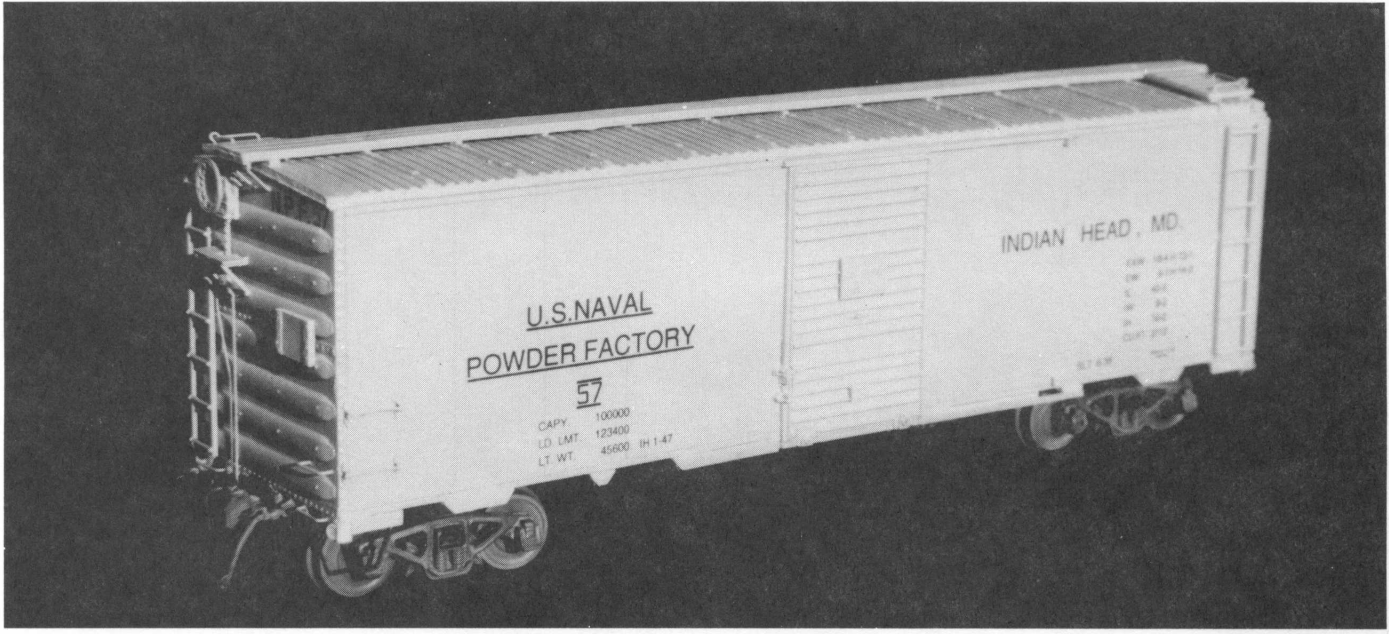




Naval Powder Factory #57 A.A.R. 1937 Boxcar with Viking Roof and Buckeye Ends



In June 1938, the U.S. Navy purchased for its Naval Powder Factory at Indian Head, Maryland a copy of the Erie's A.A.R. 1937 boxcars with Viking roof and Buckeye ends. This is the only known purchase of one of these cars by someone other than the Erie. This car received the number 57. It was a 10' IH boxcar with 6' Youngstown doors which, aside from roof and ends, followed the design laid out by the Mechanical Division in 1936. The car was built by American Car and Foundry at the Berwick, Pa. Plant. No. 57 was followed by two more cars in 1940, again with a Viking roof but with 4/5 dreadnaught ends. No. 57 got a DuPont Tuffcoat gray paint, with black underframe and trucks but 58-59 got aluminum paint that became the standard thereafter. Lettering on all cars was black. The cars rode on A.R.A. Type Y cast sideframe trucks which were designed when the Pennsy was in control of the Mechanical Division, thus they resembled closely the Pennsy 2D-F8 twin coil trucks.

The Indian Head Powder Factory was the Navy's prime facility for powder production. The Navy supplied the fleet's needs from this location on the Maryland eastern shore, southeast of Washington, D.C. It remains a Navy facility today, known as the Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center. The cars owned by the plant met all the A.A.R.

requirements for interchange service, including the application of required lettering. When moving powder from the factory to bunkers, the cars carried flags to designate a loaded car. While most shipments outside the confines of the plant traveled by railroad owned cars, the factory's cars were used whenever required. Powder was not a highly explosive cargo, per se, since no primers or detonators were included. The Indian Head facility shipped nationwide and their cars could travel to any fleet location--Norfolk, San Diego, Jacksonville, Seattle--during World War II and after.

In 1949, the National Security Act stipulated the reorganization of the military into three services under control of a single Department of Defense. Rail cars owned by the Army and Navy became DOD property and began a relettering into common reporting marks, such as DODX. Within a few years, Naval Powder Factory No. 57 would have received this new paint.

Sunshine presents an HO scale kit of NPF 57. It consists of gray urethane castings of major parts and commercial detail parts. Special decals come with the kit. All detailing, except trucks and couplers, are included. The look-alike Pennsy 2D-F8 twin coil trucks and couplers are available separately. Full instructions and Prototype Data Sheet are included with the kit.

- ___ Kit #18.3, NPF 57 1937 boxcar w/ Buckeye ends and Viking roof with decals for 1938-49 lettering, \$25
- ___ Part #TM7, Pennsy twin coil 2D-F8 trucks in white metal with metal wheelsets, \$6.00
- ___ Part #D.1, Kadee #5 couplers, one set, with kit \$1.25

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Add \$3.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 5.975%), Canada \$5.60 for two kits

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