

Scratch building Rolling Stock By Fred Lesco



Garden Railways magazine published the plan for a G Scale Boxcar in their March-April 1992 issue, and has included one plan in every issue since that time. There are now over sixty plans so far, and counting. Most are for rolling stock, although a number of structures and even three boats have been covered.

All use wood for construction, and I have built up twelve cars so far, including a snow plough, passenger car, baggage car, and caboose, as well as a number of boxcar variations.

Although the plans are simple, I think they build up into a good-looking model. I would recommend these plans to anyone wishing to make a start in scratch building.

Edward Stinson has drawn all the plans, and a kit of material is offered through Northeast Narrow Gauge, of Wiscasset, Maine. However I have provided my own material, which consists mainly of quarter inch plywood, used for the car floor, and one-eighth inch thick plywood, (I use pieces of wall paneling left over from a cottage renovation) to build up the sides of the car itself in the shape of a box, which is attached to the car's floor. The outside of the car is then covered with vertical strips, to simulate the siding of the full size car. For this basswood strips in quarter inch width by one-sixteenth thickness are available from most hobby stores, but once again, I cut my own from a pine shelving board. A circular saw would be ideal for this, but I use an old Craftsman band saw, to do the job.

Any outside bracing is also cut and glued into place, and windows are built up, where needed, from strip wood, before gluing into the appropriate openings cut in the car sides. Once again thin wood is used for the roof, and details such as ladders, steps, etc, are made up and attached. After painting, the finished product has trucks and couplers attached, and is ready to be put on the track. From the above it is apparent that every little cash outlay is required, and it is a case of time, more than money being required. I have certainly enjoyed the time I have invested, and would recommend this approach to anyone interested in trying their hand at building up some wooden rolling stock for their Garden Railway.

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