

PROTOTYPE INFORMATION:

The body style for this prototype was initially approved by the USRA in March, 1918. Orders were placed for 20,000 of these cars from five different manufacturers. The listing below, which represents the most prominent roads, represents 15,900 of the total cars ordered.

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>No. Built</u>
ACL	300
B & M	1,500
C & N W	1,000
C B & Q	1,000
IC	2,650
KCS	200
L & N	1,000
M & StL	250
MP	3,000
N C & StL	200
NYC	1,000
NS	50
PRR	750
SLSF	1,000
SOU	2,000

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HO-Scale USRA Composite Gondola

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read the instructions and study the drawings and parts before beginning assembly of this kit!! Many of the parts are very delicate in order for your completed model to be as attractive and authentic as possible. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BEND, TWIST OR BREAK PARTS FROM THE SPRUE. The most effective tools to use in removing parts from their sprue are an X-acto knife or fine clippers.

It is best to test fit ALL PARTS before applying glue. The locators sometimes are slightly damaged in removing from the runner and must be trimmed before the locator holes will accept them. Generally very small amounts of glue are needed to affix styrene parts, so we recommend that glue be used sparingly. Also, when locator holes extend through the parts, apply glue on the inside.

The connecting point between the part and the "runner" to which it is attached is called a "gate". In most cases the gates are designed to be trimmed completely flush with the parts. In the following cases the parts should be cut from their runner as close to the runner as possible as the locators are used as "gates" for molding the parts:

1. The end of the Regulator Valve (g).
2. Both ends of the Perfection Handbrake (h).
3. Both locators for the Brake Mast Step (i).
4. Both locators on each of the Glad Hands (j).
5. All four locators on the Brake Step (k).
6. Both locators on each of the Brake Rod Guards (l, m).

Touch-up painting can be accomplished by using a small brush with lacquer thinner. Wet the brush in the lacquer thinner and lift a small amount of paint from the sprue runners and apply to the areas you wish to touch up.

It is very helpful to clean out all locator holes with a pin vise and a #72 drill bit prior to test fitting parts. Sometimes a small amount of paint in the holes, or on the locators, makes it difficult to install the parts. On an open car, such as the gondola, or on models that use wood parts it may be better to remove the locator rather than risk drilling the locator hole all the way through. In any event, enlarging or deepening the locator holes should be done very carefully in order to maintain the integrity of your model.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

X-acto Knife	Fine Clippers	Tweezers	Small File or Emery Board
Magnifier		Pin Vise	Small Drill Set
Liquid Styrene Cement	"Zap-A-Gap" or Silicon		Small Phillips Screwdriver

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Body, Ends, Sides, and Floor

The sequence used in installing these parts is very important, as each part, when in place, is designed to provide a guide for the placement of the next piece. Identify the brake end of the Body (a) by looking for the "B" on the bottom of the body just inside the truck mounting posts. Remove the B End (e) from the parts sprue and install on the B end of the body. (The B end has extra locator holes for installation of the brake gear.) Install the A End (d).

You are now ready to install the Wood Sides (b). Note that each of the sides has detail on both surfaces. The surface with the greatest amount of detail goes to the inside of the car body. The outside surface has four locator positions for grab irons to the right side, and only one locator position for a grab iron to the left side. Verify this by being sure that the locator holes on the body line up with the locator positions on the wood sides. When ready, glue sides in place. "Zap-A-Gap" is recommended for adhering wood parts to the plastic body and grab irons to the wood sides.

IF WEIGHT IS GOING TO BE ADDED IT MUST BE INSTALLED BEFORE GLUING THE WOOD FLOOR (C) IN PLACE. You may want to set the floor aside for now and install it later. The most effective means of weighting your car is by using a lead sheet, a sheet of brass, or stainless steel plate on the floor of the car under the wood floor. A load may be used to adjust the car weight as well. When cut to size and glued in place, the weight will be unnoticeable on the finished model. It is recommended that you add three ounces of weight to bring the total weight up to NMRA standard.

Step 2: Underbody Detail

Install the Underframe Cover (o), noting that the ends of the underframe cover and the car body are marked to show the "A" and "B" ends of both parts. Remove Brake Rod Assembly (f) from the parts sprue and glue in place, matching locators to locator holes on bottom of underframe cover. Install B End Brake Rod Guards (l) and A End Brake Rod Guard (m). Please note that the brake rod guards have "shoulders" on the locators so they will be installed at the right height. (In order to reduce damage, Glad Hands (j) should be installed in a later step.)

Step 3: Grab Irons

There are a total of twenty-six grab irons to install on this model. They are of two types, Type W Grab Irons (p) and Type X Grab Irons (q). The types and their locations are readily identified by referring to the assembly drawing and the grab iron

parts sprue drawing. When removing grab irons from the parts sprue, cut or clip the gates very close to the locators, which extend at right angles from the grab irons. Be sure not to remove the locators from the grab irons. When affixing the grab irons to the wood sides, you may want to shorten or remove the locators to eliminate the necessity of enlarging the locator positions in the wood sides. (NOTE: This step is the most tedious portion of building your USRA Composite Gondola, but will ultimately define it as one of the finest models on your railroad empire. The accuracy and fine detail of these parts when in place will make it all worthwhile!!)

Step 4: Brake Detail

The Brake Mast Step (i) should be installed first. Then comes the Regulator Valve (g), which is glued only at the locator on top of the valve. The lower end is located by installation of the Brake Step (k). When the brake step is in place, you are ready for the Perfection Handbrake (h) which extends through the hole in the brake step.

It should now be safe to install the Glad Hands (j), using the two locator holes adjacent to the coupler boxes on each end of the car body.

Step 5: Andrews Trucks

Assemble the Andrews Trucks (r) by adding the Web Style Brake Beams (t) and 33" Wheel Sets (s). The brake beams are easily located by placing the two short locators on each end of the brake beam in the small locator holes on the truck sideframes. Install the trucks on the car body using the Truck Screws (u) provided.

Step 6: Couplers

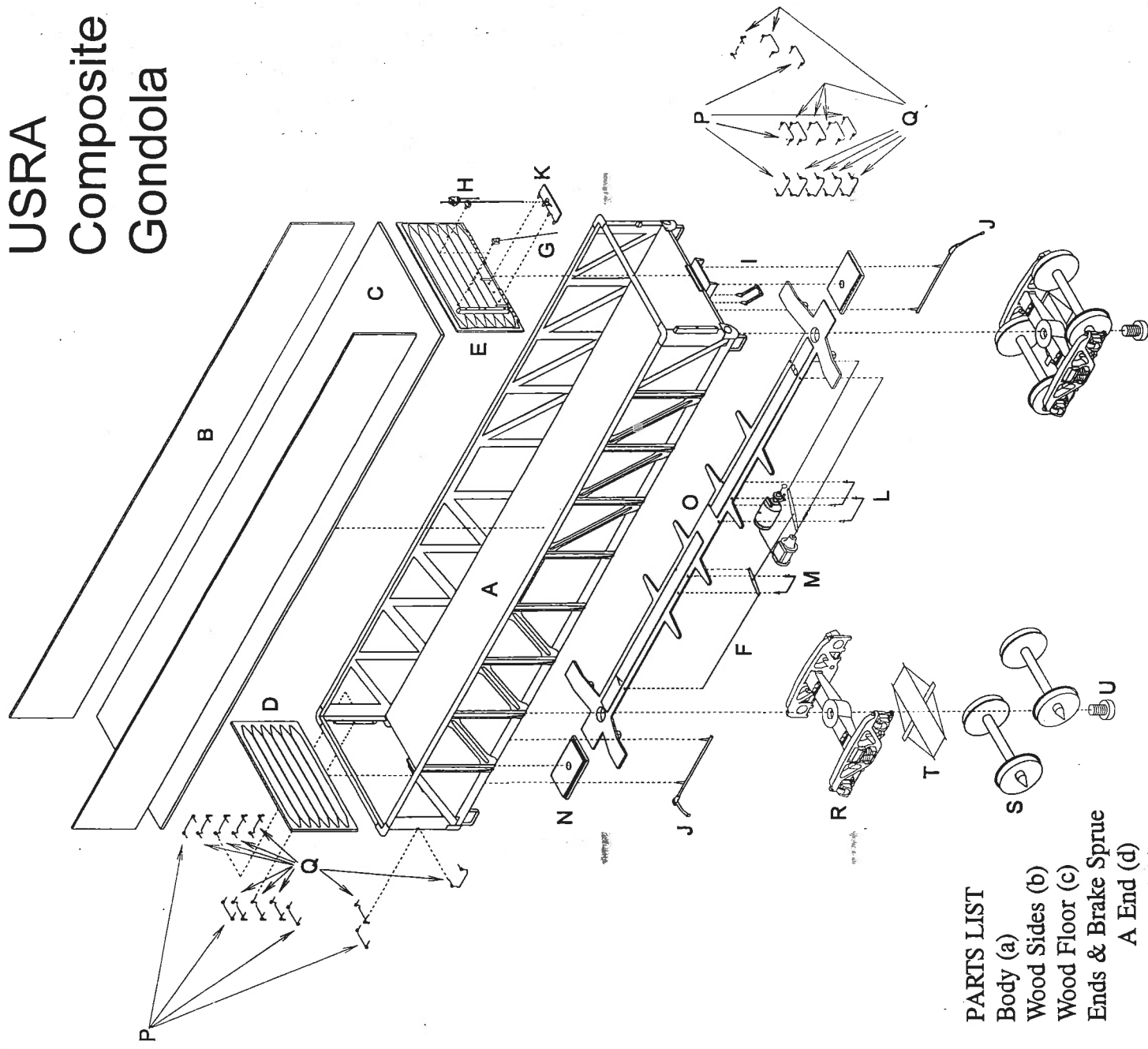
Install the couplers of your choice and secure by lightly gluing the Coupler Box Lids (n) in place.

You have now successfully completed the assembly of your HO scale USRA Composite Gondola car. We wish you much enjoyment as you place it in service on your model railroad empire!! If you find that a part is missing or defective or if you should break or lose one, please contact your dealer or write or call us at 1-800-472-2530 for a replacement.

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InterMountain Railway Company HO-Scale USRA Composite Gondola



PARTS LIST

- Body (a)
- Wood Sides (b)
- Wood Floor (c)
- Ends & Brake Sprue
- A End (d)
- B End (e)
- Brake Rod Assembly (f)
- Regulator Valve (g)
- Perfection Handbrake (h)
- Brake Mast Step (i)
- Glad Hands (j)
- Brake Step (k)
- B End Brake Rod Guards (l)
- A End Brake Rod Guard (m)
- Coupler Box Lids (n)
- Frame Cover (o)
- Grab Iron Sprues
- Type W Grab Irons (p)
- Type X Grab Irons (q)
- Andrews Truck Package
- Andrews Trucks (r)
- 33" Wheel Sets (s)
- Web Style Brake Beams (t)
- Truck Screws (u)

Grab Irons Sprue

