

SOU 9773

Scratch built, judged, 100 points

This is a model of a very uncommon car developed by the Southern Railway in the 1960s for the transport of hogsheads of tobacco. In later years I understand they carried other low bulk density commodities such as tires. Having once lived adjacent to the Southern, these cars have always been of interest to me. An article in Model Railroading (February, 2003) ultimately led to the urge to scratch build this car.

Like the 60' boxcar, this car is built around a base of wood. Indeed, the idea for using that technique for these cars came from the magazine article. I did choose to deviate somewhat from the author's procedures.

The poplar did require some more cutting than for the boxcar. This car has sloped sides to the roof and those cuts were made after some trial and error. As with the boxcar, the wood gives the car about the right weight. The sides, ends, roof, and underframe were all covered with 0.030" polystyrene sheet. Thickened cyanoacrylate cement was used as the adhesive. The ribs on the sides were made from 3/64" tee with tapers at the ends. The doors were constructed in place from various pieces of polystyrene. The vertical locking rods are 0.020" wire. The door tracks are 0.020" x 0.040" stock.

The roof has an overlay of 0.005" sheet. This is necessary to develop the overhang at the car's ends. The original author apparently put this on in one piece but I found it easier to make three pieces then putty and sand extensively. The roof ribs are 3/64" angle. Each rib consists of three pieces. The point of contact between pieces had to be trimmed and puttied to assure a proper fit. The skylights on the roof were made by punching quarter inch diameter pieces from clear plastic sheet. The resulting pieces were then secured with white glue.

The ends have some sort of step out that is simulated by adding 0.060" of sheet material to the lower portions of the ends. The top is tapered to a 45 degree angle. Ladders were scratch built from 0.040" and 0.030" half round stock. Small vents at the roof line were made from short pieces of 0.060" x 0.060" material.

The center sill is two pieces of zee stock. Longitudinal stringers are 0.010" x 0.040" material. The side ribs are 0.030" x 0.080" stock. The brake parts are from Details West. The car also has Walther's cushion draft gear as couple pockets.

The car is painted with Floquil Boxcar Red. After the paint dried, a coat of Future Floor Finish was applied as a gloss coat. Microscale decals were used to letter the car. A light weathering was applied to the running gear and an heavier black grit weathering was applied to the upper reaches of the car.

The commercial parts on this car are the trucks, couplers, steps (but not grabs), brake parts, paint, decals, and perhaps the coupler pockets. All other parts are polystyrene shapes and sheet and some wire.

