

Mini-Kit Prototype Data and Instructions
**Wabash 82000-82513 Rebuilds
& Automobile Parts Rack Cars**



Wabash 82309, circa 1948, Courtesy Ted Culotta

Sunshine Models continues its efforts to provide kits of most steel boxcar rebuilds, in this case through the technique of a mini-kit to modify a plastic model.

In 1934 the Wabash rebuilt 514 double sheathed boxcars, originally built in 1923, with steel sides, doors and steel paneled roof and numbered them 82000-82513. These were 9'2" IH, 3254 cubic feet capacity cars. Due to the retention of the original Vulcan trucks, the cars retained their 40 ton capacity. The cars also retained their wooden running boards and original early style Miner powered hand brake. AB brakes began to be applied in 1942 and were required by the end of 1953.

Beginning in 1946, the Wabash began installing racks holding 100 eight cylinder automobile engines, gas tanks and other parts in the 82000 series, picked at random. They were reclassified from XM to XAP. The first cars became the 82507-82599 series. The conversions continued with the 81900-81999 and 82850-82999 series. By October 1950, there were 93 cars in the first series, 80 in the second and 145 in the third.

Additionally, racks for 90 six cylinder engines were installed in cars placed in the 81600-81662 series in 1950. These cars were identical to the 8 cylinder rack cars, except for lettering.

The auto parts cars were returned to boxcar service during the first half of the 1950s and only 5 XAP cars remained by April of 1955. The reconverted cars retained their XAP numbers. All rebuilds lasted until the 1960s when they began to be scrapped or given over to company service.

The entire car, including trucks, was painted Wabash Freight Car Red, a bright red near the Pennsy color.

To designate the XAP cars, the Wabash placed stenciling in the side panel to the immediate left of the door and at the level of the door handle. This was a tightly spaced "Automobile Engines" with "N" above it for 8 cylinder racks. Six cylinder rack cars got the same stenciling with a "6" in a circle below the lettering. Both cars received the required circle and bar symbol on the doors designating a rack equipment car.

Frank Hodina created the mini-kit masters for these cars. Chet French contributed the historical data and Ted Culotta and Bill Welch the photos. Chet and Jerry Hamsmith provided the material above from a forthcoming article on Wabash rebuilds. Our thanks to all of them.



Wabash 82144, Washington DC, circa 1948, Courtesy Bill Welch

Follow the instructions for the Tichy USRA SS STEEL SIDE REBUILD--Kit #4028, with the following modifications. These instructions are the same for the boxcar and auto parts car, except for decaling.

1. Remove the flash and wash castings with warm soapy water. Be careful not to remove detail on the side of parts.

2. Install the cast ends, doors and fishbelly centersill on the Tichy kit using ACC. Flow the ACC into the seam with a brass wire. Use Desolve or Debonder for clean-up. Apply a drop or two to the offending location and use a tissue to remove it after a few seconds.

3. Proceed with the construction according to the Tichy instructions.

4. Paint with a combination of 50% Floquil Boxcar Red and 50% Caboose Red.

5. Use the Sunshine decals to letter the car, referring to the photos and prototype information. Note that the XM

and XAP decal sets differ somewhat due to car numbers and symbols.

6. Use Champ decal solution.

7. For the auto rack cars, apply the stenciling to the left of the door and the auto parts symbol (bar with circle in middle) to the door in sectional seam between the middle and bottom sections of the door.

