

**Tony Thompson**

A long-time SP modeler in HO and a California native, Tony Thompson is interested in SP history, and has published both magazine articles and books on this subject. He wrote the modeling column in the SP Historical and Technical Society's magazine, Trainline, for 25 years, and served five years as the Society's President. He is retired from a career in university teaching and research, as a materials scientist interested in mechanical properties of materials. For more, go to: <http://www.signaturepress.com/authors/awt.html> . He is a partner in Signature Press book publishing. To see their books in print, go to [www.signaturepress.com](http://www.signaturepress.com) . Visit Tony's blog at <http://modelingthesp.blogspot.com> to learn more about him.

then glue the halves to the floor with canopy glue Here is how it looks.



Second, for this car, the prototype did not have the Accurail fishbelly center sill (5th Ave. Car Shops inserted a notice to this effect in my particular kit). You can either cut it down to about 1/8-inch height, or just use 0.030 x 0.125-inch styrene strip. I chose the latter. With brake gear installed but no brake levers or rods yet, it looked like this.



The white additions will of course be painted dark gray.

To install Kadee #158 whisker couplers, I sliced off the post on the underside of the coupler box lid, drilled out the post location, then tapped 2-56 all the way through the box and floor, so I can install the box lid with a screw. For trucks, I used some cast white metal Quality Craft Andrews trucks I had on hand, installing suitable Reboxx semi-scale wheelsets. Last, the brake staff was cut to length, and placed with CA, as was the brake wheel. A coat of flat finish completed preliminaries.



For weathering, I used my acrylic wash methods (to see a thorough description of the method and its uses, consult the "Reference pages" list at the top right of this blog post). I also applied some slight color differences to individual boards, in both the side sheathing and the running board, using artist's "Prismacolor" pencils. Lastly, the usual route cards, reweigh and repack stencils, and occasional chalk marks were added to complete the car.

This is indeed a simple kit, and was enjoyable to complete. I likely don't have as many Western Pacific cars on my layout as I should, so this will be a useful addition to the fleet.

Thank you to Tony Thompson for allowing us to use his article to bring another modeling idea to us.



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