This is a generic, 1:20.3 scale, retired boxcar. Most railroads had a surplus of old boxcars, as well as a need for section houses, storage sheds, and so forth. As a result, older equipment was often used to fill this need. This is such a car. It scales out to 22’ in length and about 8’ wide, with a door height of about 6’.

**Construction**

Begin construction with the floor. Cut a piece of 1/4" ply that is 4" x 12 7/16". On one side, add the stripwood framing, per the drawing. On the other side, add the 1/16" x 5/16" planking.

Now make the box substructure. Use 1/8" plywood for the subsides and subends. Cut the roof beams from 1/8" stock (balsa will work nicely). Assemble the substructure according to the detail. This should just fit over the previously assembled floor. When the substructure is assembled to your satisfaction, surface the exterior with stripwood and scribed wood as shown in the drawings. Begin by adding the 1/16" fascia to the ends, followed by the 1/16" x 1/8" fascia on the sides. Now surface the ends and sides with 1/32"-thick x 1/16"-spaced scribed wood.

Add the roof using 1/16" sheet. Sand the roof smooth. Make the windows and the door (do not add the clear plastic glazing until after the car has been painted). Glue these into their openings and add the 1/16" x 1/8" stripwood that fits around the outside edge. At this point, seal the car body with clear lacquer, sanded lightly after it dries. Now, using Rustoleum, Krylon, or Ace house brand spray-can red primer, apply two light coats of paint. Allow to dry 48 hours before handling. The bottom of the car can be brush painted flat black.

Are you working in a different scale?

If you are working in 1:32 scale, reduce these drawings to 65%.
If you are working in 1:29 scale, reduce these drawings to 70%.
If you are working in 1:24 scale, reduce these drawings to 88%.
If you are working in 1:22.5 scale, reduce these drawings to 90%.
If you are working in 16mm scale, enlarge these drawings to 107%.
If you are working in 1:13.7 (7/8”) scale, enlarge these drawings to 148%.

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#330 wet or dry sandpaper roofing

**door**
make 1

**window**
make 4

1/16" stock

1/32" ply

1/16" glazing

1/16" x 1/4"

1/16" x 1/8"

1/16" x 3/16"

1/16" sq.

5/8" dia. dowel

1/2" dia. dowel

1/4" dia. dowel

fascia
1/6" stock

end view
1:20.3 retired boxcar

by Ted Stinson | Wiscasset, Maine

This is a generic, 1:20.3 scale, retired boxcar. Most railroads had a surplus of old boxcars, as well as a need for storage sheds, and so forth. As a result, older equipment was often used to fill this need. This is such a car. It is 10' in length and about 8' wide, with a door height of about 6'.

Construction

Begin construction with the floor. Cut a piece of 1⁄4" ply that is 4" x 12 7⁄16". On one side, add the stripwood drawing. On the other side, add the ½" x ¼" planking.

Now make the box substructure. Use 1⁄8" plywood for the subsides and subends. Cut the roof beams from 1⁄8" ply (work nicely). Assemble the substructure according to the detail. This should just fit over the previously assembled subends.

When the substructure is assembled to your satisfaction, surface the exterior with stripwood and scribed wood drawings. Begin by adding the ½" fascia to the ends, followed by the ¼" x ⅛" fascia on the sides. Now surface sides with ⅛"-thick x ⅛"-spaced scribed wood.

Add the roof using ⅛" sheet. Sand the roof smooth. Make the windows and the door (do not add the clear plastic). Glue these into their openings and add the ⅛" x ⅛" stripwood that fits around the sides. This will fit around the car body with clear lacquer, sanded lightly after it dries. Now, using Rustoleum, Krylon, or Ace Hardware red primer, apply two light coats of paint. Allow to dry 48 hours before handling. The bottom of the car can be painted flat black.

Now surface the roof with 3M #320 wet-or-dry Tri-M-Ite paper. All details added from this point should be glued in place. Begin with the smokehead, then do the metal parts, such as brackets, grab irons, etc. Finally, add the scribed wood drawings.

* * *

This sheet is a supplement to the August 2005 issue of Garden Railways magazine. While supplies last, extra drawings can be had by sending $1.50 per set ($2.00 foreign) to: Sidestreet Bannerworks, PO Box 460222, Denver CO 80246-9999. A complete list of available plans can be found at www.sidestreet.info, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Northeast Narrow Gauge offers a kit for the retired boxcar for $50 + $6 s&h. Order from Northeast Narrow Gauge, Wiscasset ME 04578. Web site: www.nemodel.com

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Are you working in a different scale?


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Cut the roof beams from ¼” stock (balsa will over the previously assembled floor.
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or (do not add the clear plastic glazing until ripwood that fits around the outside edge. At rustoleum, Krylon, or Ace house brand spray-
The bottom of the car can be brush painted from this point should be prepainted before irons, etc. Finally, add the steps and awning.

e. While supplies last, extra copies of these orks, PO Box 460222, Denver CO 80246 USA. mped, self-addressed envelope to the above
from Northeast Narrow Gauge, PO Box 191,
photocopied by individual modelers for their ithout written consent from the publisher.
cardstock smokehead

$.03" dia. wire

steps
side view

$.06" x $.06"

$.5" ply

$.06" scra

awning

$.06" x $.06"
front view
1/8" x 5/16" x 12 3/8"

Sub

Cut door in 1 side only

1/8" x 3 3/16" x 4"

Sub end

Make 2
sub side
make 2

e only

roof beam
cut 4 from \( \frac{3}{8}'' \) stock

\( \frac{1}{8}'' \times 4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 12\frac{3}{8}'' \)

substructure detail

\( \frac{1}{8}'' \times \frac{3}{4}'' \)
sub end
make 2

end beam
make 2 from \( \frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{7}{16}'' \)

escutcheon pin

\( \frac{3}{16}'' \times \frac{5}{16}'' \) planking

\( \frac{3}{8}'' \times \frac{3}{8}'' \) planking

\( \frac{3}{8}'' \times \frac{3}{8}'' \) sq.