

MTTX 91251 (60' flat car)

Scratch built, judged, 96 points

MTTX 91258 (60' flat car)

Scratch built, judged, 91 points

These two cars are substantially the same. Both are 60' flat cars built for general service. Except for the deck, the cars were built upside down since most of the detail is in the underframe. Construction started with a piece of 0.030" sheet polystyrene on the bench. Side and end sills of 0.030" x 0.250" stock were built around the sheet. A layer of lead shot was placed over the sheet and secured with white glue. Another sheet, this time of 0.010", covered the lead shot. This added weight assured that the car would meet the NMRA weight standard.

Construction of the underframe continued with longitudinal stringers. One car has 0.010" x 0.040" stringers while the other car uses 3/64" tee stringers. The center sill is made from 0.030" x 0.250" stock spaced apart then capped with another piece of 0.030" x 0.250" material. Ribs were built from trapezoidal pieces of 0.030" stock and covered with 0.030" x 0.156" stock. A Details West brake set was used to build the brake systems on each car.

The stake pockets are made from short pieces of 0.060" x 0.060" stock. The decks were built from pieces of Micro Engineering ties. There are about 175 pieces of wood in each deck. The deck was sanded to decrease the thickness of the ties somewhat. The ties were stained with a wash of India ink in isopropanol. The cars were painted with Floquil Railbox Yellow and lettered with Microscale decals. A light weathering was applied to the sides with a heavier weathering applied to the underframes.

These cars each contained about 300 parts made from plastic, wood, and wire. The only commercial parts used were couplers, trucks, brake parts, and the four steps. The various grabs were scratch built.

