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Author:	John Gillies

## NP 67006-67071 Bulkhead Flat Cars



### General Assembly

The Life-Like/Walthers Proto 2000 AAR 50 ton flat car is an excellent representation of the NP 62000-62299 series 53' 6" flat cars built by American Car & Foundry (ACF) in 1943. Some of these cars were converted to bulkhead flat cars from 1954-1961. There were slight variations in bulkhead height and width in the series NP 67006-67071, 67075-67076 and 67088-67091 as noted in the car diagrams on the NPRHA site. Here is the diagram for this car:

[Link to car diagram](#)

The model is based on Dan Holbrook's photo of NP 67021 which appears on page 71 of Todd Sullivan's NP Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment published by Morning Sun Books in 1995, ISBN 1-878887-49-1.

The Proto 2000 kit has been available decorated for the NP as built by ACF, but I couldn't locate one. An ACL car was the starting point for this model, so the paint was stripped from the plastic body by soaking it in alcohol. Building NP 67021 is relatively simple – build the kit with some minor modifications and add two scratchbuilt bulkheads. I deviated from the kit by replacing the plastic grab irons with more durable 0.008" brass wire bent to shape and attached with

ACC. The stirrup steps were considered for replacement by metal ones, but in the end I used the kit's supplied plastic ones as they appear reasonably durable and aren't grossly oversized.

The deck is shortened to 48' 6" to fit between the bulkheads by removing the last four boards from each end of the deck. The base of the bulkhead is 2' 6" deep and on this car the bulkhead is 8' 11" wide and the top is 7' 0" higher than the deck. Each bulkhead's face, base and its four braces were built from 0.020" styrene sheet. My interpretation of the bulkhead's construction is that they were built from steel plate with channel reinforcements welded to the braces. I scaled the channel's placement on the braces from the photo and represented this by first attaching the 0.020" edge of 0.020" x 0.035" styrene strips flush with and at right angles to the external edges of the brace. The inner edges of the channels were located 0.100" in from the external edges. The channels face away from the centerline of the car as illustrated in the NP Color Guide photo, so two "left hand" and "right hand" braces are used on each end.

The end ladders were built from scale 1" x 2" Evergreen styrene strip joined at right angles with Grandt Line 0.010" styrene rod for the seven rungs. Short lengths of 1" x 2" Evergreen styrene strip were used as the ladder supports on the bulkheads. The side grabs on the bulkheads were bent from 0.008" brass wire and glued with ACC in #80 holes located by scaling the positions from the photo. The horizontal grab between the center bulkhead braces is Grandt Line 0.010" styrene rod. I attached the bulkheads to the car's body and weight with contact adhesive; largely to pull the plastic ends of the car into line with the weight. An eyebolt and 0.008" brass wire were used to make the uncoupling levers. Kadee air hoses and #58 couplers were also used.

The car was airbrushed with a 2:1 mix of Polly Scale engine and tarnished blacks and lettered with Microscale 87-777 decals with a sealing coat of Polly Scale clear flat. It was weathered with a variety of Polly Scale weathering colors and artists acrylic paint washes.

### **Parts List**

Life-Like/Walthers Proto 2000 AAR standard 50 ton flat car  
0.020" styrene sheet  
Evergreen 8102 1" x 2" styrene  
Grandt Line 3901 0.010" styrene rod  
Detail Associates 2206 wire eye bolts  
Detail Associates 2502 0.008" brass wire  
Kadee 438 air hoses  
Kadee #58 scale couplers  
Microscale 87-777 NP general freight decal set  
Herald King ACI labels

**Photos**











