

## ESM N-Scale 50 ft LV Insulated Boxcar Review

Eastern Seaboard Models has produced an excellent N-scale model of the LV's 50 foot insulated white boxcars. They were built in 1965 by the Pennsylvania Railroad to their X-58 design and numbered from LV 7100-139. The cars were outside braced and used plug doors, which closed flush with the carbody for better sealing from the weather.

The ARHS has a similar boxcar in our collection, the 8221, which only differs in the lack of insulation. FD&S Vol 10-4 pg 12 has a picture of one of these cars in service. Ours still wears it's Conrail paint, but we hope to remedy that in the near future. It is serving as our tool and storage car for our F-3's located at Steamtown National Historic Site.

Detailing: See the model pictures for a better idea.

Carbody/Roof: The car is correctly painted in the as-delivered scheme as shown on the LV RR painting diagram dated May 19, 1965 (Book 92, Revision B.) Only the ends, underframe and trucks were originally painted black. The diagram from the ARHS Archives is included along with this review.

Ladders/Roofwalks: The roofwalk detail is incredible..you can really see the slots in the grating when looking at the overhang on the car ends. Hand grabs are positioned at the top of each ladder. The ladders are individual grab irons bolted between the last two braces. They are solid, which is barely noticeable unless you look really, really closely. Not a big deal at all.

One omission according to the diagram is that the side grab & ladder iron rungs and sill steps should be painted black, not white as on the model.

Lettering: The ESM model has excellent lettering and dimensional info. The LV Painting Diagram info shows that the artwork matched the diagram as much as humanly possible. The 7137 is labeled for special service. { ?? } in a black box with white lettering to the left of the sliding door.

However, one cannot read the 2" letters reading 'KEEP OFF' that should've been stenciled on the top of the draft gear sliding sill. OK, we can't expect perfection- what would be left to improve on for the next run???

Trucks and Couplers: BLMA Models ASF 70-ton ride control trucks and Micro-Trains #1015 couplers are used and look great.

Overall: I'd have to give this model an A+ for authenticity in design and execution.

Price and availability: Currently sold out, but some are still available thru MB Klein in Baltimore MD. Klein's are discounted to \$26.95 (as of Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 2013).

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