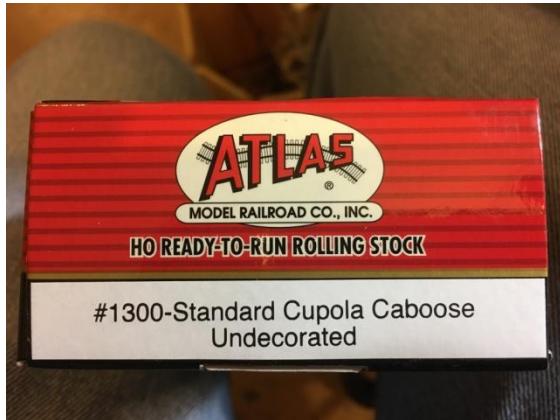


## Building Maine Central Standard Cupola Caboose

Many years ago I set aside 2 Atlas undecorated cabooses to paint in the Maine Central delivery scheme. Now, if you know about this model, Atlas did a couple of numbers of this in Maine Central livery, except that it was the paint scheme from the 80's. I model the 60's MEC, and this is what they looked like back then (image from "Color Guide to New England Freight & Passenger Cars").



1.) Now that I have a model (I sold one of them), and a prototype image to work from, I need to tear it apart. This isn't a kit and there are no instructions, so disassembly was challenging, and resulted in a couple of broken mounting pins (super glue, where are you?). I also removed the weight and cut a little off it because the model weighs in at a hefty 4 ounces, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce too much. Here's what it looks like, and I've added most of the wire grab irons.



2.) Time to paint the model. I'm not sure of the color, but it looks more yellow than "Harvest Gold", the normal MEC yellow. I'm going to use Floquil Armour Yellow, which is the Union Pacific yellow color. I painted yellow, then silver (roof) and flat black (underframe and bottom of the body). This shows it painted and lettered; forgot the paint image.



3.) Once the paint is dry it's time for decals. I used 2 sets of decals (discontinued Accu-Cals #5811 & 5812) to get the right herald look.

4.) Now it's time for final assembly. I painted the wheels with Floquil Rail Brown, along with the couplers (I spray paint the couplers in batches of 10 for future use) and installed them on the frame. Then the windows are put back in, and the cupola snapped in position. Once all's well with the body, just pop it onto the frame. Next, gently press the end railings into position (I broke a couple of mounting pins {there are 2 on top and 3 on bottom}, so I had to put a drop of super glue here & there). Then, the end railings that go from the ladder to the roof need to be installed and super glued. I also replaced the stock chimney with a more correct metal casting that I have no idea where it came from.



4.) Now it's time for weathering. Since I'm modeling it as a fairly new caboose, I just did some rust on the trucks and underframe, along with the ends (a lot of crud is sprayed up from the wheels of other freight cars). I put some dirt/rust streaks on the sides, but not much. I use eye shadow for weathering, along with some light dry brushing with Floquil Rail Brown (discontinued...sorry).



Here's the completed caboose sitting next to the Lancaster, NH freight house on my module.