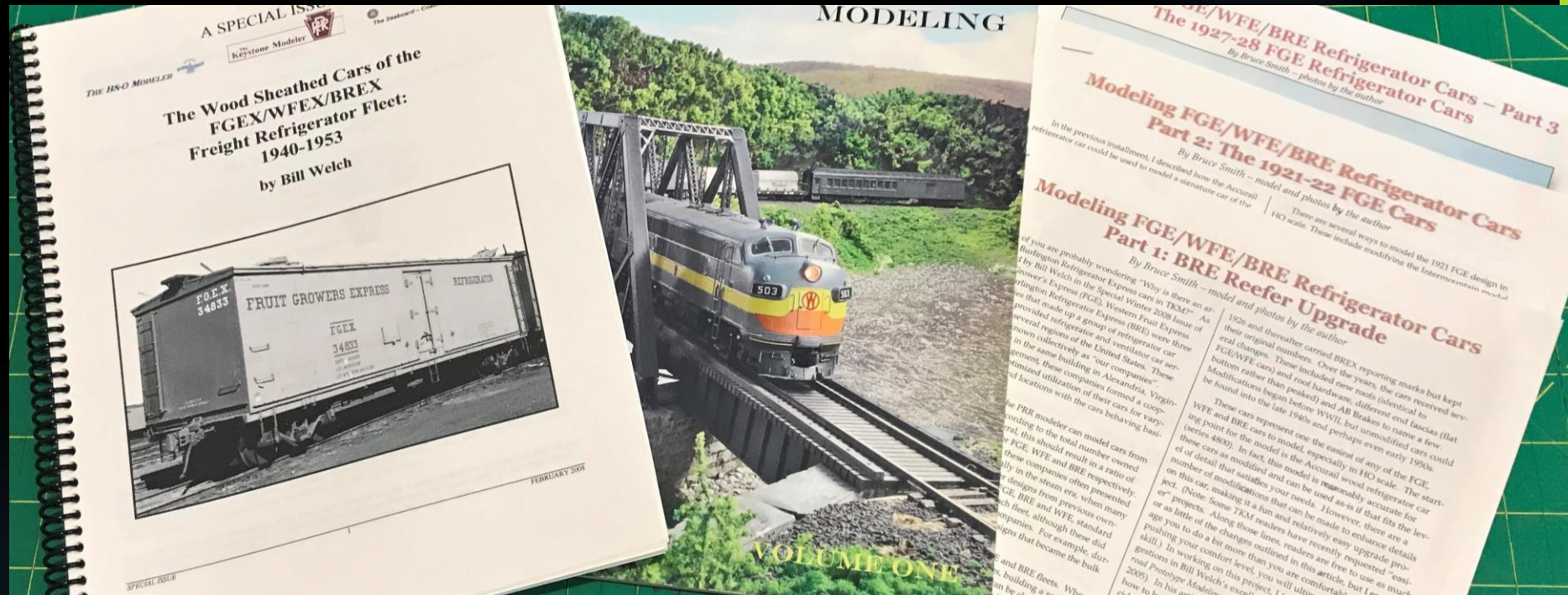
REFRIGERATOR

# Hindsight 2020 Vol II

August 22, 2020

KIT BASHING THE 1921 BUILD OF THE FGEX FAMILY OF WOOD REEFERS





# Prototype Information

Bill Welch Handout from Cocoa Beach "Wood Sheathed Cars of the FGEX, WFEX and BREX Fleet"

Prototype Railroad Modeling, Speedwitch Media Vol 1 - Bill Welch BREX Signature Wood Sheathed Reefers

Keystone Modeler(No. 83 Winter 2013) Modeling FGE/WFE?BRE Refrigerator Cars. Part I BRE Reefer Upgrade and Part II The 1921-22 FGE Cars



Kit Bashing  
Starting  
point –  
Accurail  
4800  
Wood  
Reefer



# FGE Reefer

- The way they looked originally



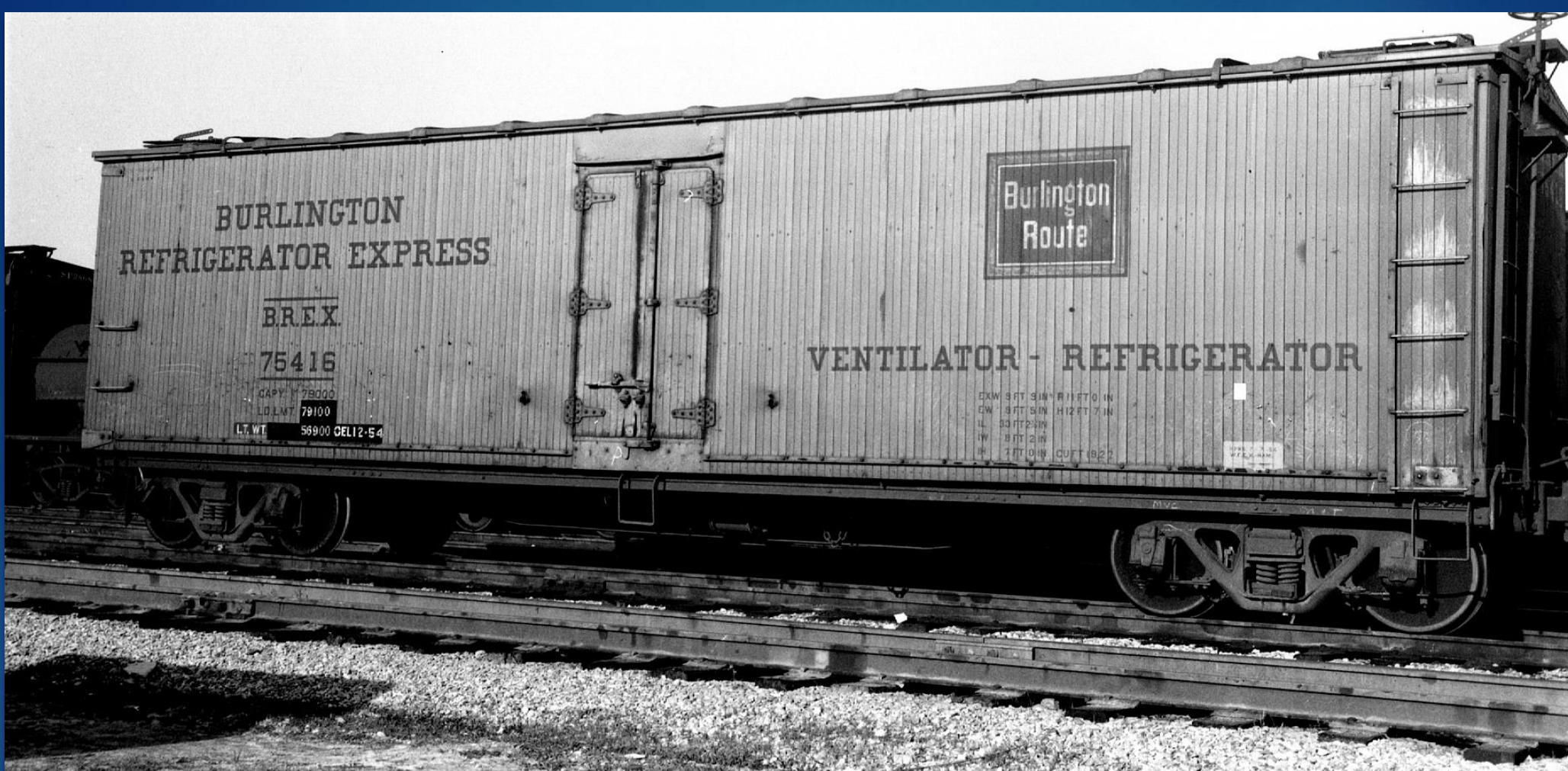




# WFE Reefer

IN THE POST 1950 SCHEME





BRE Reefer in the pre 1950 scheme



# FGE/WFE/BRE Kit bash

## Two paths to follow-Depending on which car you want to build

### FGEX/WFEX

1. Underframes – Rebuilt & Sill steps - Bolster to striker face is 5'-6"
2. Ends - Added details
3. Sides/Roof – Ladders & Grabs & hatch cover rests
4. Trucks - Stock
5. Paint and Decals – Which Era paint do you want

### BREX

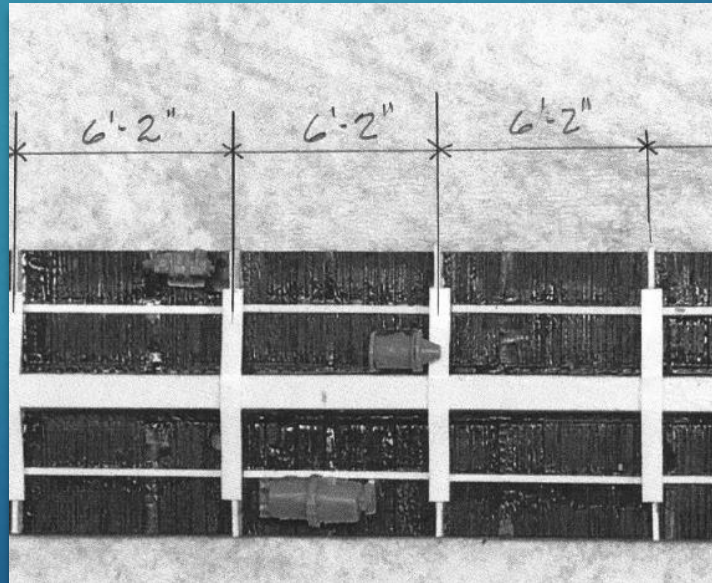
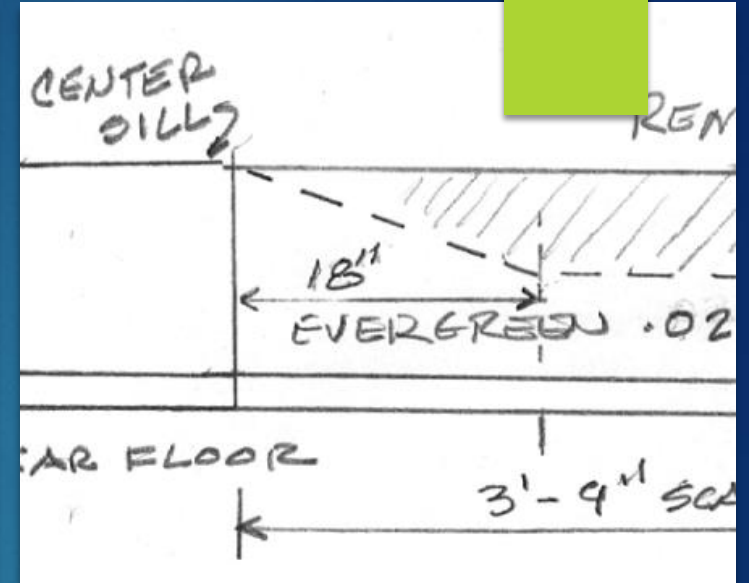
1. Underframes – Fishbelly & Sill Steps – Bolster to striker face 5'-0"
2. Ends – Basically stock
3. Sides/Roof – Ladders & Grabs & hatch cover rests
4. Trucks - Andrews
5. Paint and Decals – Which era paint do you want

# FGEX/WFEX - Underframes

NEW CENTER SILL, CROSS  
(.020 X .125)

BEARERS (.020 X .125) AND  
CROSS BEARER COVERS  
(.010 X .080).

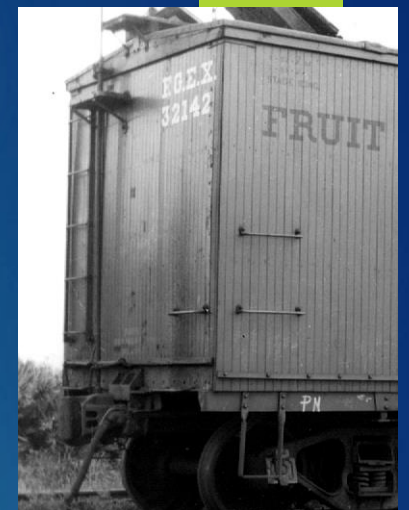
.030 X .030  
LONGITUDINAL SUPPORTS  
ADDED BETWEEN THE  
CROSS BEARERS





# FGE/WFE Ends

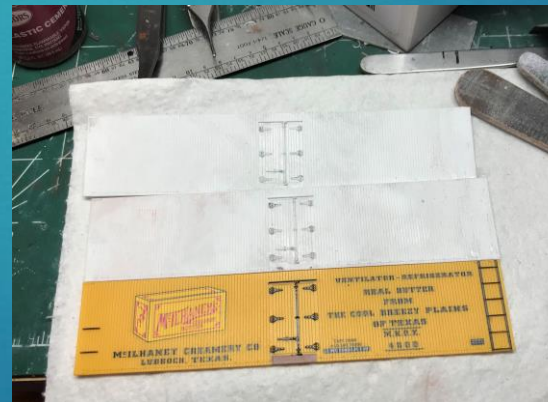
- ▶ A .010 x .060 to the bottom of the car side to simulate the side channel
- ▶ Add a .100 channel on top of the side channel at each end
- ▶ Add detail at coupler pocket, NBW castings over grabs to the level of detail that you desire.





# FGE/WFE Sides

- ▶ The Accurail design makes it easy to work on the sides of the car.
- ▶ Caution – if you use ink to color the side hardware make sure it doesn't run with the decal setting solution
- ▶ After stripping and repainting the runny part I managed to recover relatively well







# FGE/WFE & BRE Roof

Hatch Rests

PROTOTYPE PHOTOS

# FGE, WFE, BRE Roofs

## Model roofs hatch covers

1. Detail Associates .015 x .042 brass flat bar
2. Evergreen .010 x .020 on top with cut out where hatch arm will sit





# FGE, WFE, BRE Trucks

## FGE & WFE Trucks

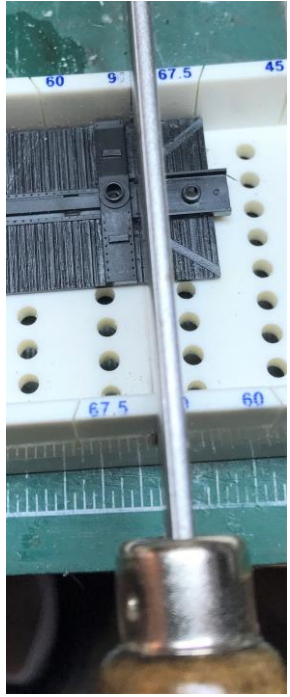


FGE REEFER #14815 TORONTO ONT. 1950'S

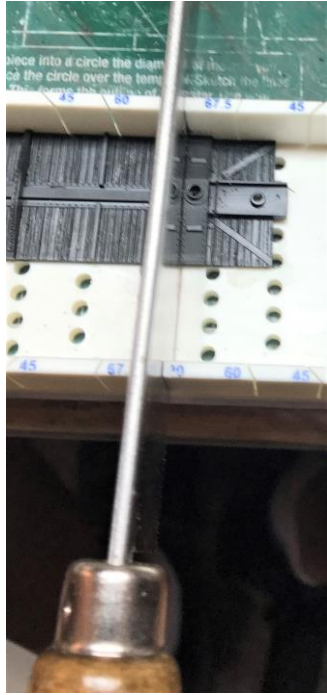
JIM PARKER PHOTO-152

## BRE Trucks

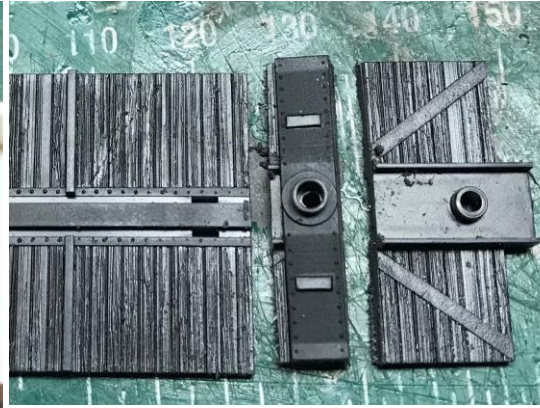




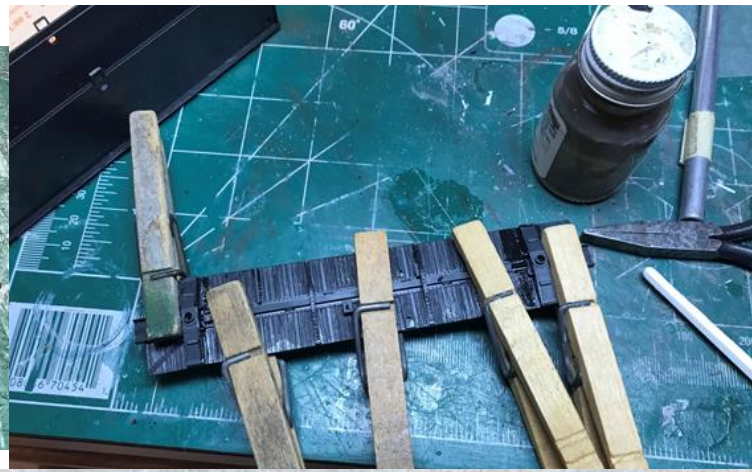
Cut 1



Cut 2



Turn bolster  
around



# BRE Underframe

Must move the bolster to get a 5'-0" bolster to striker face distance



BRE  
Underframe  
This is where  
we want to get  
to with the BRE  
Underframe









# Consortium Paint Schemes\*

\* Thanks to Bill Welch

Early 1940-1953 FGE (No herald displayed);

Paint car sides yellow (Yellow with a drop of orange mixed in)

Side Sills and sill steps - black

Roof and ends and kick boards under the door – Freight car red

Placard boards sometimes black and sometimes yellow

Hardware on sides; grabs hinges and steps – Black

Hardware on ends – freight car red most likely but possibly black

Fan housing plates – yellow or black

Lettering type “Optic”

“Ventilator and Refrigerator” were used on car side

Before 1940 and into 1944 no dimensional data stenciled on car

# Consortium Paint Schemes\*

FGE Early 1940-1953

\* Thanks to Bill Welch





# Consortium Paint Schemes\*

Optic and similar to FGE

\* Thanks to Bill Welch

WFE - BRE Early 1940-early 1951

Both roads displayed their heralds on the cars

WFE Pre 1940 thru October 1942



WFE Oct.1942 thru 1948-1949



WFE 1949 thru 1953 and beyond



# WFE and BRE early paint and stenciling schemes





# Painting changes starting in late 1949

## ***Late 1949 thru late 1951***

Hardware on car side painted yellow

Roof, kick board, side sill and roof Freight car red, roof maybe silver

Stirrup steps and trucks were black

“Ventilator and Refrigerator” still stenciled on sides

## ***Late 1951 thru 1953 and beyond***

Ends freight car red

Roofs red, yellow or silver see photos

“Ventilator” stencil dropped from car sides

Later into - the mid to late 1960's lettering style changed to Gothic



Painting  
changes  
starting in  
late 1949





Late  
1950's  
thru  
1970's

LATE 1950'S GOTHIC STYLE



# Thank You

Bill Welch for his pioneering this topic

Bruce Smith for doing early kit bashes of these cars

Ted Culotta and the rest of the Hindsight Team for putting this forum together

