

HUDSON, DELAWARE & OHIO BOX CARS - PART I

By Peter Ezzard - Photos by Donald Kern

Elsewhere in this issue the mechanical aspects of getting a piece of rolling stock were discussed. The Car Department rolling equipment standards are essential to smooth running equipment but the standards do not address a car's appearance. HD&O boxcars are a standard boxcar brown with white lettering and a herald. The standard herald is presently a black triangle, large or small version, with the letters H, D, and O in each of the corners.

Luckily, Don Kern recently had been rail-fanning in Gilberton, Pa. and was able to share some photographs that he had taken in the Hudson, Delaware & Ohio's big freight yard there. All HD&O home road empties are stored in Gilberton, making it one of the prime spots for the railfan interested in HD&O freight cars. As you can see a variety of paint schemes have been used over the years on HD&O equipment. Below you will find examples of current standard schemes as well as previous schemes. These several schemes help give a sense of history to the railroad, as new and old can often be seen side by side.



A 1937 AAR boxcar with the "Football Herald" paint scheme. The scheme was placed on the first cars of this type ordered. Several cars can be seen in this paint scheme, although it never became widely popular.



Later deliveries of 1937 AAR Box Car design 20782 with original Large Triangle scheme. Note Hudson Delaware & Ohio spelled out in the left corner of the car. This design shows one of the present club standard HD&O schemes.



Later the Hudson Delaware & Ohio applied "Fast Freight Service" on some of their cars. Note that the railroad name has been replaced by the slogan, leaving HD&O 20749 as the only identifying marks. Not quite a club standard car, but the Fast Freight Service slogan is an eye-catcher. I personally feel it is an improvement over the plain vanilla PS-1 boxcar below.



HD&O PS-1 boxcar 90503 with the small triangle, no slogan, and only initials. This pared down scheme can be seen on many HD&O 40 foot boxcars. This car sports a current standard design.

While not quite exactly a painting and lettering diagram, the photographs can be used for placing decals in their proper position. Decals can be purchased from the Master Mechanic, Ed Van Savage, on most Saturdays. He can clue you in on exactly which decals are needed for your next car. Remember for any freight car, a light weathering of the car and trucks, and painting the wheel sides a rusty brown color also help to improve the appearance of a model freight car, whether it is home-road or foreign.

I hope this look at Hudson, Delaware & Ohio freight cars has been enjoyable and will inspire many of you to try your hand at placing more freight cars on the layout. As availability of photographs permits, the Clearboard editors hope to bring you more examples of rolling stock from our four railroads. Thanks to Don Kern for his help with the photographs.