



SUNSHINE
MODELS

An American Icon Great Northern Plywood Boxcars



Prototype
Photo, Bob's
Photo

No car is more associated with the Great Northern than the bright orange and green plywood sided boxcars built by the road in 1944, 1945 and 1947. They were a rolling advertisement for the GN, attracting the public's attention to Glacier National Park served by the road.

The plywood car was the Great Northern's adaptation of the AAR 10' IH 1937 boxcar, substituting 4 sections of plywood either side of the door for steel sheathing. A batten, secured by screws, covered the joint between the sheets. The plywood side was nailed to two parallel horizontal members. Over time, these screws and nails began to show through the paint, exposing the construction method.

The plywood cars in the series 44025-44999 built in 1944, the 2501-2524 express cars in 1945, the 10000-10499 series boxcars also built in 1945 and the 10500-10899 boxcars built in 1947, along with the 38700-38799 double door autocars from 1947, share a common design with the exception of the stampings of the steel ends. The wartime plywood cars—44025-44999 and 2501-2524 used a 4/5 Dreadnaught end and the post war cars (later 1945 to 1947) a 3/4 improved Dreadnaught end. The cars shared a straight panel roof and a common AAR 1937 straight center sill underframe.

The plywood cars were noteworthy for their painting alone. When new, these were black cars with Omaha Orange

sides and doors. The underframe, ends and roof were black. The side trim was Pullman green. These trim items included the sides (or flanges) of the ends, bottom side sills, top sills, grab irons and ladders, door tracks and tack boards. The edge between the black ends and the sides was not masked, but green paint was allowed to overflow.

The 72" goat herald applied to the plywood sided cars, except the white goat and the mountain, was green. Lettering was Pullman Green. The plywood sided cars received a herald known as "See America First". The top of the circle advised passengers to "See", while the bottom of the circle said "Glacier National Park". Beginning in June 1948, the paint scheme was changed to Mineral Red paint and white lettering. When repainted, the herald became standard railroad fare with "Great Northern Railway".

Since construction of the first plywood cars came during a period of limited appliance availability, the cars had a wide variety of doors. The first block of boxcars, 44025-44399, and the express cars, 2501-2524, used Youngstown steel doors. The second series of boxcars, 44400-44999, had composite doors of plywood with a Youngstown door section on the bottom 1/5th. The 10000-10499 series had Youngstown doors, but the 10500-10899 series received Superior doors.

Trucks were likewise a mix. The 44025-44074 and 44950-44999 received National Type B-1s, the 44075-44399 ASF cast side frame trucks, the 44400-44899 A-3 Ride Control trucks and the 44900-44949 Barber S-2 trucks. All cars had wood running boards. They used Universal, Ajax and Miner power hand brakes.

The later 10000-10899 series received A-3 trucks. The cars got Morton, Apex, Gypsum and Blaw-Knox steel running boards and both Universal and Ajax power hand brakes were used.

The express cars had ASF A-3 trucks with roller bearings, Universal power hand brakes and wood running boards. Steam and signal lines were applied to them.

The plywood sided cars were durable. For example in 1960, 945 of the original 975 series 44025-44999 cars were

still in revenue service. Of the 10000-10899 series, 833 were on roster in 1965.

In 2007, versions of the car with obvious nail and screw holes will arrive. These represent the cars after a few years of use. The routine travel of the cars through tunnels coated the exterior with grim which accentuated these marks on the car side.

The Sunshine kits are vacuum cast in gray urethane. Kits include all detailing parts (except trucks and couplers) and proprietary decals. The postwar versions of the car come with a steel roofwalk. Full instructions and a Prototype Data Sheet are included.

The correct ARA cast side frame trucks are available separately. Appropriate chalkmark and reweigh/repack decals are available separately.

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- ___Kit #79.1 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, composite doors, decals for original black, orange, green and white "See America" scheme (1944-50s), \$35
- ___Kit #79.2 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, decals for original black, orange, green and white "See America" scheme (1944-50s), \$35
- ___Kit # 79.3 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, composite doors, decals for boxcar red car with Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$34
- ___Kit #79.4 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, decals for boxcar red car with Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$34
- ___Kit #79.5 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, steel running board, decals for original black, orange, green, white scheme "See America" scheme (1945-50s), \$37
- ___Kit #79.6 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Superior doors, steel running board, decals for original black, orange, green, white scheme "See America" scheme (1945-50s), \$37
- ___Kit #79.7 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, steel running board, decals for boxcar red car w/ Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$36
- ___Kit #79.8 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Superior doors, steel running board, decals for boxcar red car w/ Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$36

GN Plywood cars with worn sides showing exposed screw heads and horizontal nail marks, available in 2007

- ___Kit #79.9 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, composite doors, decals for original black, orange, green and white "See America" scheme (1944-50s), \$35
- ___Kit #79.10 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, decals for original black, orange, green and white "See America" scheme (1944-50s), \$35
- ___Kit # 79.11 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, composite doors, decals for boxcar red car with Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$34
- ___Kit #79.12 GN Wartime Plywood Box with 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, decals for boxcar red car with Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$34
- ___Kit #79.13 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, steel running board, decals for original black, orange, green, white scheme "See America" scheme (1945-50s), \$37
- ___Kit #79.14 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Superior doors, steel running board, decals for original black, orange, green, white scheme "See America" scheme (1945-50s), \$37
- ___Kit #79.15 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Youngstown doors, steel running board, decals for boxcar red car w/ Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$36
- ___Kit #79.16 GN Postwar Plywood Box with 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends, Superior doors, steel running board, decals for boxcar red car w/ Great Northern Railway herald (1948-60s), \$36
- ___Trucks TP 40 Black plastic ARA cast side frame, non-sprung trucks with non-magnetic metal wheelsets, \$5
- ___#E.15 Upper Midwest Chalkmarks in light gray from period photos, approximately 70 per set, \$4
- ___#E.20 Pacific Northwest Chalkmarks in light gray from period photos, approximately 70 per set, \$4
- ___#E.57 Pacific Northwest Reweigh Stations, Dates w/ Corresponding Repack Data in white w/ 3 color background decals, \$6

Name _____ Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Add \$4.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 6.6%), Canada \$15.88 for six kits

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