

Rusty Rail

Instructions for finishing log cars

Other than the coupler pocket, these cars are replicas of the home built log cars used for the Sewell/ Babcock Lumber in West Virginia. The company had 80 of the cars in operation at any given time. In addition to being used for logs, the cars were also used for transporting water tanks, coal bins, wood racks and shanties for the logging camps. Boards were thrown across the log bucks to turn them into flats and in a couple of cases a building was added to the flats for supplies.

Begin the finishing of the car by removing all of the flash either by trimming with a hobby knife using a Number 11 blade and a file. I use Emory boards, as they are very good and disposable. You may clean the supports out from under the straps that hold the bunks to the cars, but be aware that these are very delicate and may break and have to be replaced. If this happens then scale 1"x 3" styrene strip are recommended.

Turn the car over at this point and file the bolsters pads flat. The recommended trucks for this car is Blackstone Models B370103. This is the D&RGW 3' 7" arch bar trucks with outside brake beams. Now is the time to drill and tap the bolsters for the trucks. These trucks require a 1-72-threaded hole. Make sure they are centered to the bolsters. Do not attach the trucks at this time. Turn the car back over to begin the painting process.

During their lifetime, these cars never received a coat of paint, but that doesn't prevent you from painting them any color you wish, nor were they lettered except for a number painted on the ends of the log bunks. Again this is your choice as to what you wish to do.

To get the heavily weathered look of well used log cars; the cars were first given a coat of Floquil foundation. This is to give the model the look of wood. After drying, the model is given a coat of Doctor Ben's Aged Driftwood Stain. A wash of India Ink and alcohol is then applied, really aging the car. Next, using a micro brush, Floquil Grimy Black is applied to all of the strapping and nut and bolt casting on the car. A very light coating of rust chalks is applied to the various metal areas of the car and then sealed with a matte spray. Since the outriggers are tree branches, they are painted with Testors light earth and then washed with India Ink and alcohol to pop out the texture. The numbers on the log bunks are dry transfers from Woodland Scenics, however other styles are available from Clover House.

The logs are spray painted with Testors Light Earth and then washed with India Ink and alcohol. The ends of the logs are painted with Floquil Foundation and then washed with India ink and alcohol. The log load is then secured to the car with scale chain of your choice.

The couplers recommended for this car is the Micro Trains 1023 fully assembled couplers. After the car is finished, turn the car over and insert the coupler in the pocket. It is recommended that you use CA for this as the pockets aren't thick enough for screws. Attach the trucks by screwing them into the holes that were drilled earlier. .