

Smoky Mountain Model Works
521 Betsy Ross Lane
Asheville, NC 28805
ET&WNC 32' Gondola

SMMW makes kits for ET&WNC 32' and 38' flat cars and gondolas all in On3. These are limited run kits; at this writing the flats and gondolas are available. Other models are planned for the future.

According to the prototype history included in the kit, these cars were built first in the ET's Cranberry, NC and (after 1908) in the Johnson City, TN shops. While all the flats and gon's are similar, there is certainly variation in the cars as built, and rebuilt, in the different shops and at different times. The included history is a good start on sorting out these differences. For additional research SMMW includes references to pub-



lished material about these ET&WNC cars.

SMMW provided a 32' gondola kit for review. The kit consists of several resin castings, detail parts of styrene and delrin, formed wire grab irons, wire for truss rods, and strip wood for decking and sideboards. Suggested couplers are Kadee 803's. Trucks were not included with the review kit, but appear to have been included at some times. Check the SMMW web site at <http://www.catskillarts.com/smmw/on3.htm> to see if trucks will be included.

The resin castings are very clean pieces with good sharp detail. The largest casting is the complete frame assembly. It has molded in cross members to support the bolsters, locating pads for the needle beams, and brake parts, and has coupler mounting pads. Steel rods are cast into each of the outside beams for strength. The coupler pads are sized for the Kadee 803 coupler boxes and could also accommodate the Kadee HO #5 box if that is preferred. The remaining resin castings include the bolsters, needle beam/queen post assembly, the side stakes, and "sheet metal" reinforcing plates for the gondola body. SMMW includes two sets of bolsters, one for a steel I-beam construction and one for wood construction.

As with most complex kits, construction is best started by reviewing the instructions. The gondola kit instructions come in two parts. First part is the flatcar instruction set and second part is the instructions for adding the gondola body to the flatcar. Two sheets with colored photos of the assembled and detailed frame are included. These are a

great help in adding all of the brake rigging, truss rods and other details to the frame. Read both instructions through decide on decide on which prototype car to follow before beginning. There are some differences with some grab iron mountings for cars intended to be permanent gondolas and cars that are switched from gondola to flat and back.

I started building the kit following the instructions step by step as SMMW intended. I find the instruction sequence works well for me; the descriptions are well done and easy to follow. I confess that I'm using this kit as an introduction to O scale model building. I expected a higher level of detail than with HO kits and the model definitely has that. But dealing with that level of detail is covered quite matter-of-factly in the instructions. The kit turns out to be fairly easy to build. At this writing, I have completed the under frame assembly and am ready to begin on decking and the gondola box. I expect that to be pretty straightforward. This is a nice kit; it can easily be built into nicely detailed quality model.

—George R. Gilbert



brass as a generic eastern narrow gauge model. The locomotive superstructure of #4 would be used with details having to be added by the modeler to obtain a specific prototype locomotive. The tender would have either flared tops or the ALCO/Cooke high coal boards — both tender types may be offered. Expected price of the basic unit would be in the \$200-\$250 range.

A well-known company has been approached for this project, and advance reservations of 200 units are required before production can begin.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these models, please contact Jim Weinschenker at the above address.



HOn3 News

Waynesburg & Washington Locomotive #4 in Brass?

Jim Weinschenker, 775 Race Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 Phone: 724-627-0258 (email: WandWRR@alltel.net) recently announced that plans are under way to produce an "FED" style HOn3 mogul based on the Waynesburg & Washington's locomotives.

An HOn3 2-6-0 would be produced in