PART II - GONDOLAS AAR Type GB

This car type can carry many different loads. Cast gondola loads are also available from multiple manufacturers for various model cars. These loads are prepared in the same manner as the hopper loads. They must be filed to size and a notch placed in the "B" end for easy removal.

Photo # 5 - Commercial scrap load - sized & notched on "B" end.
Note slightly different load lengths to fit different brands of gondola models.

Here is a commercial steel wire load. It has been slightly reduced in length to fit the Wabash 40' gondola. Many times commercial cast loads will need to be modified to fit the model at hand. Model gondolas vary in length by manufacturer so as with coal loads in hoppers, some filling and adjustments may be required to get the load to easily fit the car.

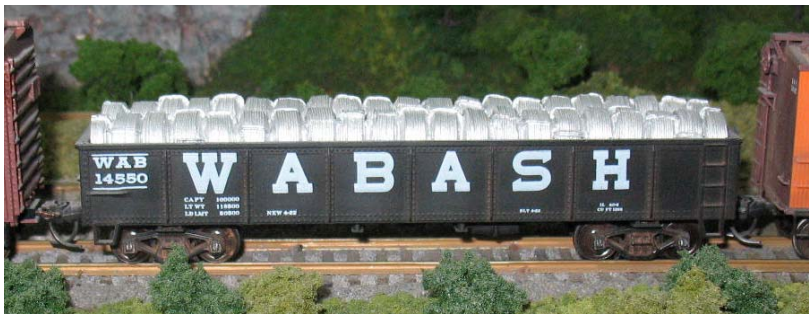

Photo # 6 - Commercial steel wire load

Gondola loads can be built up from components. These coils stock models were one long casting which would not fit a 40 foot CNR gondola. The casting was cut into individual sections, glued back together and end bracing was added to fill out the car opening. The coils are not all the same size which adds interest to the load.

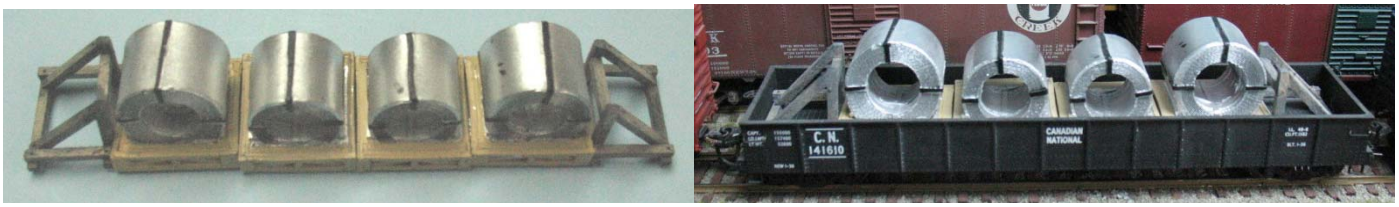

Photo # 7 - Commercial steel coil load - Modified: Cut into 4 coils versus 5, end bracing was added.

OPEN LOADS BY PAUL ALLARD

Two loads can be alternated in the same car without changing the waybill load information. A D&H gondola has a waybill listing the load as machinery. In the first example, the machinery is boxed in wooden crates. In the second example, the machinery is out in the open. The gears and motors were found at a Train Show. They are painted an industrial green, a common color used on manufacturing machines in the 1950's. The three parts are mounted on a scratch build dolly for shipping. Tie downs were added to hold the motors in place. The dolly holds all three components together. Either load can be placed in the D&H gondola. Both will match the machinery load listed on the waybill.

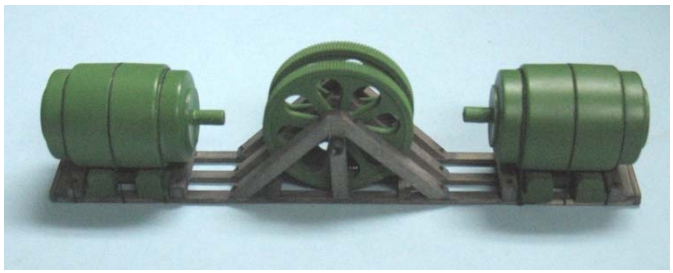

Photo # 8 - Commercial boxed machinery load and scratch built machinery load.

Many scratch built loads can be constructed for gondolas. This sheet steel load was fabricated from 0.040 " styrene. It was cut into various sizes, painted a dull gray and stacked with wooden spacers. Black string was added to simulate steel tie down bands. The load is glued together to make a single item for easy removal or storage when not in us.

Photo # 9 - Scratch built sheet steel load

A steel girder load was built from Central Valley girders. These parts are used in their 150' railroad bridge and are also sold separately. There are two sizes available. Two pieces are glued end to end to make a longer girder. They were stacked to form the load and painted a primer color. In the 1950's & 1960, girder manufacturers placed their names on the sides of the girders so in this example, United States Steel was decaled on the loads.

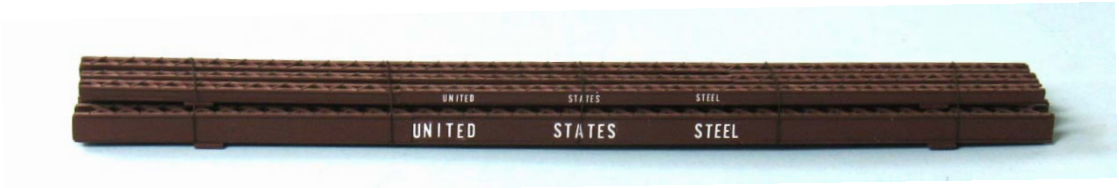

Photo # 10 - Scratch built steel girder load

OPEN LOADS BY PAUL ALLARD

A wheel load can be built from surplus plastic model wheels. Many modelers replace the plastic wheels that come on their models with metal wheels. The left over plastic wheels can be stacked on a piece of styrene and held together with super glue. The load is painted a rust color.

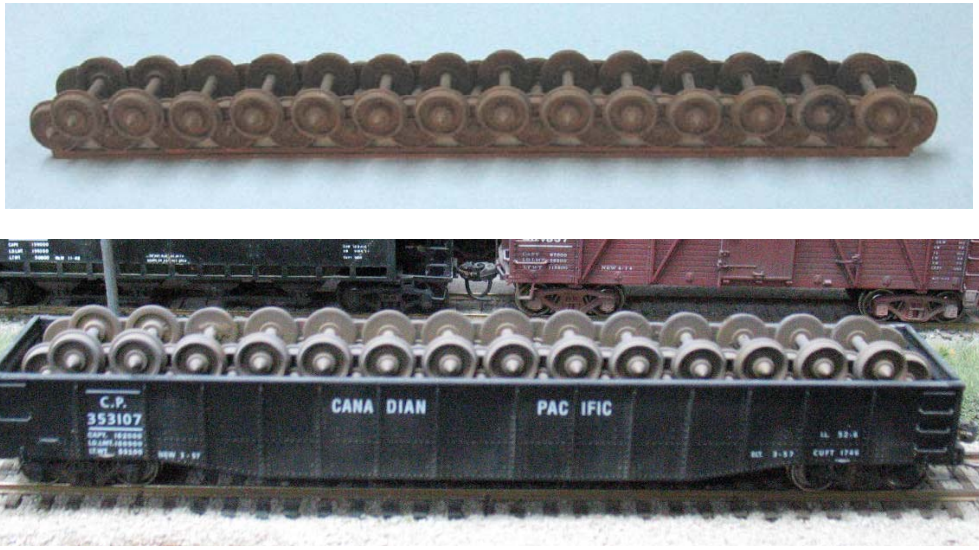

Photo # 11 - Scratch built wheel load

As with the hopper loads, when not in use, the loads can be stored in a parts box

Photo # 12 - Storage box #2 with more loads - Note the varied slot spacing available in these boxes.