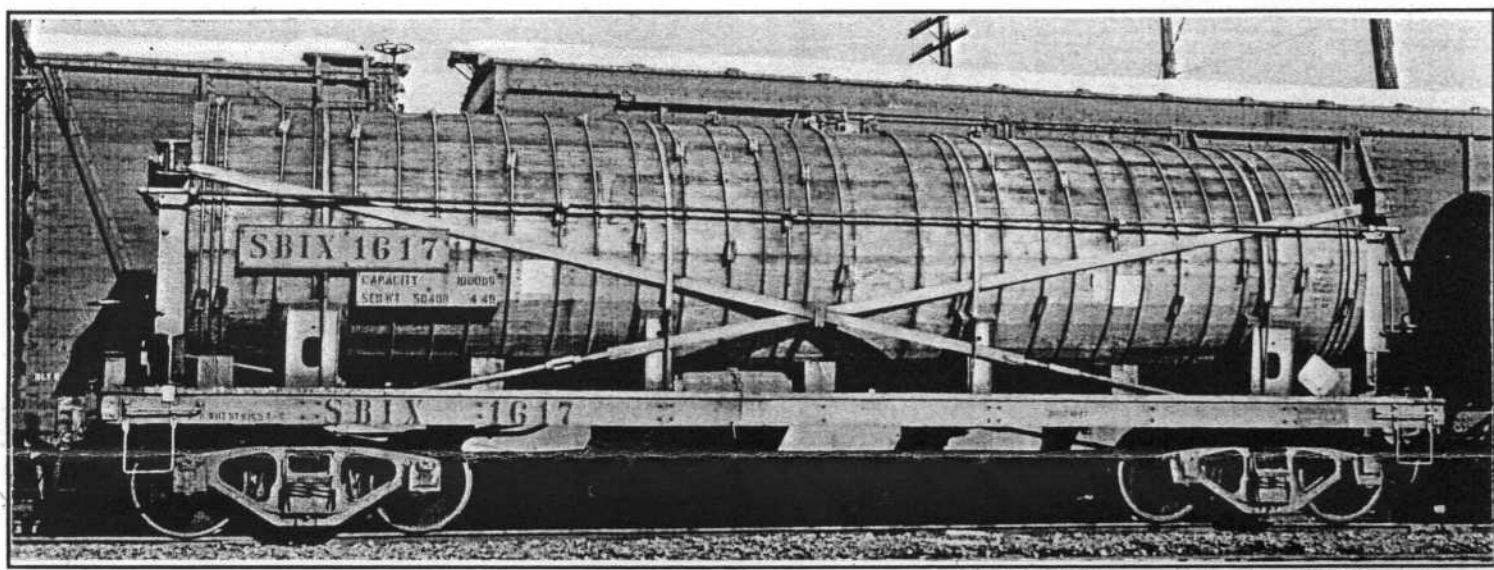




Anniversary Kit Fleischmann's and Standard Brands' Wood Horizontal Tank Vinegar Car



SBIX 1617, Tacoma WA, Mar. 1955, Bob's Photo
Prototype Photo

One of the most unique cars on North American railroads was the wood vinegar tank car. A combination of welded steel underframe, steel and wood tank saddles, a horizontal wood tank with a myriad of tie rods banding it, along with aluminum paint made for a truly distinctive piece of rolling stock. These fascinating cars operated from the 1920s until the 1970s.

Vinegar tank cars traveled from the raw material source to food processing plants. Typically, this movement was from agricultural territory to major population centers. Some of the more familiar origins were New York State, the Ozarks, Washington State and California. Food processing plants were generally located near the large population areas throughout the country.

Vinegar tanks were constructed of wood, since vinegar is acetic acid. They rode on sets of saddles, constructed of both steel and wood. Since the wood structure of the tank was fragile, it was buttressed at the ends with a massive matrix of "H" beams. Two large "X" bands secured the frames diagonally. The wood tank was held together by a series of 34 rods under tension.

The largest fleet of vinegar tank cars was employed by Fleischmann, a yeast and vinegar manufacturer. The cars were owned by its subsidiary, the Fleischmann Transportation Co., which used the reporting marks FTCX. In 1927, Fleischmann Transportation had 149 cars with a single wood horizontal tank. In 1932, Fleischmann owned 161 cars ranging from 1180-1460. In 1941, the number of wood cars had decreased to 126.

In 1929, Fleischmann had formed Standard Brands, Inc. and in 1946, Standard assumed ownership of the fleet of vinegar cars. Reporting marks began to change to SBIX, but the numbers on the cars remained the same. The process was completed by the Oct. 1948 Equipment Register. When the name change was complete, there were 117 SBIX wood cars in the number series 1343-1608. In 1953, there were 105 cars numbered 1448-1646. In 1956, there were 92 cars. By 1965, there were 44 cars in the series 1563-1684.

The Fleischmann cars were painted entirely aluminum with black Roman lettering. Standard Brands used red lettering initially. In the 1950s, a sans-serif (block) lettering style began to appear and the lettering color was changed to black.

Most cars photographed rode on planked cast side frame trucks with a four spring package, but some used the ARA Type Y trucks, similar to the Pennsy 2D-F8.

The cars were rebuilt periodically by construction of new wood tanks. These restorations provided the cars a new appearance on multiple occasions throughout their life.

Sunshine's Anniversary kit is highly detailed. The vinegar tank car kit consists of a pre-formed tank, a solid underframe, all necessary brass wire, plastic rod and detail parts. Decals for either black Fleischmann or red or black Standard Brands are included.

Castings are vacuum formed gray urethane. All parts except trucks and couplers are provided. A six page Prototype Data Sheet and four pages of instructions with in-process photos are included.

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- ___ Kit #60.1 Fleischmann Horizontal Wood Vinegar Tank Car, black lettering (1920-1948), \$39
- ___ Kit #60.2 Standard Brands Horizontal Wood Vinegar Tank Car, red lettering (1946-1950s), \$39
- ___ Kit #60.3 Standard Brands Horizontal Wood Vinegar Tank Car, black lettering (early 1950s-1970s), \$39
- ___ TP 40 Plastic, black, ARA five coil spring trucks with non-magnetic metal wheelsets, \$5
- ___ TM7 Cast metal ARA Type Y trucks with non-magnetic metal wheelsets, \$6

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Add \$4.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 6.60%), Canada \$15.88 for six kits
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