

**RAILS UNLIMITED
NKP/C&O 1932 ARA STEEL BOXCAR
NICKEL PLATE ROAD
CHEASAPEAKE & OHIO**

In 1934 the NKP ordered 500 of the new ARA 1932 design boxcars. At the same time the C&O also ordered 650 of the same design. These cars were built under lot 5499 by Pullman at Michigan City, Indiana. The NKP cars were delivered in July 1934 series 13000-13499. The C&O cars were delivered in August 1934, series 7000-7649.

The distinctive features of these cars were the Hutchins radial roof, the geared vertical staff brake, with a square staff, and the small tabs along the bottom car side. Push pole pockets were eschewed in favor of towing staples located at the body bolsters. The cars were built with AB brakes.

References are:

“The American Railway Association Standard Box Car of 1932” by Ted Culotta, Speedwich Press.

Mainline Modeler: Feb 1986, Oct 1992, Nov 1992, Jan 1993, and Dec. 1993.

Model Railroading: Aug 1988.

Prototype history: (car longevity, 40+ years)

ORER date	7/66	7/69	4/73
C&O 700-7649	404 ea	37 ea	6 ea
NKP 13000 – 13499	371 ea	190 ea	28 ea

NKP 13009 on 7/69 was equipped with DF load restraints. By 1973 up to 13 cars had roof hatches and designated "LC". In the 1950's some cars received Murphy diagonal panel roofs, and Ajax power hand brakes on the car end, with open grid brake steps. The C&O cars also received the same roof and brake changes over time.

LETTERING: for the NKP car is available from Protocraft decals set NKP-1 and CDS set 0:415.

For the C&O car Protocraft has a 1937 C&O set and dimensional data from the NKP set. CDS offers set 0-656.

PARTS LIST:

Brake wheel : PSC 4670

Square brake staff K&S 1/32" square stock #15047

AB brake set: San Juan, IM, Grandt or PSC

Ladders: IM or PSC

Center sill flanges are 2 strips of .020 x .125 styrene

Wood running boards .030 x .125 styrene or IM

Trucks and couplers your choice

MODELING TIPS:

Clean flash off all castings.

For the flat kits, compare the two sides for length. If one side is longer remove extra material from the right hand end. The roof is made long so it can be trimmed to fit the sides.

Before adding the floor, determine if additional weight is needed and add the styrene strip flanges to the center sills. Cut out the cross bearer caps and cross ties from the urethane sheets. The cross bearer caps will need to be bent slightly to fit across the center sills. Soften the cross bearers under hot tap water to soften for bending. Add trainline piping at this time. Note all the AB brake components are in the bay under the car doors. Add wire for the towing staples at each end of the car bolsters.

Rails Unlimited

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