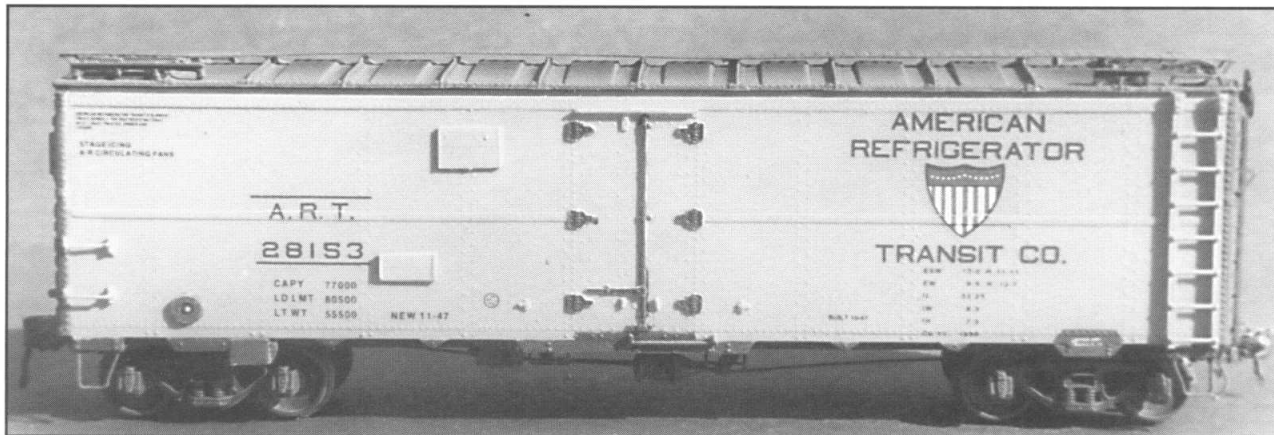


ART Horizontal Seam Reefers



In 1939, the American Refrigerator Transit Company added a unique variation to the common steel ice reefer. Instead of ten panels of vertical steel forming the sides, the ART employed four sheets arrayed horizontally with an overlapping seam across the middle of the car.

The horizontal seam cars became the mainstay for the ART's prime movements. These were winter citrus and produce from the Rio Grande Valley, summer potatoes off the cooperating Rio Grande, cantaloupes from Colorado, as well as spring berries, melons and other produce from Louisiana, East Texas and Arkansas. The main destination was the industrial Midwest over the Wabash. Also, the ART exchanged cars with the FGEX/WFEX to balance car demand between the systems.

From 1939 to 1945, ART constructed horizontal seam cars from kits produced by ACF. These cars used standard 4/4 Dreadnaught ends with square corner posts. Some 775 cars were built and placed in the 24000-24999 series.

This design of reefer would have remained in obscurity had not ART augmented its fleet in the post war years. ART built more reefers, then ordered quantities from Pullman and General American in 1947-48. These cars used postwar 3/4 improved Dreadnaught ends. A total of 2296 cars were built.

Nominal dates and series numbers were:

| Date | Series | Total | Source |
|-----------|--------|-------|---------|
| Sept. '47 | 26000 | 299 | ART |
| Nov. '47 | 28000 | 899 | Pullman |
| May '48 | 27000 | 999 | GATC |
| July '48 | 26000 | 99 | ART |

The horizontal seam, square corner cars all came with the traditional ART shield, which replicates the national seal, and black lettering. End lettering was white. Initially the post war cars bore this simple logo, also. The postwar horizontal seam cars arrived during a period of change in the ART decoration

of its cars and may have inspired this major revision and elaboration of the ART paint scheme over a two year period.

In mid-construction in April 1948, ART adopted a painting criterion that added the owning railroads' symbols over the reporting marks. They were placed with the MoP buzzsaw (or sun) to the right side of the car (as viewed from the brake end) and the Wabash flag on the left side. They were three color emblems--red, white and blue--and were smaller than the symbols adopted in 1950. In addition, the MoP red and white buzzsaw had a blue background, instead of the white in the 1950 design. The April 1948 paint scheme is called the Interim Design. A year later, another scheme was introduced. In April 1949, both small symbols were applied over the reporting marks, creating an Alternate Interim scheme.

During 1950, ART settled on a painting standard that would last for ten plus years. The ART shield was moved to the left side over the reporting marks. An enlarged Wabash flag and Mop buzzsaw were placed on the right side with the MoP symbol toward the "B" end. The symbols flanked the "American Refrigerator Transit Co." and filled the right side of the car. Each car side contained a shield and both heralds. Therefore, it can be concluded that four paint schemes are possible on ART reefers during the late steam era.

Sunshine introduces proprietary decals for the never before available Interim and Alternate Interim paint schemes--within one set. In addition, Champ decals which provide the 1950s scheme have been augmented with a resized Wabash flag. A proprietary shield only set is also available.

The Sunshine kits use vacuum formed gray urethane castings. An etched metal roofwalk and all parts except trucks and couplers are supplied. A four page Prototype Data Sheet is included. The instructions contain plentiful photographs.

Modelers can finish an ice dock scene with ice blocks, halves, chunks and melted ice cast in clear resin and appropriate trucks are also available.

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- ___ Kit #46.8 ART Horiz. Seam, 4/4 Square Corner Post with Interim and Alternate Interim heralds lettering decals (1948-'50s), \$34
- ___ Kit #46.9 ART Horiz. Seam, 4/4 Square Corner Post with 1950 twin heralds lettering, revised flag decals (1950-60s), \$34
- ___ Kit #46.10 ART Horiz. Seam, 3/4 Improved Dreadnaught with ART shield only decals (1947-'50s), \$33
- ___ Kit #46.11 ART Horiz. Seam, 3/4 Improved Dreadnaught with Interim and Alternate Interim heralds lettering decals (1948-'50s), \$34
- ___ Kit #46.12 ART Horiz. Seam, 3/4 Improved Dreadnaught with 1950 twin heralds lettering, revised flag decals (1950-60s), \$34
- ___ Kit #F.8 Clear ice blocks, halves, chunks and partially melted ice, pikes (peaveys) and forks (bi-dents) with ramps, \$30
- ___ Trucks #TP 40 Black plastic ARA cast sideframe, non-sprung trucks with metal wheelsets for square corner car, \$5.00
- ___ Chalkmarks #E.12 Chalkmarks taken from Produce Reefers photos, approximately 70 per sheet, \$4
- ___ Decal #E.100 Placards and Tags, Warning, Hazardous Handling, Clean, Home, Classification, Train Assignment, Transfer, etc., \$6

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

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