

T&P 1700-1724 Express Boxcars



In 1946, the Texas and Pacific converted 25 10' IH 1937 built all steel boxcars with Youngstown doors and Union Duplex rollers to mail storage service. Steam and signal lines were added and the cars were painted in Pullman Brown, the T&P's passenger color, with black ends and Dulux Gold lettering. Timkin roller bearing trucks were used initially, but were soon replaced by A-3 Ride Control trucks.

With the advent of the Texas Eagle service in late 1948, the cars began to be repainted in the Eagle colors of blue and gray with yellow and silver stripes, black ends and silver lettering. The dates of repainting are not known. It may have been done quickly or at the usual slow pace of passenger car repainting. These cars were seen over the MoPac/T&P system and off-line into the late 1960s.

The T&P Mail Storage cars can be modeled using the IMWX (Red Caboose) 10' IH straight corner post plastic model, cast doors with Union Duplex rollers, steam and signal lines, painting and decaling. This modification kit includes the doors, an improved control valve, decals and "Pullman Brown" paint for the first version.

Strip or obtain an unpainted IMWX model. Modest

improvements can be added, such as brass grabs, Detail Associates delrin bracket grabs, independent brake parts, etc.

Before assembling, paint the car brown or Eagle colors with black ends, underbody and trucks, then assemble, installing the cast doors in place of the plastic ones. Turn the brake reservoir latitudinally and mount the cast control valve.

The brown paint provided is an auto lacquer, simulating the T&P's Pullman Brown. It should be diluted with Enamel Reducer for a high gloss finish or a slow Lacquer Thinner for a lesser gloss. Dilute and test spray before painting the model.

For Eagle colors, paint the sides with Badger MoPac Blue, mask two blue bands and paint the bottom and middle band an off white (along with side ladders) and the top and roof light gray. Install the silver and yellow stripes.

The steam and signal lines should be aligned to avoid interfering with the coupler operation. Add a bottom mounted cut lever. Complete assembly and touch-up the paint with a brush wherever necessary.

Wash and decal the car. The car should be given a flat finish to protect the decals and give a realistic finish. Weather as desired.