

# **Ann Arbor Railroad**

## **Single-sheath boxcars / 1919-1962**

**For more than forty years,  
three groups of 40-foot single-sheath  
boxcars formed the backbone of the  
Ann Arbor Railroad freight car fleet**

**Even when the railroad began to  
acquire all steel boxcars after WW II  
these cars continued in service until  
1962 and in MofW service after that.**

# **Series 12000-12199 / 90000-90199**



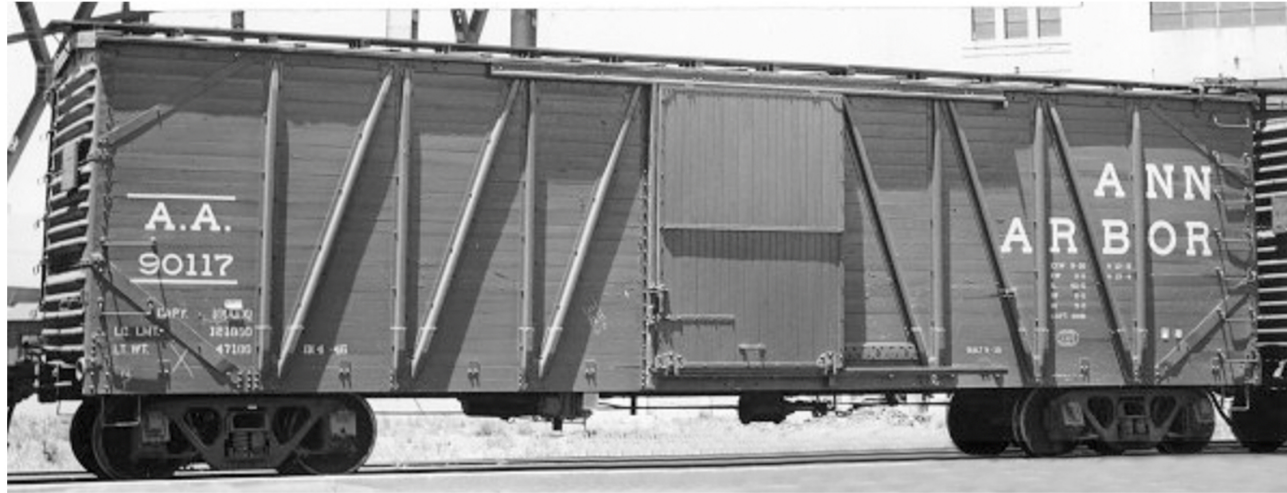
**150 USRA-design cars built by Haskell & Barker in 1919 then 50 more built by ACF in 1920**

**40-foot cars / 50-ton capacity / 9' 0" IH**

**Renumbered to 90000-90199 series  
between 1929 and 1935**

**Equipped with AB brakes / Miner power  
brake gear in the 1940's**

**Remained in revenue service until 1962**



**“Grain clips” were added along the sill on most cars**



**The “Dangerous” placard on the door indicates that this car is probably equipped with racks for battery loading**

# **Series 11400-11649 / 73750-73998**



**250 cars built by Standard Tank Car Company in 1924**

**40-foot cars / 40-ton capacity / 9' 0" IH**

**Hutchins Dry Lading roof / Hutchins ends**

**Renumbered to 73750-73998 series starting in 1929**

**Equipped with AB brakes / Miner power brake gear in the 1940's**

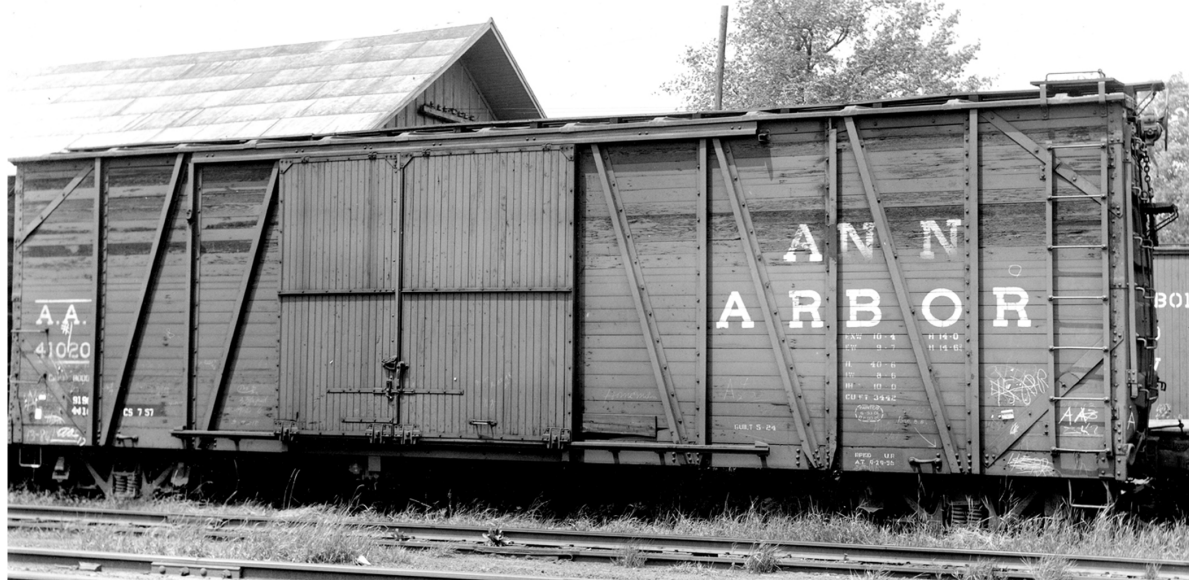
**As many as 33 cars equipped with racks for  
auto battery loading / 1950-1960**

**Last cars in revenue service in 1962**



**Wabash painted its MofW cars yellow / AA 73788 retains its revenue service number and other lettering. Jim Parker photo / Howell / September 1959**

# **Series 10300-10549 / 41000-41249**



**250 cars built by Standard Tank Car Company in 1924**

**40-foot cars / 40-ton capacity / 10' 0" IH / 4'+6' doors**

**Hutchins Dry Lading roof / Hutchins ends with plate for added height**

**Renumbered to 41000-41249 series starting in 1929**

**Equipped with AB brakes / Miner power brake gear in the 1940's**

**60% of cars rebuilt as single door cars /1937-1939 /  
renumbered to 74000-74150 series**

**Last cars in revenue service in 1962**



**During the steam era, double door cars typically had “AUTOMOBILE” lettering. There is no evidence that the cars were ever so equipped. Many of the AA cars were repainted without this lettering.**





**AA 74074 (Millinocket Maine 1955) and AA 74014 (Howell 1959) are examples of cars rebuilt as single door boxcars and renumbered into the 74000-series. 60% of the 41000-series cars were rebuilt this way.**







**The difference in height between the 9' 73750-series and 10' 74000-series cars is evident in this 1955 Jim Shaw photo taken at Owosso.**



***Ann Arbor No. 6* is being loaded at the west slip at Boat Landing in this mid-1950's view. Two 7400-series boxcars are coupled to a boat coaling hopper in the foreground.**



**A few of the 4100-series boxcars ended their lives as Company Service boxcars. X4637 [above] was at Boat Landing in 1976. X 4635 [below] was at Shepherd during the third AARRT&HA annual meeting.**



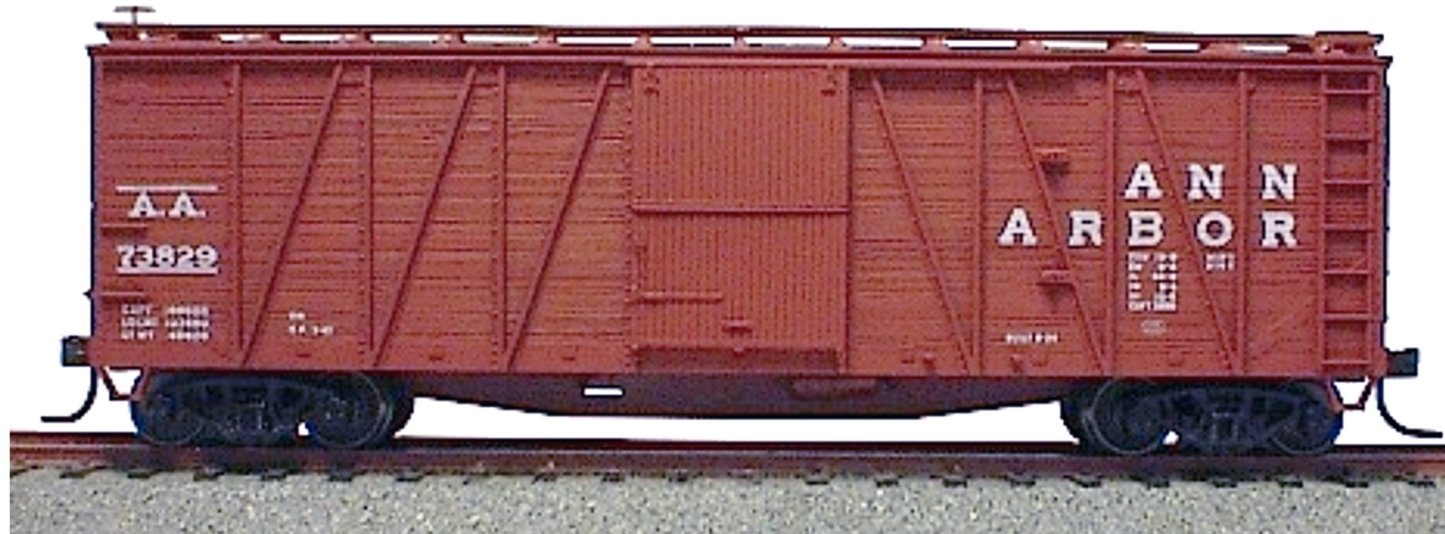


**Company Service boxcar X4638 was part of the B&B Dept train when Ted Ellis photographed it at Menominee in July 1967**

# **Modeling the Ann Arbor RR single-sheath boxcars**

**A decades long quest**

**Many years ago Arnt Gerritsen noticed that the Accurail single-sheath boxcar kit was a very close match to the AA 73750-series cars**

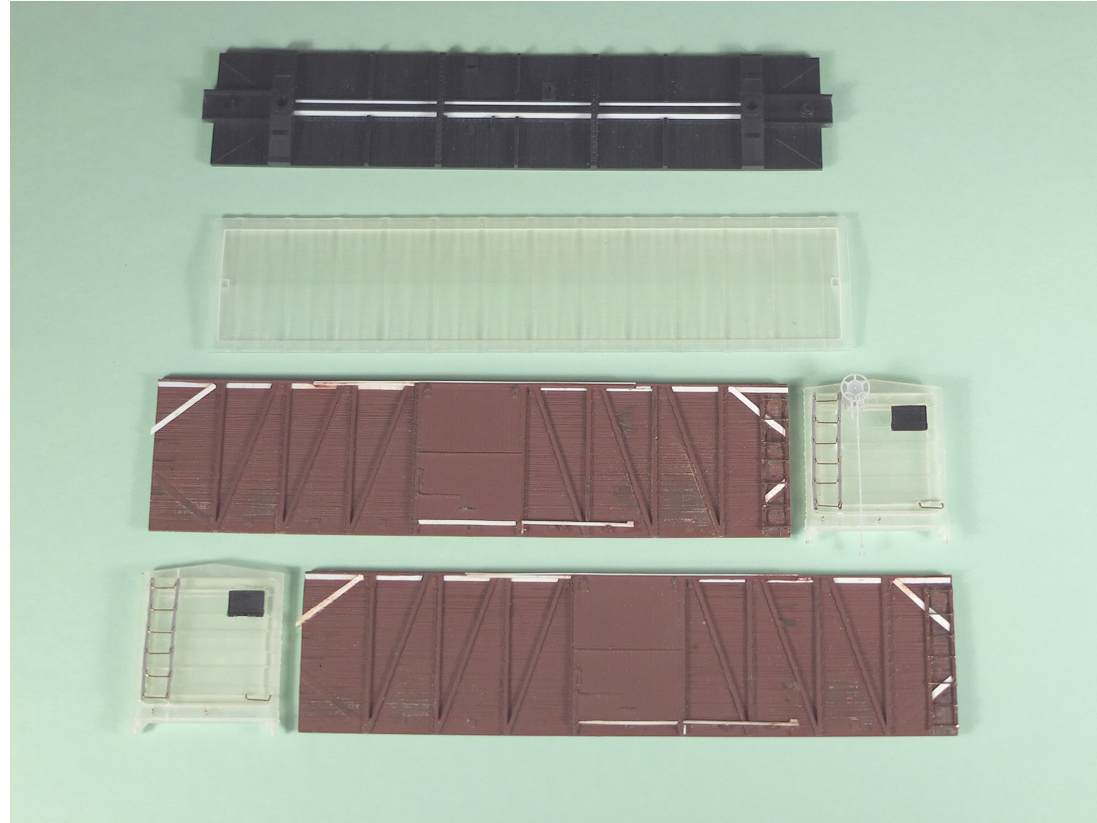


**Accurail kit #4316**

**The USRA-style ends are different from the Hutchins ends on the AA car and it has a fishbelly underframe.**

**Arnt tried to fabricate new ends but never solved the problem to his satisfaction.**

**In 2020 Canadian modeler Rob Kirkham designed 3D printed parts for the Hutchins ends and roof that can be purchased on Shapeways.**



**The sides of the Accurail boxcar were cut off turning it into a “flat kit.”**

**The parts were assembled and styrene pieces added to match prototype photos.**



**End ladders were fabricated from Tichy ladders and drop grab irons. The Miner brake gear are Tangent Scale Models parts.**



**Scalecoat II Oxide Red paint  
Decals from the Smokebox Graphics AA boxcars set**



**AA 73750-series boxcar  
ready for service**

## AA 90000-series boxcars



**Tichy Train Group makes a kit for “USRA single-sheath boxcar.”  
Yesteryear Models produced this RTR car using the Tichy model.  
It was a very brownish color instead of the oxide red of the  
AA cars. And the placement of the ‘ANN ARBOR’  
lettering was different from the prototype cars.**



**Rapido Trains has produced this RTR USRA boxcar and offered it in six Ann Arbor numbers. The oxide red color is much more authentic than the Yesteryear offering and the lettering on the sides is placed correctly. But this model features AB brakes and a vertical brake staff. The prototype AA cars had Miner power brake gear after they were upgraded to AB brakes in the 1940's.**

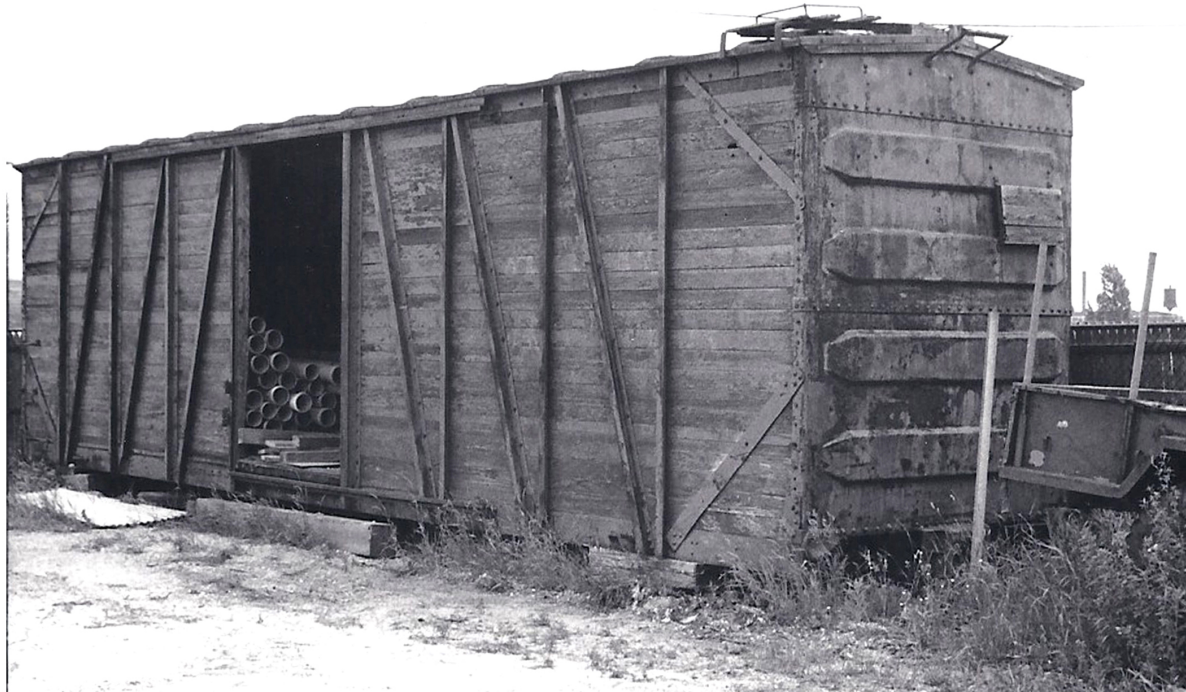


**The Rapido model was upgraded by removing the vertical brake staff, brake step platform and Carmer cut levers from the ends. Mounting holes were plugged with styrene rod. Tangent Scale Models parts for Miner brake gear were added and the Rapido brake step platform was reused, moving it down one corrugation the body. New coupler release rods were fabricated using brass wire.**



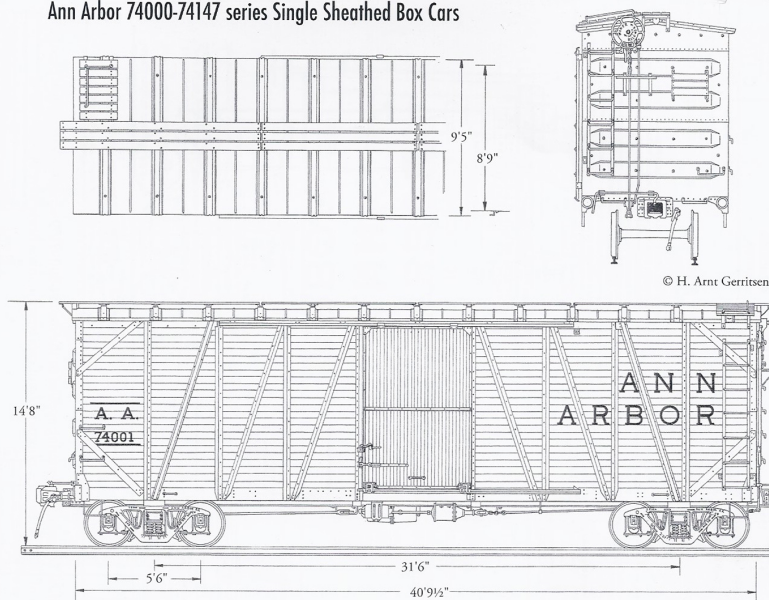
**Scalecoat II Oxide Red was a good match for touching up the paint on the ends. Rapido used incorrect "A.A." reporting marks on the ends so those were removed and replaced with the correct "ANN ARBOR" marks and car numbers on the ends using decals from the Smokebox Graphics Ann Arbor boxcar set.**

## **AA 41000- and 74000-series boxcars**



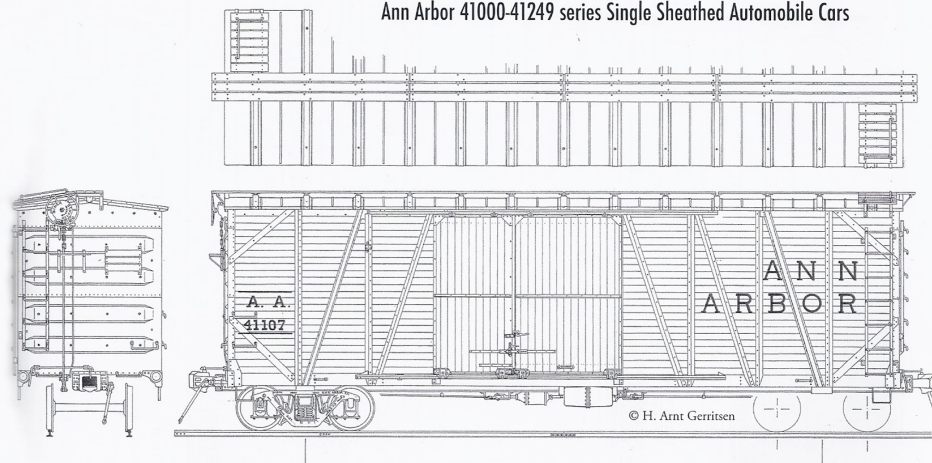
**This 74000-series survivor was found at the Dept of Public Works yard in Cadillac, Michigan. Arnt Gerritsen and I obtained permission to go photograph and measure it. From our field notes and photos, Arnt made scale drawings of both the 41000- “door-and-a-half” and 74000- single door boxcars.**

Ann Arbor 74000-74147 series Single Sheathed Box Cars



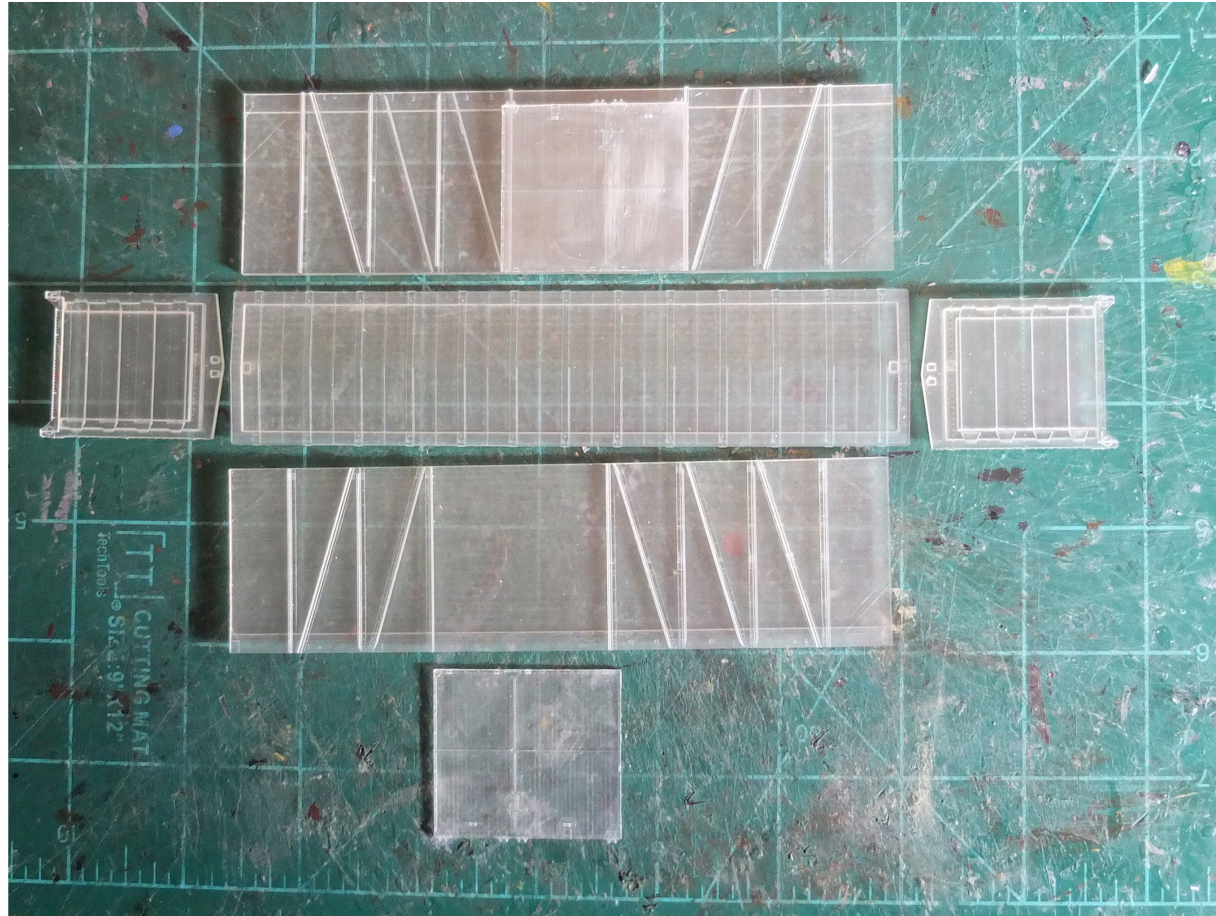
**Ted Culotta borrowed these drawings from Arnt and used them to produce HO scale resin models for both the AA 41000- and 74000-series boxcars.**

Ann Arbor 41000-41249 series Single Sheathed Automobile Cars



**Speedwitch Media kits K110.1 (41000-) and K110.2 (74000-)**

**Limited production kits**



**The Speedwitch Media kits were limited production and can be difficult to find. But now there are 3D printed parts available from Shapeways that can be assembled to make the 41000-series cars. Parts for the ladders, brakegear, underframe trucks, and running board have to be obtained from other sources.**





**AA 41002**

**Speedwitch  
kit K110.1**



**AA 74105**

**Speedwitch  
kit K110.2**



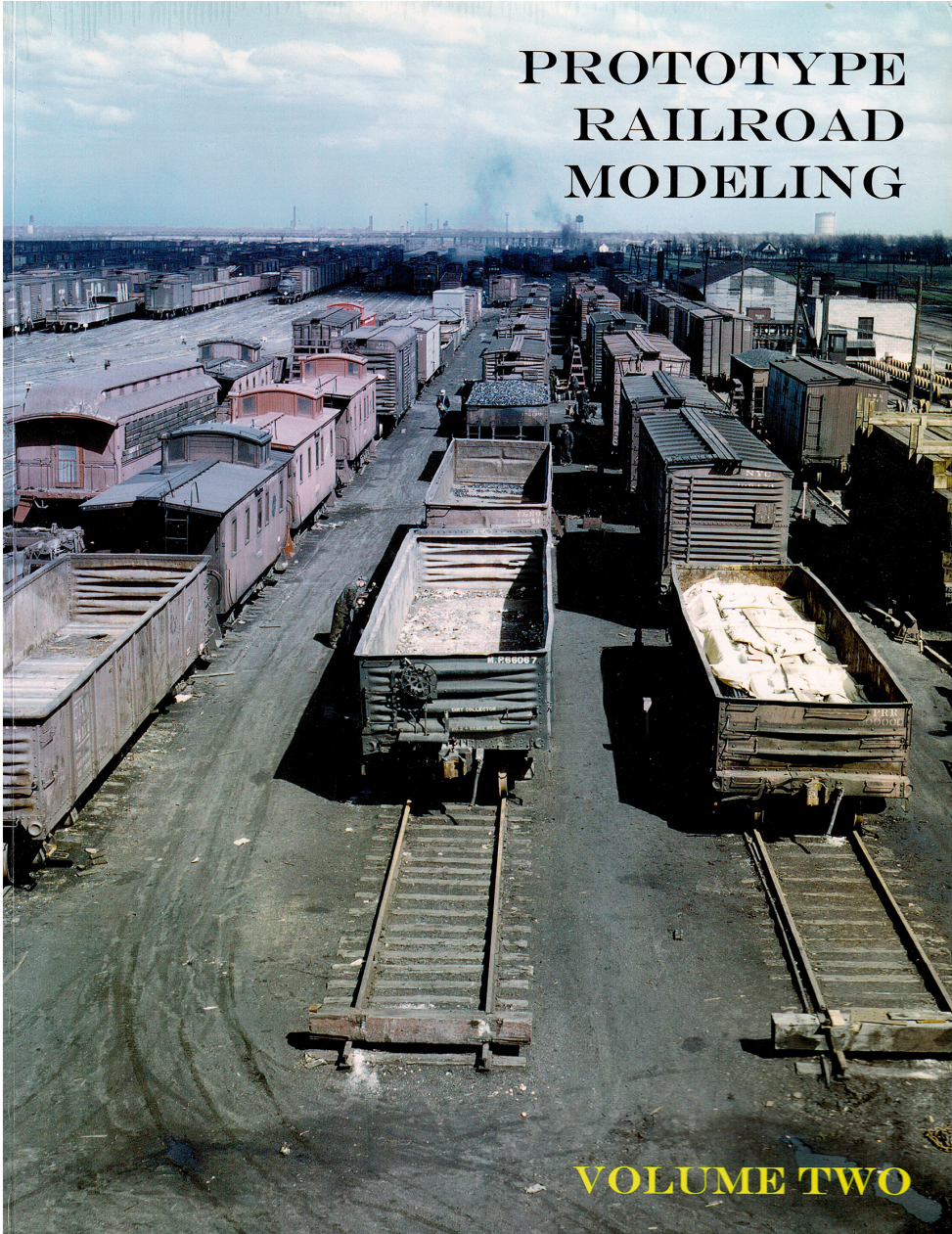
**AA 74074**  
**Speedwitch**  
**kit K110.2**



**AA X4638**  
**Speedwitch**  
**kit K110.1**

**decals from the**  
**Speedwitch kit +**  
**a Mark Vaughan**  
**Wabash set**

**My friend Alan Bell milled out the**  
**door openings on these two kits**



PROTOTYPE  
RAILROAD  
MODELING

**Much of the history and prototype information for this presentation comes from a 40 page article by Rob Adams in *Railroad Prototype Modeling, Volume 2*, published by Speedwitch Media**

**VOLUME TWO**

# UPDATE

## CARROLL AVENUE SHOPS 3D PRINTED CABOOSE

CARROLL AVE  
SHOPS

WABASH / ANN ARBOR  
streamline cupola caboose

3D printed HO scale model / Tahoe caboose trucks / Kadee couplers  
Models are custom built to order from prototype photos using custom printed decals



Wabash Railroad  
Early [rectangular panel roof] and  
Late [ diagonal panel roof] versions



Ann Arbor Railroad  
1950's version / all red body  
outline or solid pennant herald



Ann Arbor Railroad  
1960's version / red body, yellow  
ends / compass herald



Ann Arbor Railroad  
Michigan Interstate era / all orange  
"ferry in the fog" herald



Detroit Toledo & Ironton [ex-AA]  
red body / yellow ends / black roof  
compass herald / late-1970's

For pricing, availability, and ordering information contact:

CARROLL AVE  
SHOPS

[info@carrollaveshops.com](mailto:info@carrollaveshops.com)

# UPDATE

## NORTHWOOD MODELS TPPX PULPWOOD GONDOLAS



In 1974, Midwest Freight Car Company built 50 high side pulpwood gondolas for Thilmany Pulp & Paper Company of Kaukauna Wisconsin (TPPX 40100-40149).

During 1975, these cars in 5-car blocks were loaded at the Ann Arbor Railroad's Selma Yard in Cadillac Michigan.

Loaded cars traveled via the AA car ferries to Kewaunee Wisconsin. The Green Bay & Western interchanged them to the Chicago & North Western for delivery to Kaukauna.

3D printed models by Northwoods Models  
(formerly SooParts).

Paint: Scalecoat II CN Orange

Decals: Circus City Decals (included in the kit)

Trucks: Moloco with Tangent wheelsets

Other parts: Tangent "Modern" brakewheel, Tangent air hoses, Tangent coupler lift bars, A-Line type-A sill steps



# ANN ARBOR RAILROAD OWOSSO YARD OFFICE

**HO scale drawings of this building were published in the  
1985, No 2 issue of the *AARRT&HA Newsletter***

