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FGE WOOD REFRIGERATOR

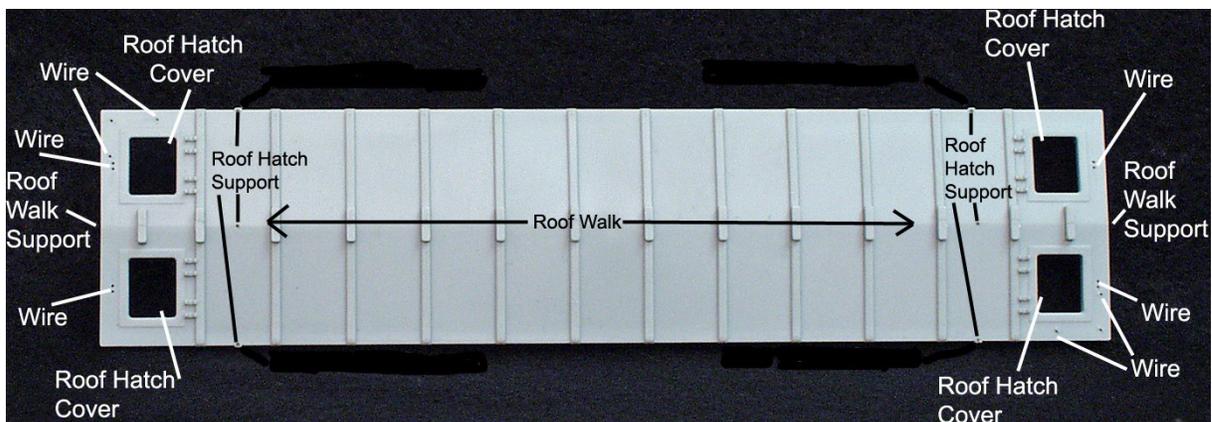
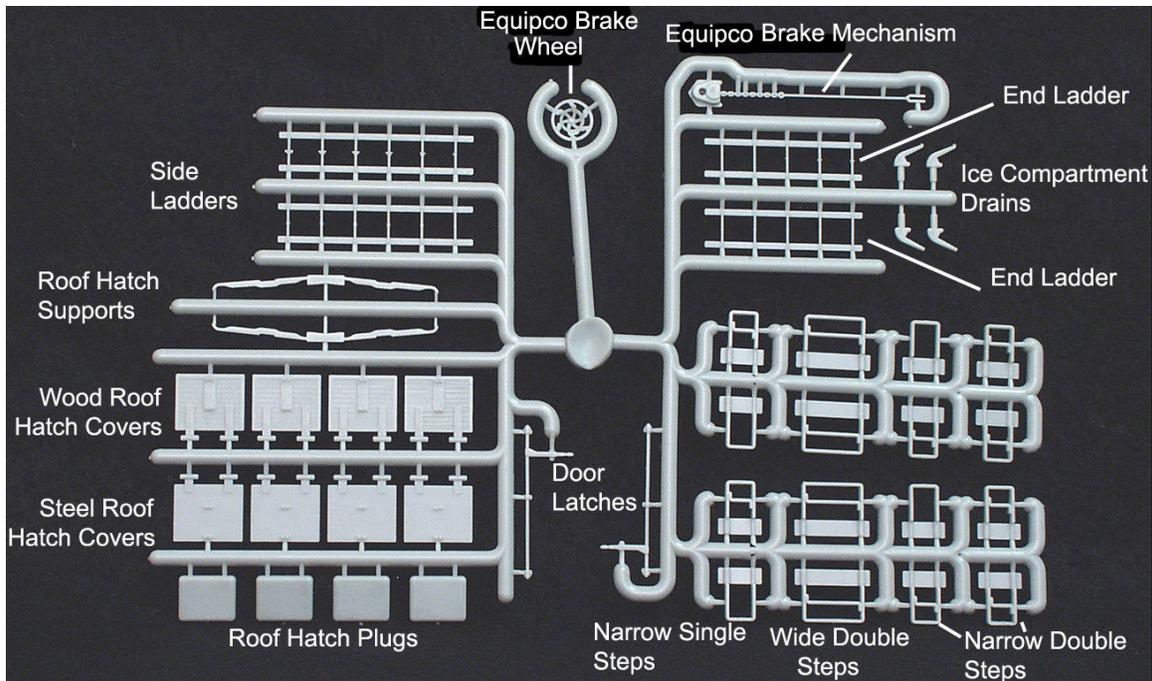
Incorporated on March 18, 1920, Fruit Growers Express began doing business with 4,280 pieces of rolling stock, repairs shops at Alexandria, Virginia and Jacksonville, Florida, and numerous ice plants and other facilities scattered throughout the East Coast. By year's end, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, New Haven, and Norfolk and Western railroads became major stockholders.

In order to compete with the Pacific Fruit Express and Santa Fe Refrigerator Despatch in the west, FGE and the Great Northern Railway formed the Western Fruit Express (WFE) on July 18, 1923, a move that added 3,000 cars to the equipment pool. By 1926, FGE had expanded its service into the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest through the WFE and the Burlington Refrigerator Express (BREX), formed in partnership with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

The InterMountain Railway FGE Wood Refrigerator is modeled after cars manufactured in the 1920's. These cars were rebuilt over the years with varying components; such as metal hatch covers, expanded metal roof walks, and different side steps. Alternate parts have been included in the kit to enable you to model a number of variations.

ROOF

Step 1. Determine which roof hatch covers to use for the assembly. This kit contains the original wooden type hatch covers and the later steel type hatch covers. Remove the four appropriate hatch covers from their sprue. If you are modeling the hatch covers in the partially open configuration, remove the plugs from their sprue, and glue a plug to the underside of each hatch.



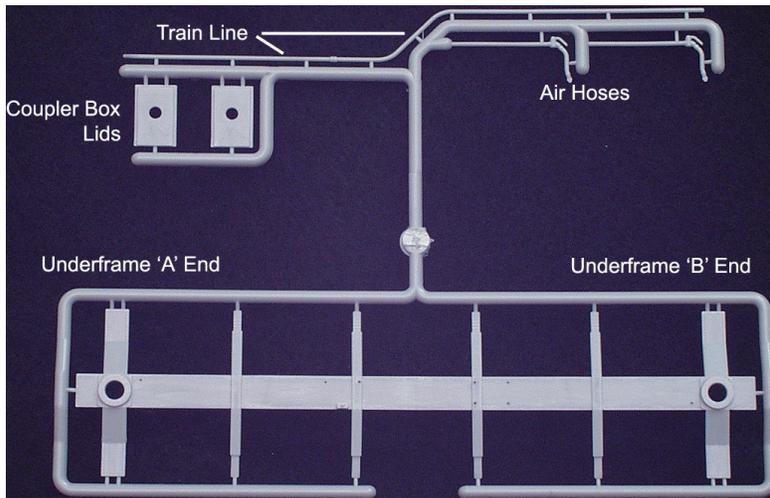
Step 2. Remove any flash from the roof. Glue one hatch (or hatch assembly) into each opening in the ends of the roof. The hinge pins fit into the hinges molded into the roof. Be careful to align each hatch square to the opening. Note the hatch plugs do not fit into the openings. If you glue the hatches in the partially open configuration for ventilator service, the plugs were probably a soiled, dull tan/gray canvas color. The gray plastic should be a good base for that color.

Step 3. Attach the two roof mounted hatch supports, each into the three locator holes in the panel adjacent to the hatches. The hatch support should sit onto the peak of the roof, forming another support for the roof walk.

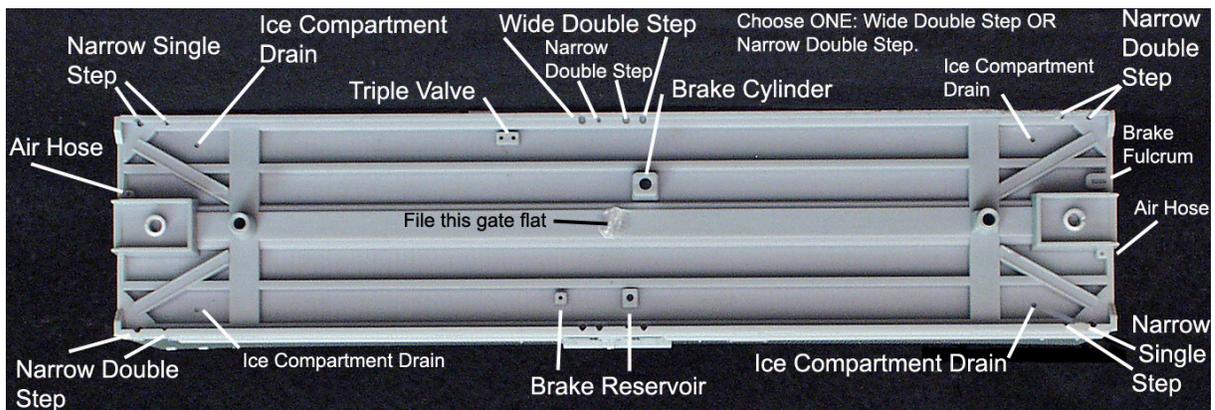
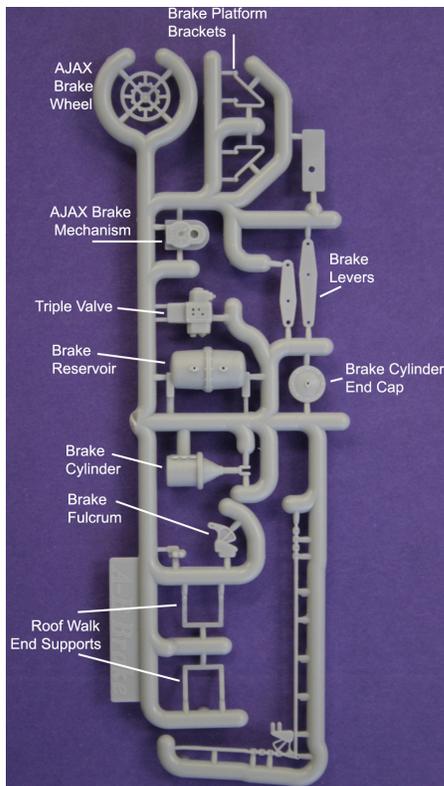
Step 4. Drill two holes in each end of the roof to attach the roof walk end supports. The holes are located centered on the end fascia, 3/16 in. apart and approximately .015 in. from the bottom of the end fascia. Use the #76 drill (.020 in.). Drill only about .020 in. deep. Set the roof aside.

BODY

Step 6. Separate the underframe and the train line from their sprue and remove any flash. Glue the train line into the notches provided in the top side of the underframe. The train line has a small 'T' molded into it near one of the bends. Orient the 'T' toward the bolster with the round center hole. There is a small hole locator in the 'T' that should be oriented down.



Step 7. Trim any flash from the body. You will have to remove remaining plastic from the gate in the center of the floor to provide a flat surface to seat the underframe. Then attach the underframe to the floor of the body. Note one bolster location has a square pin and one has a round pin. Orient the underframe to match the bolsters to the pins.



Step 8. Attach the end cap to the brake cylinder. Then install the brake cylinder into the boss with the larger hole in the center of the floor. The clevis end of the brake cylinder is oriented toward the 'B' end of the car, which has the retainer valve and pipe molded onto it.

Step 9. Attach the brake reservoir and triple valve to the floor in the locator holes provided. The reservoir is oriented by the two different size locator holes. Orient the triple valve with the hole pattern toward the center sill of the underframe.

Step 10. Attach the brake system wire piping, brake levers, and wire brake rods. Use the locator holes in the various parts.

Step 11. Determine if your model will have the wide double step or the narrow double step below the center door. Attach the appropriate center steps. The flange of the step locates along the inside of the sill of the body. The narrow double step has one curved locator larger than the other.

Step 12. Attach the narrow double step to the right corners of the body and the narrow single step to the left corners of the body. Match up the larger and smaller curved locators of the steps as appropriate.

Step 13. Attach the ice compartment drains into the locator holes, one at each corner of the floor. The rectangular tip is oriented toward the side sill.

Step 14. Attach the brake fulcrum into the slot to the left of the coupler box at the 'B' end of the car.

Step 15. Attach the air hoses, each into the locator to the right of each coupler box. The air hose will also insert into a locator hole in the bolster.

Step 16. Attach the couplers and coupler box covers with the screws provided. The coupler box is made to accept a Kadee no. 5 coupler.

Step 17. Insert the wheel sets into the trucks and attach the trucks with the screws provided. The car body can now rest on the trucks for the remainder of assembly.

Step 18. Add the appropriate weight to the inside of the body. The NMRA recommended weight for this car is 4 oz. when assembly is completed.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

Step 19. Attach the roof to the body.

Step 20. Attach the brake mechanism to the 'B' end of the body. The mechanism is located into the four small holes at the top of the end, and the clevis at the other end fits over the fulcrum attached in Step 14, at the bottom of the end. Attach the brake wheel in the locator hole in the brake mechanism. There is an Equipco brake wheel provided in the parts sprue, that is appropriate for the original version. There is an AJAX brake wheel in the brake sprue, that is optional.

Step 21. Attach the brake platform brackets to the 'B' end of the car. The brake platform is one of the etched metal parts. Attach the brake platform to the platform brackets.

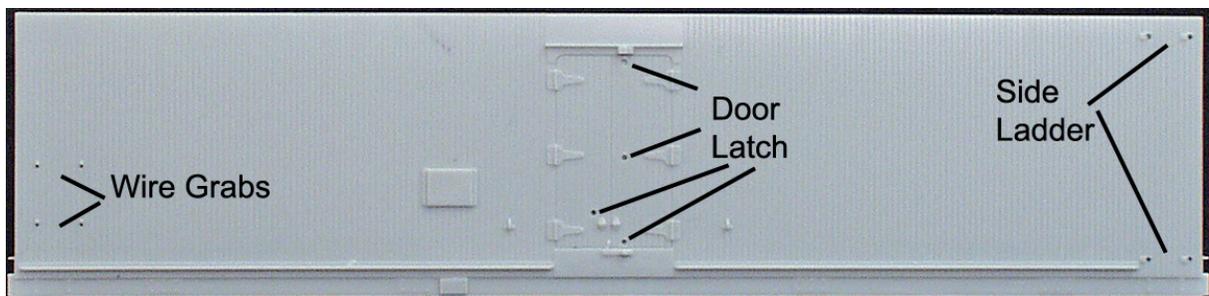
Step 22. Attach the end ladders (5 rung) to each end of the car. The rung nearest the end of the ladder is oriented at the bottom.

Step 23. Attach the wire grab and coupler lift lever to each end.

Step 24. Both a wood roof walk and an etched metal roof walk are supplied in this kit. Determine which roof walk is appropriate for the car you are modeling. Attach the roof walk, centered along the support pads on the roof. Then attach the roof walk end supports.

Step 25. Attach the two wire corner grabs to the roof.

Step 26. Attach the etched metal latch for each roof hatch using a wire loop inserted into the locator holes in the roof next to each hatch. If you have attached the hatches in the partially open configuration for ventilator service, the latch leans against the edge of the hatch.



Step 27. Attach the center door levers to each side of the body.

Step 28. Attach the side ladders (6 rung) to the right on each side. The rung nearest the end of the ladder is oriented at the bottom.

Step 29. Attach the two wire grabs to the left on each side.

Car assembly is complete and ready for paint and lettering decoration.

