



**SUNSHINE
MODELS**

M-15K, Postwar B&O M-53, C-16 Wagontop Boxcars



The design of the Baltimore & Ohio wagontop boxcars was one of the few true innovations in boxcar design during the late Thirties.

Before the B&O began building the M-53 wagontop boxcars from the ground up, it placed the classic body on old fishbelly underframes. The road rebuilt 1240 M-15B double sheathed wood boxcars into M-15K wagontops. The M-15K cars were given the 370000-371249 numbers.

The M-15K wagontops were distinctive for their indented lower sides. The underframes from the M-15 series were appreciably narrower than those on cars built in the late Thirties. When the wagontop body was placed on the M-15 underframe, the B&O shops placed 9" brackets on the old sidesills at the junction of each wagontop rib. The recess between the ribs revealed the old, narrow underframe.

The M-15K rebuildings began in 1936 and were completed in early 1937 before the M-53 wagontop construction began. Since the original M-15 underframes were built in the teens, these cars reached their maximum usable life under the 40 year rule during the Fifties. After some waivers, the cars received a second rebuilding in the mid-Fifties.

The B&O created express boxcars from the M-53 class wagontop boxcars to meet the increased demand for mail storage and Railway Express Agency movements surrounding World War II. The road called these cars the C-16 class.

Beginning in 1939, the first 25 M-53s were re-equipped with steam and signal lines and additional vertical and lateral grab irons on the ends. Twenty-five additional cars were converted in each of 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1945, for a total of 125 cars. These cars were given the numbers

1900-1999. The final 25 cars became 1875-1899. From May 1947 to 1959, the express boxcars were slowly returned to freight service.

The C-16s were painted in Pullman green and received the pre-war Kuhler herald. The lettering was Dulux gold.

The B&O's M-53s were built with a flat door, a design that did not hold up well in use. Beginning at the end of the Forties and continuing into the early Fifties, the B&O replaced most of the flat plate doors on these cars with modern lightweight Youngstown doors. The modification to install the modern doors was done by substituting the lightweight doors, bottom door guides and new top moisture shields for the original equipment. New mounting brackets also were required at top and bottom. Since the original doors were rather small by late steam era standards, the lightweight replacement doors were also smaller than their contemporaries.

Trucks (either Andrews or ARA style) and underframe were painted black. The B&O freight car paint differed from other roads oxide red in being a true red color. Lettering was white on freight cars.

The Sunshine kits use gray cast urethane parts with an open slot, thin running board. A single piece underframe is a feature of the M-15K kit. Both steam era lettering schemes--Kuhler and "13 Great States" heralds are in the M-53 and M-15K kits. The C-16 kit has Dulux Gold decals and passenger steam and signal lines. Kits include detailing parts (except trucks and couplers) and etched metal running board supports. Full instructions and a Prototype Data Sheet are included. The correct trucks and authentic chalkmarks are available also.

-
- ___ Kit #42.3 B&O M-53 Wagontop Boxcar w/ postwar lightweight Youngstown doors, Kuhler and "13 Great States" decals, \$32
- ___ Kit #42.4 B&O C-16 Wagontop Express Boxcar with Dulux Gold Kuhler herald decals, \$32
- ___ Kit #42.5 B&O M-15K Wagontop Boxcar with flat plate doors, Kuhler and "13 Great States" decals, \$32
- ___ Trucks TP 40 Plastic black A.R.A. design cast side frame trucks with non magnetic metal wheelsets, \$5
- ___ Trucks TP 51 Plastic black Andrews trucks with non magnetic metal wheelsets, \$5
- ___ Decal E9 B&O slogans--Time Saver, Sentinel Service, large B&O and a variety of 1930-50s heralds, \$4
- ___ Decal E8 Chalkmarks from photos of Northeastern roads boxcars, approximately 90 chalkmarks in light gray, \$4
- ___ Decal E17 Chalkmarks from photos of boxcars in 1948 Washington D.C., approximately 90 chalkmarks in light gray, \$4

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Add \$4.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 6.475%), Canada \$15.88 for six kits

Sunshine Models Box 4997 Springfield MO 65808-4997

1999

54142B