



# BRASS CAR SIDES

*Passenger Car Parts for the Streamliners*



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD P-85BR 44-SEAT LIGHTWEIGHT COACHES  
 PRR 4100-4169 (ALTOONA SHOPS) & PRR 4068-4091 (ACF) [Part No. 173-532]  
 PRR "RAPIDS"/N&W "COUNTY"/RF&P KING"/L&N "RIVER" SERIES  
 PULLMAN-STANDARD PLAN 4140 LIGHTWEIGHT SLEEPING CARS [Part No. 173-533]

In June of 1945, the Pennsylvania Railroad commissioned its Altoona Shops to build what became a famous class of 70 long-haul lightweight coaches for service on that road's own trains, primarily between the East and Chicago and St. Louis. An order to ACF in January, 1946 added another 24 very similar cars, all of which were delivered by late 1947. Known as "Jeffersonian" coaches for their service on that train, they also ran on the *General*, *Admiral*, *Liberty Limited*, and *Trail Blazer*. According to various references, a rebuilding of PRR 4100 in 1965 revealed that the cars were in such poor condition that they were all retired and scrapped, without being renumbered for Penn Central in 1968.

In 1946, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Norfolk & Western, the Richmond Fredricksburg & Potomac, and the Louisville & Nashville ordered a total of 27 lightweight smooth side sleeping cars for joint service on various overnight trains. These cars contained 10 roomettes and 6 double bedrooms, were built to Plan 4140 in Lots 6792 & 6814, and were delivered in late 1948 and early 1949. Specific car names and numbers follow:

PRR 8317 *Octoraro Rapids* through 8332 *Will Rapids* (16 cars)  
 PRR 8343 *Juniata Rapids* and 8344 *Mackinaw Rapids* (2 cars)  
 N&W *McDowell County*, *Buchanan County*, *Sussex County* (3 cars) [S2]  
 RF&P *King George*, *King William*, *King and Queen* (3 cars)  
 L&N 3410 *Green River*, 3411 *Kentucky River*, 3412 *Barren River* (3 cars)

Cars built to this plan differ in window numbers and arrangement from similar PRR PS 10-6 cars in the *Catawissa Rapids* series built to Plan 4129, and PRR ACF 10-6 cars in the *Huron Rapids* series built to Pullman Plan 9008. It is this latter prototype that is represented by the Rivarossi/IHC/AHM HO "1930 Sleeper 85FT" plastic model produced since the mid-1960s. The smooth-side cars in Plan 4140 Lot 6792 also differ from other Plan 4140A-B-C cars in various lots for FEC, SOU, PRR, L&N, ACL, SP and NP, which carried corrugated sides and/or minor window variations.

The **Brass Car Sides** N-scale P85B coach and Plan 4140 sleeper sides were originally designed to be applied as overlays on Con-Cor's 85' coach or sleeper bodies. However, for several years the brass sides have been sized for the American Ltd. Models Core Kits Nos. 8010 (gray) & 8020 (black). The ALM kits come with their own instructions.

## REFERENCES

Streamliner Cars Vol. 1 Pullman-Standard by W. David Randall (RPC Pub.)  
Streamliner Cars Vol. 3 ACF - Other Builders by W. David Randall (RPC Pub.)  
The Official Pullman-Standard Library Vols. 4 PRR, 7 L&N, & 11 N&W, (RPC)  
Pennsylvania RR Passenger Car Lettering PRR Historical & Technical Society  
 "Pennsylvania Jeffersonian Cars: IHC/AHM Coach and Brass Car Sides" by Willard Harvey, Mainline Modeler, October, 1990, pp. 68-73. Photo construction article for HO-scale conversion.  
 "Pennsylvania RR's ACF 44-seat P85B coaches" by Keith Thompson, with plans

by George R. Trager, Model Railroader, pp. 111-113, October, 1995.  
Rails Northeast, Vol. 4 No. 4 (May 1976) pp. 24-26a. For P85BR coaches.  
Pullman Paint and Lettering Notebook by Art Dubin (Kalmbach, 1997).  
The Pennsy Journal (Spring 1983) pp. 26-27. For P85BR coaches.  
Louisville & Nashville Passenger Trains by Castner, Chapman, & Dorin. (TLC, 1999). See p. 224 for photo of Bob Chapman's HO "Kentucky River".  
Car Names, Numbers and Consists by Robert Wayner (Out of Print)  
A Century of Pullman Cars Vol. 1 by Ralph L. Barger (Greenberg Pub. Inc.)  
More Classic Trains by Art Dubin pp. 158-9 (Pentrex)  
Railway Age issue of Feb. 21, 1948  
Model Review by Jim Nichols in the N&W Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 1, January-February, 1990. Underbody diagram for 10-6.

#### RECOMMENDED CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

These parts are etched from .008" full-hard brass sheets. The P85 coaches were built with minimal skirts, and we have designed the 10-6 sleepers with end skirts only. The American Ltd. Models core kits include all necessary structure parts, and a selection of detail parts. A slight curvature may be imparted to the brass skirts by hand-forming the bottom of the sides over a curved surface, such as mailing tube, broomstick handle, or whatever gives the curvature that looks realistic to your eye. (We do recommend that you leave the protective coating on the brass sides until you are ready to attach them.) Microscope slide cover glass makes a fine window material, but clear styrene or acetate sheet stock is also good, and easier to work with. In any case, final attachment will have to wait the painting and finishing steps. Grabiron "dimples" have been etched into the rear of the brass sides to permit easy drilling for those wishing to add wire grabirons. Some modelers may wish to attach a reinforcing strip of material to make the sides stiffer.

Follow the instructions included with the ALM kit. Contact cement, such as Hobsco G00, seems to be more permanent than CA cement for joining the sides to the plastic body. Follow the instructions about letting the coated surfaces become tacky before joining them. Be sure that you have removed the Krylon coating with a paste-type paint remover, acetone, or similar solvent prior to this step. The sides will begin to oxidize as soon as they are stripped, but that has no effect under paint.

Modelers are likely to be adding these cars to existing consists and may already have their favorite paints and decals. We draw your attention to the following finishing supplies: **Paints:** Accupaint #37 PRR Maroon, Scalecoat #12 Tuscan Red, Floquil #25 Tuscan, Accuflex 16-22 Pennsy Maroon. For N&W/Wabash blue, use Floquil #50 Dark Blue. Note new Accu-Flex and Polly Scale water-based equivalents. **Decals:** Microscale N&W 60-391, PRR 60-891, -892, Names -893, -894; Fine N-Scale Products FNR-2600 (310-373-6658). L&N Passenger Car Set, developed by Paul J. Downs, 233 Norbourne Blvd., St. Matthews, KY 40207, available from Scale Reproductions (502) 459-5849 or The Hobby House (502) 968-9467. We would appreciate receiving information about other appropriate decals, and we will revise these sheets accordingly.

Refer to our N-scale catalog sheet for illustrations of our growing line of overlay brass sides. The production of future cars will depend on customer reservations. To receive our catalog, reservation sheet, and current bulletin, please send a two-stamp SSAE to: **BRASS CAR SIDES**, 715 S. 7th St., St. Peter, MN 56082. Dealer terms are available. Address questions e-mail to dchenry@gac.edu. See our web site at [www.brasscarsides.com](http://www.brasscarsides.com).

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