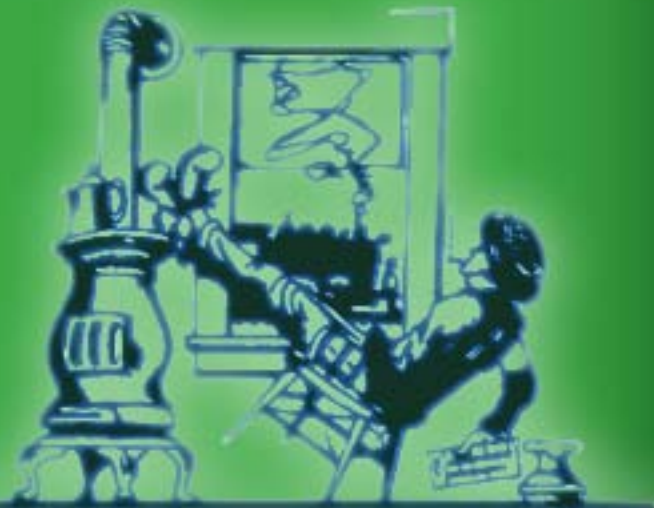


# Model Railroad Hobbyist newsletter™

March 2009

*The Old  
Yardmaster*



## News and views from up and down the line...

**H**appy 60th anniversary to Atlas Model Railroad Company. We offer our congratulations and thanks for many years of fine products.

Ane Model Co., Ltd., the Taiwan-based manufacturer of SmartSwitch™ slow motion turnout machines, issued a statement in February announcing that due to certain patent authorization issues and design problems, it would immediately stop selling the Version II of the SmartFrog™. Version II of the SmartFrog™ incorporated a switch function that sensed the turnout setting and automatically prevented a locomotive from

derailing. Company director Ivan Yih, who signed the statement, said Ane would continue selling Version I of the SmartFrog™ which he said provides modelers with a simple and practical power routing function and LED signal light output control.

Under the terms of an agreement signed in February, InterMountain Railway Company of Longmont, Colorado, will distribute rolling stock manufactured by Eastern Seaboard Models Corporation of Waldwick, New Jersey. ESM specializes in N scale models of Eastern prototypes. ESM models will also be available from Walthers.

**Märklin**, one of the oldest manufacturers of model railroad equipment in the world, has declared bankruptcy. Failure of the venerable firm was announced in mid-February after talks with banks to extend a line of credit broke down. The company arranged for an extended line of credit in December but despite what appeared to be strong year-end sales in 2008, the firm was unable to cover salaries in January to its roughly 650 employees.

Dietmar Mundil, chief executive of the 150-year-old company issued a statement declaring that Märklin would restructure and continue to produce model trains. In addition to Märklin, the company controls several other model railroad brands including Trix, Minitrix, Hamo, and LGB (Lehmann). In addition to its central operation in southwest Germany, Märklin has production facilities in Hungary and has had some products manufactured in the People's Republic of China in recent years.

The firm started in 1859 as a small factory producing dollhouse kitchens. In 1891 it started to build model trains, and in 1935 introduced its famous "electrified" HO line of scale model trains.

**Accucraft** has introduced a 1:32 scale live steam model of a Canadian Pacific 4-6-4 Royal Hudson. The locomotive is being offered in three paint schemes and with two road numbers including #2850 in its 1939 livery and #2860 in its service scheme. The third paint scheme is #2860 as it is decorated today. The three versions are available for either Butane or Alcohol firing. The 45mm gauge locomotive requires a minimum operating radius of 96 inches. For complete details visit [www.accurail.com/accurail](http://www.accurail.com/accurail).



**The handsome 1:32 scale live steam Royal Hudson from Accucraft requires 8-foot operating radius.**

**Accurail** is offering an HO scale 40-foot wood refrigerator car decorated for DL&W, the Lackawanna Line, at \$13.98 each or in a 3-pack with three different numbers at \$39.98.



**Lackawanna wood refrigerator car in HO scale from Accurail.**

**Alkem Scale Models** has developed an HO craft kit for an authentic link & pin era 28-foot cattle car. The laser cut model is based on an 1863 prototype from John White's "The American Freight Car." The Pennsylvania Railroad later updated the prototype as a Class KA Cattle Car.

The Alkem kit includes the parts necessary for the upgrade for those that want to model the later version. Alkem also offers authentic decals for the period. For more details or to order visit [www.geocities.com/bkempins/ASMMain/Main.html](http://www.geocities.com/bkempins/ASMMain/Main.html).



**Authentic Civil War-era cattle car available in HO scale kit from Alkem.**

**Athearn** will offer its Ford Model A truck with a special telephone company work bed with a MSRP of \$12.98 each. The HO utility vehicle will be decorated for Bell, WI Bell, Bell of PA, NJ Bell and New England Bell.

In more vehicle news, Athearn announced that plans to produce an HO scale Ford F350 pickup have been cancelled. The F350 project was first announced in March 2008, but was officially scrubbed late last month.

On a more positive note, Athearn has been previewing samples of several new products at recent post-holiday shows around the nation including a single-bay Airslide car with modified end gussets and several variations of a 13,000 gallon sulfuric acid tank car following a Union Tank Car prototype.

Also seen at the shows is a new N scale Southern Pacific bay window caboose pulled from a die with interchangeable sides to allow for various caboose window arrangements.



**Preproduction sample of HO telephone utility truck coming from Athearn this fall. The finished models will be decorated for a variety of Bell Telephone Company vehicles.**

Next month, **Bowser** will begin delivering an HO scale Pacific Electric VO-1000 Baldwin Switcher in the distinctive tiger-stripe scheme and outfitted with trolley poles as used by the prototype to actuate signals. Two road numbers will be available in either standard DC or DCC with sound versions.

An SP version of the VO-1000 without trolley poles will also be available. Other items in the works include an attractive Bangor & Aroostook locomotives in Bowser's Executive Line Series. The offering will include F-3a B&A Cab #42 or Cab #49 for DC operation at \$149.95.

The same units with DCC and Sound will be priced at \$259.95. Based on the former Stewart line, the HO scale ready-to-run diesels will have brass MU hoses, brass air hoses, brass windshield wipers, steel grab irons, steel coupler lift bars, operating headlight, window glass, brass flywheels, nickel silver wheels with RP25 flanges, knuckle couplers and installed handrails.



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The power mechanism on these units will be manufactured in the USA using a precision German can motor manufactured by Buehler. All of the plastic components will be molded in the USA with decorating and assembly of body completed in China. The sound locos will be equipped with SoundTraxx Tsunami Digital Sound Decoders



New items soon to be released by Bowser include a Bangor & Aroostook F-3 and Santa Fe F-9 in yellow and blue freight scheme.

**Branchline** is offering a limited number of its ready-to-run Pullman sleepers. The cars feature metal wheels, Kadee #5 couplers, correct underbody details and accurate decoration in Pullman green with Dulux gold lettering.

The RTR Pullman 12-1 Sleeper (Plan 3410/3410A) will be available lettered for five different cars including Kern, McClendon, Orange Bay, Pecos, and Coronado. Although they look better on broad curves, Branchline says their Pullman cars will operate on 22" radius curves. The cars carry an MSRP of \$54.98.



This Branchline HO RTR Pullman 12-1 Sleeper is accurately decorated in Pullman green with Dulux gold lettering and is designated for Pullman Pool Service.



After a prolonged absence for retooling, Downtown Deco's N scale Addams Ave. series is again available. Shown here is Part Three.

**Downtown Deco** says it will ship the long-awaited N scale version of the three-part Addams Ave. kits this month. These are not new but the popular cast Hydrocaltm plaster series of skid row structures have been out of production for a long time and required some retooling before they could be rerun.

Addams Ave. Part One (DD2000), Addams Ave. Part Two (DD2001), and Addams Ave. Part Three (DD2002), see photo, are listed at \$39.95 each. Visit [www.downtowndeco.com](http://www.downtowndeco.com) for details.

Following considerable developmental work, **Deluxe Innovations**, is now showing preproduction samples of its new 20-foot smooth-side refrigerated container.

Also under development by the N-scale specialist are an NAF30A class version of a Triple-57 3-unit spine car in both single hitch and two hitch versions, and a Gunderson Maxi-Stack IV cars that will feature cast metal bodies, etched stainless steel platforms, plastic brake detail and Micro-Trains Linetm couplers.



Engineering sample of the new N-scale 20-foot smooth-side refrigerated container coming soon from Deluxe Innovations.

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**Southern Pacific number 4359 is one of thirteen versions of SP 4-8-2 Mountains coming in HO scale brass from Glacier Park Models.**

**Glacier Park Models**, a division of Hi-Tech Details, Ukiah, California, is nearing completion of a major project to produce highly-accurate HO models of class MT Southern Pacific 4-8-2 Mountain locomotives. GPM will produce the MT-4 and MT-5 Class Mountains in 13 different prototype-specific versions. The hand-crafted brass models are being built in South Korea by Boo Rim. For full details visit <http://www.glacierparkmodels.com>.

**Frenchman River Model Works** plans to release an HO scale kit for a 92-foot railroad tug boat in March. Full details are available at [www.frenchmanriver.com](http://www.frenchmanriver.com).

**Imperial Hobby Productions** has HO scale resin kits for IC/METRA Highliner MU Car (two car set), Comet III Coach Trailer (this is the no toilet version used in NY, NJ and Philadelphia), and CTA Budd 2600-series EL Car kits (two car set). Visit [www.ihphobby/tripod.com](http://www.ihphobby/tripod.com) for pricing and ordering details.

**InterMountain Railway** has been showing preproduction samples of its forthcoming HO scale War Emergency Box Car at various shows across the nation. With different doors and roofs, there will eventually be several variations of these single-sheathed outside-braced cars produced that will be detail accurate for specific road names.

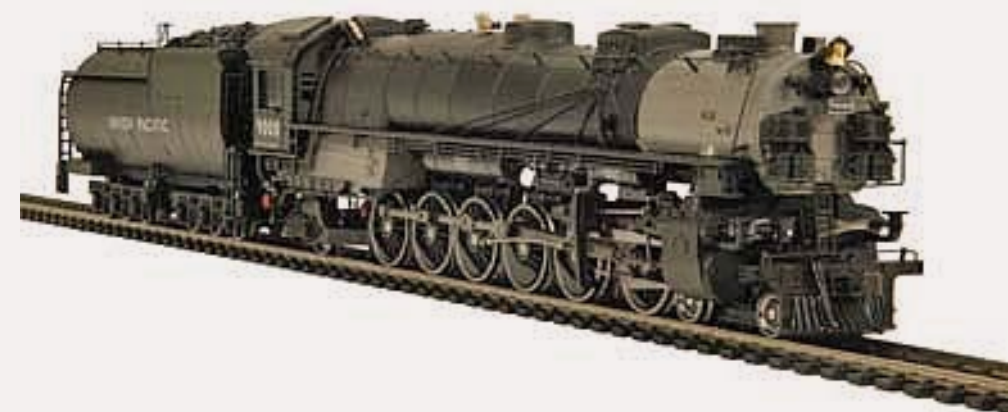
The initial road names set for release in September are ATSF, NKP Nickel Plate Road, and CNW Route of the 400. Intermountain Railway Company is taking reservations for fall delivery of an HO scale U18B diesel locomotive decorated in four new schemes including Maine Central-Guilford Rail System, Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico in red and black, Seaboard System and CSX in a blue and gray. The models will feature railroad specific body and cab configuration and either Bloomberg or GE trucks as appropriate. The DC units will have an MSRP of \$140. Units with equipped with sound will be priced at \$220.

**Kadee** has released HO coupler #147, the first in a series of “offset” standard head whisker couplers. The #147 medium shank underset raises the head of the coupler. Also new is #560 ACL type roller bearing truck with 33” smooth-back wheels. The HO trucks adhere to the prototype ACL Barber® S-2 (“HGC” - Self Centering) 70-Ton Roller Bearing. The model is a new two-piece fully equalized design with non-magnetic RP-25 wheels. The #560 trucks are priced at \$8.95 a pair.

In other good news, Kadee is quoting April delivery for its new HO version of Western Pacific 40-foot Box Car with 7-foot door. The model carries the 3-56 repaint scheme of the car originally built in 1951. Meanwhile Kadee says it has almost sold out of its Atlanta & West Point Box Car with an 8 foot Youngstown. The model is decorated as built in 1956 with silver body and black ends. Visit [www.kadee.com](http://www.kadee.com) for ordering information.

Contrary to Ebay listings indicating it being out of production, the O scale Holt “75” Tractor is still being produced by **McKenzie Iron & Steel** in two different radiator versions. Owner Bill Roy says those who insist on paying inflated “collector” prices are welcome to continue buying on Ebay, however, the kit is still available at original prices direct from Bill Roy, P.O. Box 41475, Eugene, OR 97404. Stocking dealers can also be located by googling “mckenzie iron.”

**MTH** is quoting delivery this month for its HO scale N&W 4-8-4 Class J steam locomotive. The model has an MSRP of \$449.95 and will be equipped with MTH Proto-Sound 3.0 that provides synchronized puffing smoke. The J will be followed in April or May with a Union Pacific “9000” Class 3-cylinder 4-12-2 locomotive. MTH Proto-Sound 3.0 will include synchronized puffing smoke with six chuff’s and puffs per driver revolution to replicate the prototype action of the unique 3-cylinder steam locomotive. Working Gresley valve gear for the additional cylinder is also a feature of this loco which the manufacturer says will require a 22-inch minimum radius curve. The UP 9000 has an MSRP of \$549.95.



**MTH soon-to-released Union Pacific 4-12-2 will feature synchronized exhaust sound and smoke puffs for the unique 3-cylinder steam locomotive.**



**Prototypically accurate NYC Big Four caboose built from a Mullet River kit by Glenn Guerra. Even the side windows function on this beautiful O scale car.**

**Mullet River Model Works** is offering an O scale kit to construct a museum quality model of a New York Central "Big Four" caboose. The kit is available at \$120 and features laser cut plywood construction, etched brass underframe, etched ladder sides and handrail tops. Although complex in appearance the model was designed by Glenn Guerra for relatively easy assembly using hand tools only. Visit [www.mulletrivermodelworks.com](http://www.mulletrivermodelworks.com) for details.

**Roundhouse** has 36-foot truss-rod wood reefers decorated for Milwaukee Dairy Fresh; Milwaukee Dairy Line; Schlitz Beer; New York, Lake Erie & Western; MRS Purina; and NADX Pluto Water. The HO scale cars will be available in late summer in two numbers for each road at \$16.98.

**Rusty Stumps Scale Models** has introduced two new sets of fancy windows and doors that will be of interest to HO scratch builders. Item D4021 Flat Top Windows & Doors have a flat header/cornice built up of stacked layers of laser cut cardstock. Each sheet provides 12 windows and 5 doors. Item D4022 Fancy Round Top Windows & Doors are similar but with a round header/cornice. This item yields 10 windows and 4 doors. The items are scaled for HO and sell for \$6.95 each. Visit [www.rustystumps.com](http://www.rustystumps.com) for details.

New products under development at **Western Scale Models** include several new O scale machines for a new gold mill machine shop. The new machines will include a shaper, drill press, and longer bed lathe. Owner Bill Gustafson said he is

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(1/8th page)

also working on a complete line of machines in HO scale for the Sierra Railroad machine shop. The company will be shut down for a little R&R during most of March and April.

Jim King of **Smoky Mountain Model Works, Inc.** says he has received sufficient commitments from dealer and direct customers to begin work again on producing a GE 70-ton locomotive in S scale. King expects the gearbox will be narrow enough to possibly allow modelers to "narrow gauge" it to Sn3 or Sn42. The engine will be offered in two versions: early with round headlight and no front grill, and in the later version with a tall front grill and rectangular headlights. Each engine will have all-wheel pickup and wired for DC, but there will be room for a DCC board and speaker. The retail price will be \$325 with availability in April. King said that due to lack of response, a hi-rail option will not be produced.

**Wiseman Model Services** is now manufacturing the former On-Trak Models product line of HO and O scale vehicle and truck kits. The complete line of over 200 kits will gradually be added to the company web site at [www.wisemanmodelservices.com](http://www.wisemanmodelservices.com). The kit line consists of a variety of quality vehicles including the former S.S. Ltd Truck kits and the Walker Model Services kit line of trucks.

**Precision Scale Models** anticipates delivery early this year on several HO scale variations of Great Northern Z-1, 1-D-1 Electric Locomotives. A few of this limited production brass model were still available from the factory at press time. For details visit [www.precisionscaleco.com](http://www.precisionscaleco.com).



**Pilot model of HO scale Great Northern class Z1 electric locomotive being imported by Precision Scale Models.**





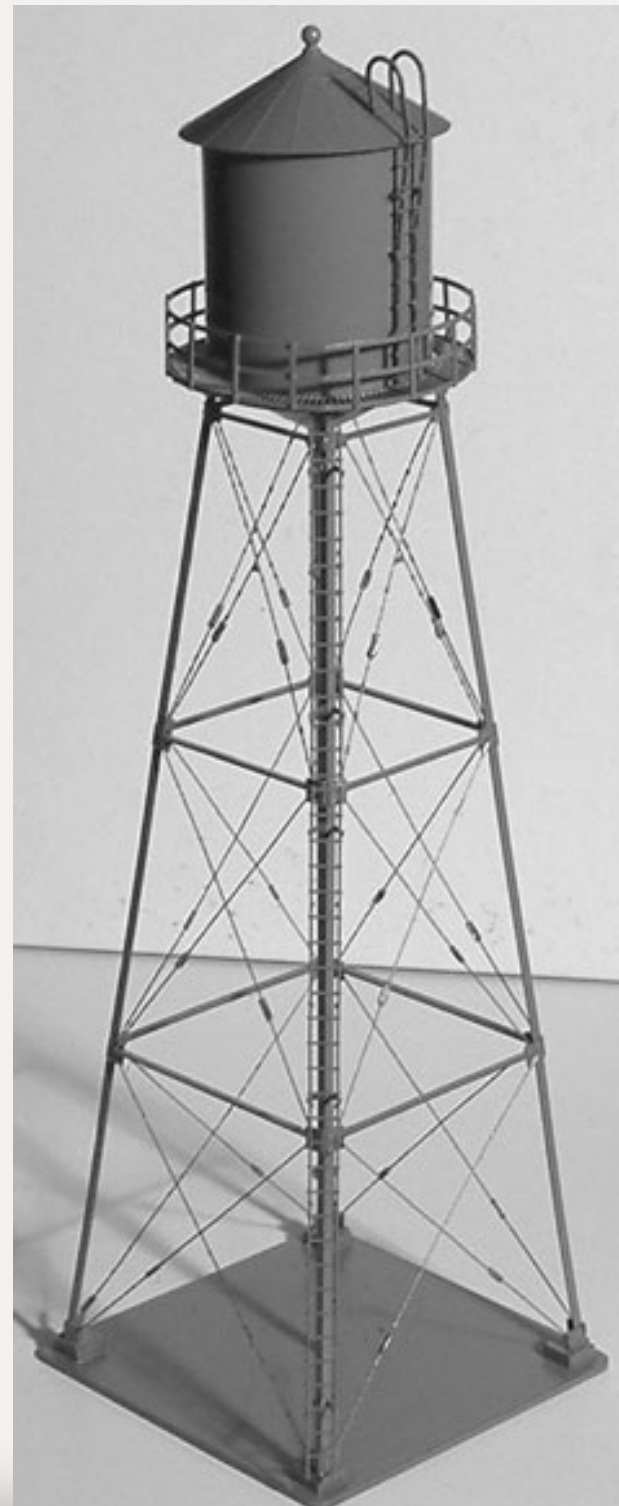
**HO scale model of early Colorado Midland Stock Car built from resin body kit available from Silver Crash Car Works.**

Silver Crash Car Works has three HO scale resin body kits of pre-WW I rolling stock. These are limited production body kits without hardware, decals, couplers or trucks.

Currently available are a 28-foot ATSF Box Car that ran until 1917; a Colorado Midland Single Deck Stock Car that saw operation into the early 1920s (Santa Fe had a nearly identical car), and 34-foot Ice Refrigerator Car. For full details visit [www.silvercrashcarworks.com](http://www.silvercrashcarworks.com)

Tichy Train Group has released an HO version of a small steel industrial water tank that stands 9-inches tall. The injection molded styrene model sells for \$27.50 and accurately replicates the prototype which is still standing in Glencoe Village, North Carolina. For full details visit [www.tichytraingroup.com](http://www.tichytraingroup.com).

**New steel industrial water tank now available from Tichy. ►**



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**Walthers Platinum Line** Pennsylvania Railroad Class N6b Center Cupola Cabin Car is currently available as an HO ready to run car at \$44.98. The model gets an in depth review by Jim Hunter in issue #67 of the Keystone Modeler. You'll find it at [http://www.prrths.com/Keystone%20Modeler/Keystone\\_Modeler.htm](http://www.prrths.com/Keystone%20Modeler/Keystone_Modeler.htm).



**Walthers PRR N6b Cabin Car earned a positive review from the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society.**





## Selected Events

### March 2009

**CANADA, ONTARIO, TORONTO**, March 14, Prototype Modellers Meet, Humber College. \$10 admission. Contact Stephan Parachuk (sparachuk@hotmail.com) for details and to confirm attendance.

**CANADA, ONTARIO, CAMBRIDGE**, March 28, 26th Annual Doubleheaders Self-Guided Home & Club Layout Tour. Contact dhtour@gmail.com for details.

**CALIFORNIA, DALY CITY**, March 14-15, The Great Train Expo, Cow Palace.

**MAINE, GRAY (Portland area)**, March 21, Maine All-Scale Narrow Gauge Show. Operating Sn2 and On30 layouts. For details go to mainenarrowgauge@yahoo.com.

**OHIO, GREENFORD**, March 26-29, 17th Annual Midwest All-Scale Narrow Gauge Show, Greenfield Christian Church. Operating layouts, vendors, clinics and model contest are all on the agenda. For details contact Gary Kohler at m2fq@aol.com or call 330-702-0117.

**OREGON, ELSIE**, March 14, Fifth Annual Pacific Model Loggers' Congress, Camp 18 Restaurant and Museum (18 miles east of Seaside)

**UTAH, OGDEN**, March 6-8, 20th Annual Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at the Ogden Union Depot. A great family experience and a wonderful opportunity to introduce youngsters to the world of trains. For details visit [www.hostlers.info](http://www.hostlers.info).

### April 2009

**ARIZONA, WINSLOW**, April 17, 18, and 19, SouthWest Free-Mo, at historic La Posada Hotel & Depot. Sponsored by intermodal group with adjunct participation by Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society. Attendance is by invitation. Interested parties should contact Eric Hiser (ehiser@msn.com) for availability of tickets.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**, April 17 & 18, 18th Great Lakes Model Railroad Symposium, South Bend Firefighters Union Hall, 4025 Lincolnway West. Presenters include Tony Koester, Jared Harper, Frank Hodina, Ted Culotta, Mike Rose and more. For details contact Jim Six at [www.glrmmrs.ning.com](http://www.glrmmrs.ning.com).

**MARYLAND**, Timonium, April 4-5, The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds.

**MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD**, April 18, Ozarks Model Railroad Association (OMRA) Spring Train Show & Swap Meet.

**NEW YORK, GARDINER**, April 17-18, Mid-Hudson On30 Meet. Contact Allen Littlefield at: [aklon30@yahoo.com](mailto:aklon30@yahoo.com) or 845-255-0974 for details.

**NORTH CAROLINA**, Hickory, April 4, 7th Annual NC Railroad Extravaganza. For details call 828-325-4977 or contact [info@tarheelpress.com](mailto:info@tarheelpress.com).

**OHIO, COLUMBUS**, April 30-May3, NMRA Mid-Central Region "The 21st Century Limited" Convention. Ramada Plaza Hotel, 4200 Sinclair Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229. ■

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# MRH Sponsor Spotlight: New York Railway Supply



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Issue 2 sneak peek ...

**New York Railway Supply**



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*A Turntable Indexer That Works*

Thank you for your interest in the most advanced, reliable, and realistic turntable indexing system available today: the *PTC Model III Programmable Turntable Indexing System* from New York Railway Supply, Inc.

We've tried to include most of the essentials about the PTC Model III for your review. As always, feel welcome to contact us by phone or email with any comments or questions you may have about our system. Your feedback is valuable and appreciated.

**PTC Overview** 01/06/2005 PTC III Product Overview, Options and Specs (580kb)



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**DCC HELP IS HERE** - Here are some new additions to our product line.

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Due to numerous requests we now have an adapter for the new Walther's Cementstone turntables.



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We're excited to have **New York Railway Supply** as a new sponsoring advertiser and we will be featuring an in-depth article on installing their turntable indexing system in a future issue of MRH.

We encourage you to visit New York Railway Supply's web site and study their product offerings. You'll find their turntable indexing system and accessories are second to none!

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## PANEL SIDE REBUILT HOPPER CARS of the 1930s Through 1950s As Modeled by Micro-Trains in N Scale Accurail in HO Scale, S-Helper in S Scale, and Atlas in O Scale

- by Richard Hendrickson



Figure 1: The Delaware & Hudson got a thousand USRA twin hoppers immediately following World War I and numbered them D&H 3201-4200. In the 1930s, more than three hundred of them were rebuilt with panel steel sides. Only a month after being rebuilt at the Oneonta, NY shops, D&H 4180 was at Binghamton, NY in September, 1936. Panel sides increased its cubic capacity from 1880 cubic feet to 1940 cubic feet. Note its original USRA Andrews trucks. -Keith Sirman collection

**P**anel side hopper cars became popular with the railroad industry as a direct result of the economies forced upon the railroads by the severe depression of the 1930s. Early in the 20th century, many railroads purchased large numbers of all-steel hopper cars to transport coal and similar bulk minerals. By the 1930s, wear and tear owing to the rigors of this service had made it

necessary to begin replacing these cars, but the nation's economy was in such disarray that most railroad were unable to afford the purchase of new cars.

The next best expedient was to rebuild existing cars, including replacing their worn and rusted side sheathing and slope sheets.

For this purpose, the Union Metal Products Co. (later the Standard Railway Equipment Co.) produced pressed steel replacement side sheets that bulged outward between the side posts, thus increasing the cubic capacity of the cars as well as providing them with new side sheathing.

Often the cars that received these new side sheathing sections were of USRA twin hopper design; 22,500 of these cars had been built for the United States Railway Administration during World War I and assigned to a large number of railroads, and thousands of

additional copies were built in the 1920s. However, the size and configuration of the new side sheets could be adjusted to fit any steel hopper car, and cars of other designs were also equipped with replacement panel sides.

The rebuilding of hopper cars with panel sides gave them a new lease on life, and many lasted through World War II and the 1950s, with some surviving in revenue service even as late as the 1960s.

Since the panel side hopper cars were rebuilds, it's difficult to compile a complete list of the railroads that owned them. They ranged in size from the giant New York Central through the Frisco, Missouri Pacific, and Wabash to smaller lines like the Delaware & Hudson and Central of Vermont.

At least two railroads, The Pennsylvania and the New Haven,

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