



ARA-1932 Design: (1950s/1960s) Rebuilds & Conversions



Joe Collias photo

Nickel Plate Road
series 13000-13499
rebuild boxcar



R. B. Dunnet photo

Maine Central
series 24000... 24100...
rebuild boxcar



Bill Raia photo

Soo Line
series 41800-42798
rebuild boxcar

1/87 scale mixed-media model railway kits

The ARA-1932 Standard Boxcar Design as approved by ARA committee members at the time, arguably established the beginning of national standardized rail car designs that served as the foundation of numerous subsequent designs to follow over the next thirty years of rail car manufacturing. Even though a sizable quantity of 14,500 cars were produced for 23 railroads, those numbers were dwarfed by the 150,000 plus cars that were to be constructed later under AAR-1937, AAR-1937-modified, and AAR-Postwar boxcar manufacturing programs that were all essentially based on the ARA-1932 design. As effective as any car design is, eventually rebuilding, modifications, and conversions are dictated by wear, aging, and evolving customer requirements. For a comprehensive study of this car type, refer to the definitive reference guide book, “ARA Standard Box Car of 1932” (published by Speedwitch Media).

NKP series 13000-13499 rebuilds. During the 1950s, the NKP rebuilt their cars by extending the side-sills, replacing doors with new post-war Y’T versions, Murphy diagonal raised-panel roof replacements, Apex Tri-lok running boards were added, and Ajax powered hand brakes replaced the older C&O style geared types. During the mid-1960s, 8 cars received roof hatches.

MEC series 24000-24100 ... rebuilds. In 1964, the MEC selected a number of their ARA-1932 cars for expansion of the door openings from a 6-foot to 8-foot width in order to serve the Northeast paper industry. This was achieved utilizing the thrifty technique of adding a 2-foot extension to its original as-built 6-foot doors. In addition, extended and reinforced side-sills were added under the door openings. Two different sill design modifications were employed. These particular cars featured pine-tree green body color and yellow painted doors, along with the “Prime Mover for Maine Industry” lettering tag-line, located right side of the door.

SooLine series 41800-42798 rebuilds. During the 1950s, Soo Line shops rebuilt their cars by employing bolster-to-bolster side-sill reinforcement, new Murphy diagonal raised-panel roof, Apex Tri-lok running boards, new powered hand brake, door track guides, and triangular gusset plates at the lower corners of the door openings. Large billboard lettering also became standard practice.

Abacus Model Works HO-scale kits replicate the three NKP, MEC, and Soo rebuilds covering all of their unique characteristics.

————— **HO scale Model Kit** —————

- one-piece body casting
- separate underframe (detailed)
- See-thru resin or etched metal rmg bds
- separate positionable door castings
- metal wiregrabs & brake line wire
- includes all detail parts
- less trucks & couplers
- era and road specific versions
- air hoses
- AMW decals
- comprehensive assembly document
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Nickel Plate series 13000 - 13499 rebuilt ARA-1932 boxcar

Product code	Product Description	
1001. 1	NKP series 13000-13499, postwar Y’T doors, Murphy diag roof, Apex r-b	\$ 42-
1001. 2	NKP series 13000-13499, postwar Y’T doors, Murphy diag roof, w/o r-b	\$ 40-
1001. 3	NKP 13068, 13084, 13108, 13213, 13311, 13313, 13441, 13498 e/w roof hatches in 1960s.	\$ 46-

Maine Central series 24000... / 24100... rebuilt ARA-1932 boxcar

Product code	Product Description	
1002. 1	MEC 24000/24100, modified 8' Y’T doors, angled-end sill reinforcement	\$ 42-
1002. 2	MEC 24000/24100, modified 8' Y’T doors, straight-end sill reinforcement	\$ 42-

Soo Line series 41800 - 42798 even rebuilt ARA-1932 boxcar

Product code	Product Description	
1003. 1	Soo 41800-42798, bolster-bolster sill reinforcement, Murphy diag roof, steel rb	\$ 42-
1003. 2	Soo 41800-42798, bolster-bolster sill reinforcement, Murphy diag roof, r-b removed	\$ 40-

