ATSF 35-Foot Steel Caboose

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This kit is composed of tough styro-urethrane resin castings. Since these castings are produced in flexible rubber molds some part variation should be expected. This means some sanding and filing will be necessary. Clean all flash from castings before assembly. A slight bow or warp in a casting may be fixed by warming the casting and straightening the bend. We recomend ACC type cement for assembly.

Step 1: Cement the sides and ends together. See Fig. 1. Keep everything square.
Step 2: Sand the bottom edges of the roof flat. Sand any rough spots on the inner curved surface.
Step 3: Now fit the roof to the body. Note the position of the coupola cutout in relation to the windows on the side. It will be necessary to notch the ends as shown in Fig. 2 and adjust the curve of the end. Work slowly and carefully. Once you are satisfied with the fit; cement the roof to the sides. You may find it easiest to cement the side assembly to the roof one corner at a time. Use a toothpick to apply the cement from the inside.

Step 4: Assemble the coupola sides and ends. Test fit the flat coupola roof by bending it to fit. Trim the length and width so there is almost no overhang. Cement the roof in place but do not cement the coupola in place.

Step 5: File the floor to fit the body. (It may also be necessary to trim the cut out on the ends slightly.) Cement the steps to the frame. Cut a bit of styrene from a small piece of flatstock to take up the difference between the step and end. Cement the tool boxes in place.

Step 6: At this point your model really looks like a caboose. Cut two small bits of styene to hold the coupola in place. Cement them in place so the coupola snaps in place.

Step 7: Test fit your choice of trucks and couplers. It may be necessary to do one or more of the following: Notch the end beam or add a shim to mount the coupler; file or add a shim to the bolsters to mount the trucks.

Step 8: Drill the body (#76) for the grabirons and hand railings. Bend them from the provided wire and cement them in place. Drill (1/16") the roof to accommodate the smokejack. Fashion it from the wood dowl as shown in Fig. 3. Cement it in place.

Step 9: Cut the roofwalk material to length and cement it to the roof. Cut the endwalks to length and cement them in place.

Step 10: Drill the endbeams for endrailings and grabirons. Bend the end-railings as shown in Fig. 4. Drill #74 the brakewheels and brakestands to accept a short bit of wire. Cement these together and cement them to the top of the endbeam. Cement the ladders to the endbeam but not to the roof. Bend the ladder extensions from wire and cement them to the ladders. The other end may be bent to lie flat on the endwalk or into holes drilled in the endwalks (better).

Step 11: Cement the endrailings in place. Slip a piece of wire in the endbeam to meet the end railing and cement it in place. Bend the 4 end grabirons as shown in Fig. 4 and cement them in place.

Step 12: Separate the body from the frame/railing assembly and prepare the model for painting. Floquil or any other good model paint may be directly applied to the surface. We recommend airbrushing and applying several light coats. Add window glazing and reassemble the car.

Fig. 1

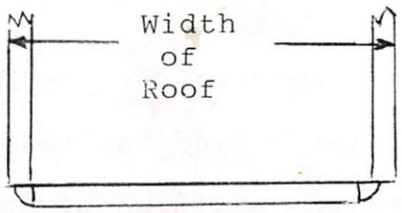


Fig. 2

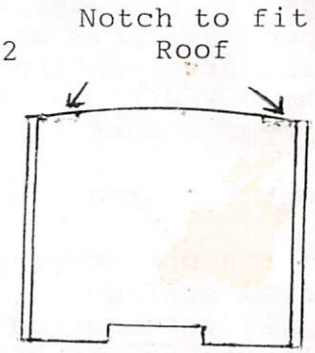


Fig. 3

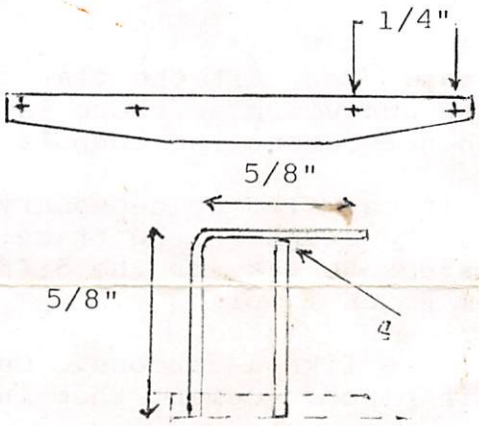
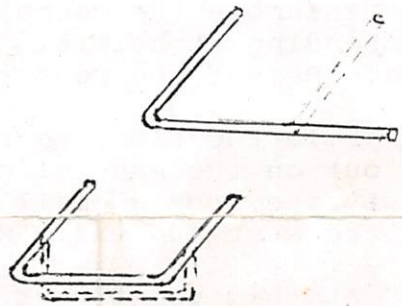
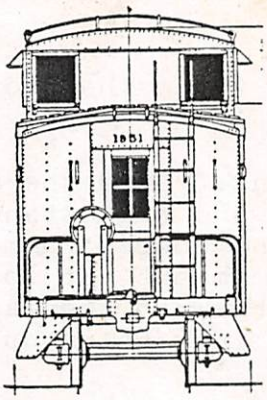
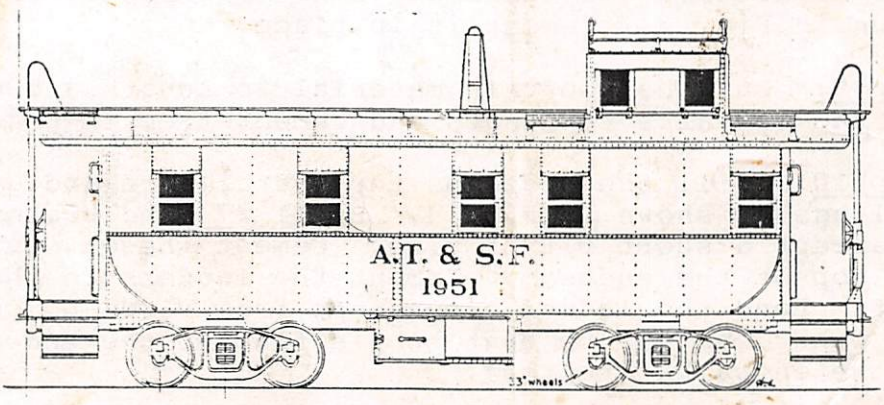


Fig. 4







In 1930, the American Car and Foundry Company built a number of steel sided cabooses for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Since then, the SF has used these cabooses extensively, as have other railroads such as the Milwaukee Road, Grand Trunk. Clinchfield and Texas-Mexican. Very similar cabooses have been used by the Rio Grande and Rock Island.