

AAR Modified 40' Steel Box Cars built by Pullman-Standard for Soo Line and Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Prototype Data and Modeling Notes



7-40, Pullman-Standard photo, SLHTS Archives collection.



11-40, Pullman-Standard photo, SLHTS Archives collection.

Perhaps the most common car on North American railroads was the all-steel car design adopted in the early 1940s, labeled the AAR 1942 design. It raised the height of the standard 10' IH to 10'-6" and used then currently common 5/5 round corner ends. Before the AAR 1942 car was built, the IC, Soo Line and DSS&A purchased similar height cars with 5/5 square corner ends, a rare exception to the new standard design. *Ed Hawkins*.

Actually of the over 44,000 cars built with an inside height of 10'-4" to 10'-6", these three roads were the only ones which acquired cars with square corner posts.

The Soo and DSS&A cars were all delivered in an oxide red paint with black ends and black backgrounds on the heralds. Repaints generally did not have black ends. The DSS&A cars carried a variety of repaint lettering schemes, some of which are illustrated below.

Modeling Notes

Trucks on all these Soo and DSS&A cars were A.S.F. double truss. These RCW kits come with Tahoe Model Works #007 AAR 50-ton double truss trucks. These Soo, DSS&A and IC boxcars are the same car except for a couple details. To modify the IC boxcar body casting for the Soo/DSS&A, remove the rivets and nuts and bolts for bolster gussets and reshape the small gussets on either side of the door to match the prototype photos. That's



MARQ 8-49 reweigh date, SLHTS Archives collection.



MARQ 9 53 repaint, SLHTS Archives collection.



AX 2 62 reweigh date, post-1956 repaint, Guy N. Kieckhefer photo, SLHTS Archives collection.

it. Then it's pretty much finishing the car as you would any other boxcar model.

For paint, I've found that a 50/50 mix of Scalecoat I Tuscan Red and Boxcar Red is a pretty good match for the SOO's freight car color. The decals are printed by Microscale, so apply as such.

Road	Series	Built	Hand Brake
Soo	42800-43598 (even)	7-40	Klasing
DSS&A	17000-17099 (all)	11-40	Klasing
Soo	43600-44098 (even)	12-40	Klasing
Soo (WC)	136300-136398 (even)		Klasing
Soo	44100-44498 (even)	10-41	Equipco



12-40, Pullman-Standard photo, SLHTS Archives collection.



Soo (WC) 136300 [above] was repainted at Stevens Point, WI (AX 2 52). The car appears to have black ends, unusual after 1951. Generally, the 1" lines above the reporting marks and below the car number were eliminated on new cars and repaints c. 1958. Also at that time the block "S" was changed to have a horizontal middle bar. The small "W.C." in the upper left corners was no longer used after the 1961 merger. Soo Line Railroad photo, SLHTS Archives collection.



End view [right above] of DSS&A 17092 showing the Klasing hand brake application. The car's lettering scheme is similar to 17019 at left above except that the herald has a black background. *Larry Easton photo*.