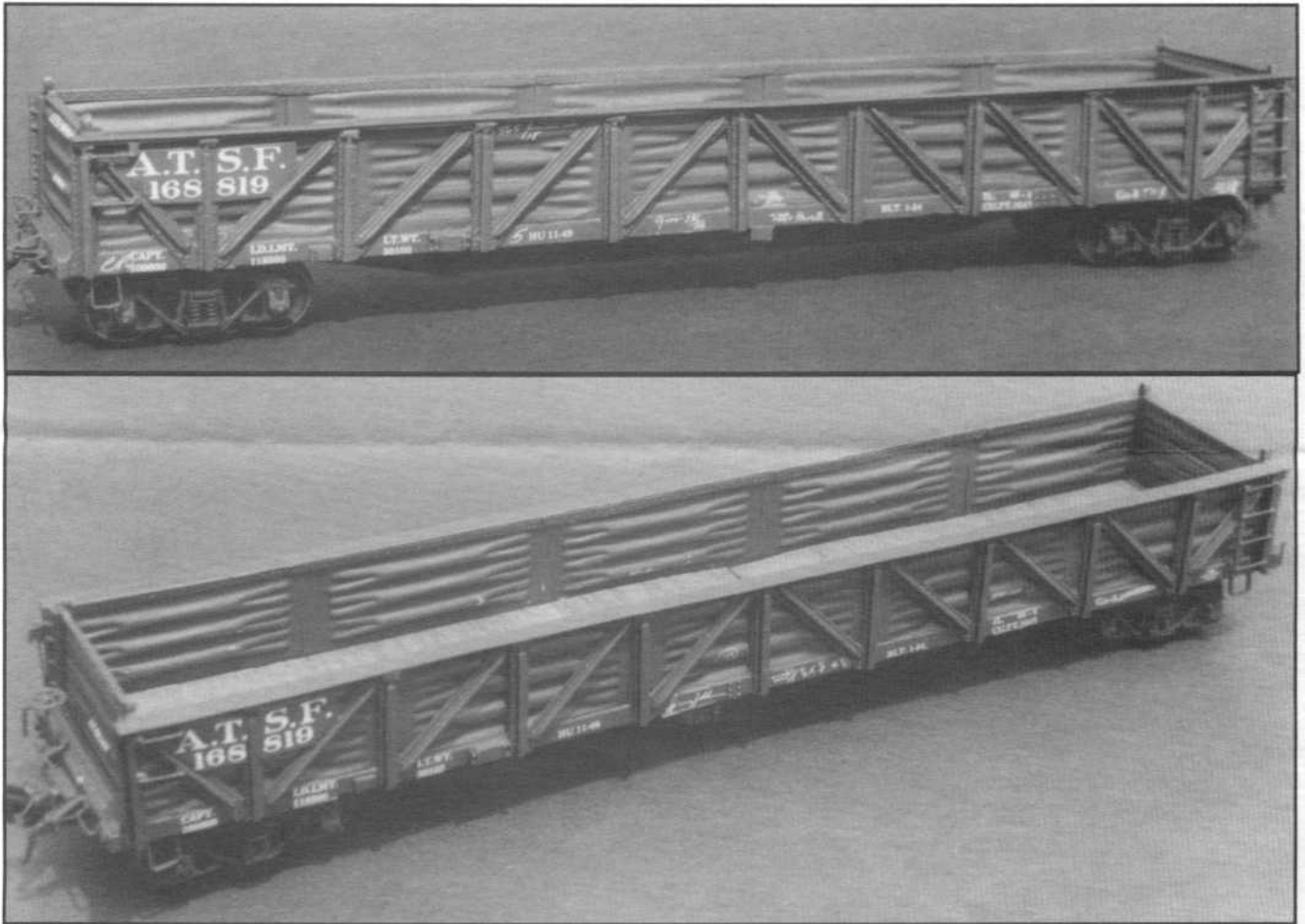




Sunshine Models' 10th Anniversary Kit ATSF GA-8 Rebuilt Gondola



The Santa Fe's Ga-8 steel truss gondola with replacement steel boxcar ends was one of the most unique examples of rolling stock in the U.S. This 10th Anniversary Limited Run Sunshine Models HO scale kit will be available only for one year and will not be sold after December, 2000.

In the midst of World War II, the Santa Fe rebuilt 300 steel framed, wood lined gondolas with indented Dreadnaught ends from the former Bx-9, 10s. The rebuilding was done at the West Wichita Shops from 1943 to 1944, creating updated gondolas for the war effort. The 48' length Ga-8 series composite gondolas from the early Twenties were the starting point. The sturdy fishbelly underframe and the steel side truss of the composite cars were retained. The bulb angles were straightened, trusses repaired and side sills and underframe patched wherever needed. The rebuilt Ga-8s became the 168700-168999 series.

Old boxcar ends from the Bx-9 and 10 double sheathed cars provided the unique replacements for the wood side walls. The boxcar ends were split into halves and resized to fit the side truss of the gondolas. The exterior surface of the boxcar end was placed toward the outside of the gondola, with the corrugations

protruding into the gondola interior. Both halves--3 1/2 and 3 corrugations--of the ends were used on the Ga-8s.

The rebuilt cars got steel drop ends. The corrugations were widely mixed, making use of former boxcar ends, as well as new purchased drop ends. AB brakes were applied, but the Andrews trucks were retained. The vertical Ureco brake staff was retained. The cars had a 50 ton and 1647 cubic foot rating when rebuilt. They received the traditional ATSF mineral brown paint with black trucks. The interior floor was creosoted to a dark brown color. In 1953, there were 275 of the Ga-8s in revenue service.

The kit uses gray urethane castings. The indented side segments are cast as one piece, with relief on both sides. Proprietary decals are included. Each kit includes a packet of finely crushed stone to simulate the residue from a sand or gravel load. A special run of gondola chalkmarks are included only with this kit. A Prototype Data Sheet and instructions are included. The kit contains all detailing parts except trucks and couplers. The kit sells for \$36. Andrews trucks with metal wheel sets are available separately for \$5.

- ___ Kit #50.1 Santa Fe Ga-8 rebuilt gondola with indented Dreadnaught ends as walls, drop ends, white lettering, 1943-60s, \$36
- ___ Trucks #TP 51 Plastic Andrews, non-sprung, swiveling side frame trucks with metal wheelsets, \$5.00

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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
Sunshine Models Box 4997 Springfield MO 65808-4997

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