



Railroad Models

Norfolk Southern Lowside Gondola (old original lowside gons)



Thank you for purchasing the WrightTRAK Railroad Models low side gondola! We hope you find the construction of this car to be an enjoyable experience!

The first step is to insure that you have all of the parts needed to build the car. These include the body casting, a floor, coupler pockets, Tichy brake gear, a fret of brass etched metal parts, a pair of brass weights Tichy trucks and plastic wheel sets are also included as are a set of decals..

Now, on to the construction of the car. The first step is to clean any flash that may be on the car. There is NOT much.

Using the ACC type of flue of your choice, attach the included brass weights to the inside of the car and fit the included floor to fit and cover the weight. Let this assembly dry for an appropriate period of time so that the floor does not fall out of the car during the remainder of the construction process.

At this point drill in appropriate places with a #79 drill bit. This includes for grabs on all corners of the car of each side. There is only one grab per corner. Also, drill for grabs at the ends of the car. I find it best to use a needle in a pin vise to create a starter hole. Attach the grabs. We include etched metal ones. For the construction of the car I used formed wire grabs. I like the results better. Of course, your mileage may and will vary. I guess the best thing I can say is to use what works best for you.

Now, as we move to the under frame you have a couple of options to work with. We include a brass etching that includes the brake rods and associated brake gear for the car. We also include Tichy brake gear. To be honest, for the purpose of building the car, I used the included etched parts. I will not do so on any subsequent cars that I build. I would much prefer to use the Tichy brake gear and wire, included with the kit, to build the brake system. Now, for a helpful hint. To plumb the control valve I drilled all the way through the piece for all three lines. I then ran brass wire through the control valve and leaving enough to mess with. I then attached the other ends at their mounting points on the air tank and the brake cylinder. Then I attached the triple valve to the car. This method allows the brass wire to form nice smooth curves for the brake piping. Snip off the excess from outside of the control valve and you are done.

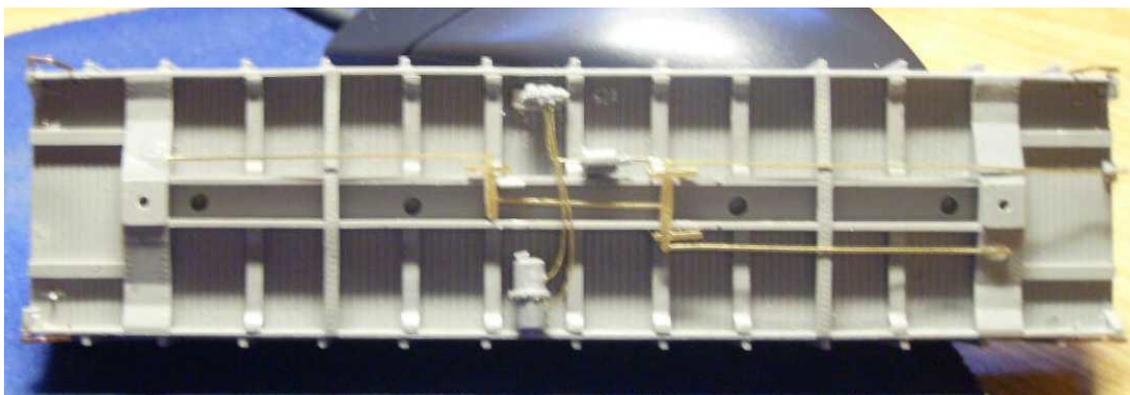
Attach the bolsters. After they have set for a sufficient period of time drill and tap them to accept a # 2-56 screw. At this point also attach the couple pockets.

At this point you can attach the sill steps of your choice. I prefer to use A Line steps because of their durability. I drill 2 holes at each corner, on the outside of the car and simply bend over the corners of the A Line steps at attached them. Easy enough...There are metal etched steps included on the brass parts fret.

For the last step I attached the brake platform and end brake gear. Do this after attaching the coupler pockets to the car. This allows you wiggle room for the proper fitting of parts. You will find this piece on the brass etching fret. Remove and bend the brake platform and attach...Add the brake wheel and retainer valve and you have completed the basic construction of the car.

Before painting, be sure to wash the car with a high quality, grease cutting dish detergent. Let the car air dry or dry with a blow dryer. When using a blow dryer be careful so that you don't warp the resin parts.

Paint and weather to your liking. We recommend using PolyScale thinned with 70% isopropyl alcohol in a well-ventilated area as a primer. After this you can paint using your choice of paint brands.



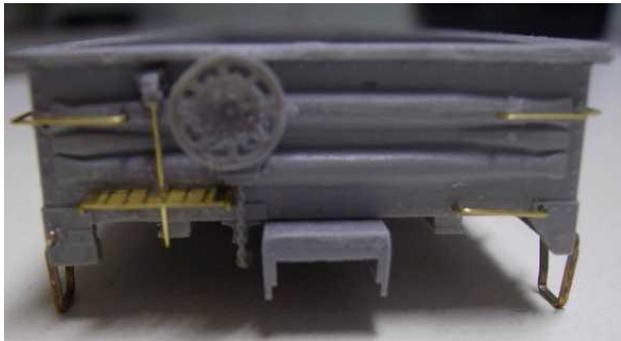
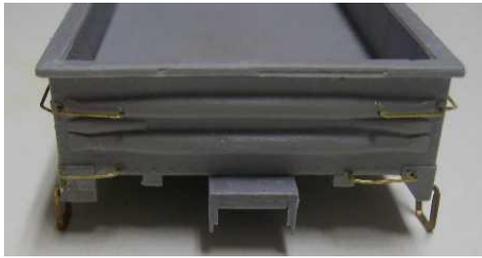


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Photo courtesy of Bob's Photos



Warren Calloway photo



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