

4.1-4.2



# SUNSHINE MODELS

Box 3054 Salinas CA 93912

## Frisco Steel Side Rebuilds of USRA Double Sheathed Boxcars

The Frisco owned the second largest block of steel side rebuilds of USRA double sheathed boxcars. These cars were numbered in the series 127000-130499. The steel rebuilds were constructed in 1937, 39 and 41. They differed only in the application of side ladders and bracket style grab irons on the '41 cars, compared to drop grab irons in both places on the earlier cars. In 1948, the Frisco steel side rebuilds totaled 2407.

The Frisco rebuilds were a unique case. The road's 3500 USRA boxcars--the largest assignment of doubled sheathed boxcars by the USRA--were part of a lease arrangement called the Columbia Trust. By agreement the cars lost had to be replaced. By preference the Frisco replaced the lost cars with the newest all steel cars built in Springfield from "kits" of parts from major manufacturers. By practice, however, the far the greatest number of replacement cars were steel side rebuilds on the original fishbelly frames. The rebuilds retained the original 5/5/5 Murphy ends and metal sheathed wood roof. The typical 8 panel side and Camel door was applied to update the car to modern standards. There was an interior height increase of only one inch while cubic capacity increased from 3098 to 3200 cubic feet.

The rebuilds were lettered in typical white on the boxcar red paint. The Frisco herald during the rebuilding era was the 4' coonskin with "Frisco Lines" inside, the same as applied to all freight equipment with unrestricted sides. In 1947 the word "Lines" was dropped from the herald and "Frisco" was centered in the coonskin. In the early fifties the herald grew to billboard proportions and the right side advertised "Frisco Faster Freight, Southeast, Southwest". The new lettering dominated the car and by all appearances was too large.

Within the block of steel side rebuilds was a varying number of cars painted in a billboard style. Ends and roof were a dark brown and sides a light tan. They were lettered in red and displayed a Frisco "coonskin" herald in red and black on the left and a circular "FFF" or Frisco Faster Freight emblem on the right. The design conveyed the conversion of the road in the late 1930s from drag freights to short, fast freights with abundant power. Research suggests that the cars were intended for on-line use, but photos indicate that the cars readily made it off-line. Most photos show that the original stenciling to keep the cars on-line is missing. Conversations with old timers verify that the cars indeed were used off-line.

The Sunshine Models kits of the Frisco cars consists of unpainted, flexible styro-urethane castings and appropriate detailing parts. Specialized decals are provided for the white lettering circa 1940s. Extensive instructions are included. A Masters Edition kit for the brown and tan car is provided including three color decal sets and prototypically correct Cape Line Andrews trucks.

### ORDER FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ Kit #4.1, Frisco 127000 series rebuild with white decals, \$23  
\_\_\_\_\_ Kit #4.2, Frisco 127000 series brown and tan billboard car with red, tan and black decals and Cape Line Andrews trucks, Masters Edition, \$29

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Please add \$2.00 for shipping up to five kits.

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*SEE KITS 64.62-66*

