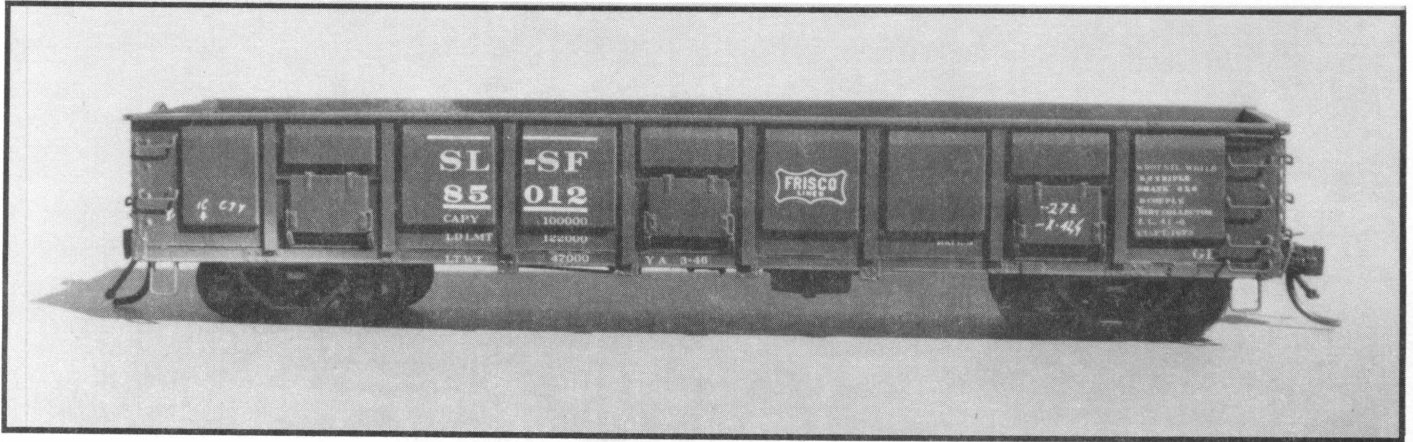




# Frisco Steel Panel-Side Rebuilds of USRA Gondolas



The Frisco had an appreciable lead and zinc ore traffic from Missouri and Kansas mines to Midwest smelters. Coal was shipped from the Fort Smith, Arkansas and Birmingham, Alabama areas into adjoining states. Besides these cargoes, aggregate for the construction industry was plentiful throughout the region. The Frisco used 40' gondolas, like other roads used the hopper car, to haul these commodities.

The major gondola rebuilding programs came in the mid to late 1930s. The Yale Shops in Memphis, Tennessee had the responsibility for rebuilding hoppers and gondolas. Someone at headquarters or in Memphis was fond of the use of panels in the sides of open top cars when they were rebuilt. Thus was created a precedent for some new gondolas on the Missouri Pacific and Santa Fe a few years later.

The Frisco endeavored to keep their USRA design gondolas fit and up to date by rebuilding them. The most unique cars among the rebuilds were the paneled steel side cars. These were created by replacing the USRA composite sides with steel sides of nine panels. Dreadnaught ends and AB brakes were employed. The Andrews trucks were generally retained. Since the Frisco's USRA cars had no bottom doors, approximately half of these new panel side gondola rebuilds received six side discharge doors for easier unloading. Doors were placed in the center of the car and in the second sections from each end. Since labor was cheap, cars with and without doors were used for ore, coal and aggregate loading.

In 1948 there were 874 cars in the 85000-85999 series of original USRA gondolas. There were 165 panel side gons and 175 with panels and side discharge doors. There were 100 cars with refurbished composite sides and side discharge doors. There were 424 cars of the original design and new wood. The cars were retired during the 1960s and 70s.

Sunshine kits consist of unpainted castings, decals and detailing parts. These kits include loads of zinc ore concentrate (safe for personal use) from mines in Missouri and bituminous coal. You can complete your car with a load of the real cargo hauled in the steam era. Accurate trucks are available, also.

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Please ship the following:

- \_\_\_ Kit #12.1 SLSF paneled side rebuild with side doors and loads, \$24
- \_\_\_ Kit #12.2 SLSF paneled side rebuild without side doors and loads, \$24
- ...add:
- \_\_\_ Part #TM.1 Cape Line all metal Andrews trucks with kit, \$5.00
- \_\_\_ Part #TP.1B Andrews plastic, sprung, black, non-magnetic trucks with kit, \$3.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$2.00 for shipping per five kits, CA residents add 6 3/4% sales tax

**Sunshine Models Box 3054 Salinas CA 93912**

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