

NERX CONVENTION CAR

In keeping with our virtual Northeastern Regional convention, we are offering a virtual convention car kit. This car exists at present only as a group of computer pixels and it needs you to make this car a physical entity. Also in keeping with the spirit of sharing found on the internet and other virtual hobby get-togethers, there is no charge for this kit. However, you are on your own to purchase the necessary materials and build the car, a good project for the many socially distanced days and evenings to come.

While looking at our “NERX” logo it occurred to us that this looked very much like the reporting marks for private owner freight car. The name “Northeastern Refrigerator Express” came very quickly. NERX never did exist, but it certainly could have. With a little imagination, NERX could also have owned covered hopper, coal, tank, or intermodal cars, and could have had a number of different sponsoring railroads. This can quickly become very confusing, so we are presenting our “official” NERX convention car with artwork and instructions below.



There are several variants of the official “Classic Era” car. Shown is a 40’ wood reefer, but it could easily be a traditional 40’ steel reefer. Both are easily built by applying additional lettering to easy to build ACCURAIL dimensional data only car kits. While we recommend the yellow cars (wood #4895, steel #4894), their orange cars (wood # 8385, steel #8394) would also work. Cars from other manufacturers may be used as well but you will have to supply your own dimensional data. I would like to see this car painted white.



NERX Convention car

Many hobbyists model more contemporary times so we are also including a more modern lettering style, shown here on a generic 50' mechanical reefer. This lettering would work equally as well with even more modern 57' reefers or insulated boxcars. Since we are aware of no "ready to letter" cars from recent eras it would most likely be necessary to remove lettering and /or paint from commercially available models. To assist these hobbyists, we are including a generic set of dimensional data for 50' cars, copied from a prototype insulated boxcar. It would be close if not completely accurate for most cars. Of course, the lettering is small and difficult to see, especially on a moving car.

We encourage modelers in other scales (this includes us) to build an NERX convention car ,but you are unfortunately on your own to select a suitable car. Many available easy to build and craftsman kits would work well they would require at least lettering removal or repainting. You can use our artwork, but you must enlarge or reduce the supplied HO scale art on your computer or printer to the following percentages: Z scale- 40%, N scale- 54%, S scale- 136%, O scale- 181%, G scale 1000%.

Applying Your Decals

The downloadable ,pdf decal art is sized to automatically fit a common 8.5 x clear decal sheet. Included are enough images to letter four each of classic and modern cars with different numbers. It is impractical and likely harmful to the printer to try to save a portion of the sheet after it has been printed once. We recommend Microscale clear Trim Film (#02-0), suitable for both ink-jet and laser printers. Decal film made for only ink jet printers can damage laser printers and photo copiers and should never be used on them. Since ink jet ink is water soluble, we recommend several lights coats of clear spray to help waterproof the paper. In any event Testor's Decal Bonder Spray (#9200) recommended to insure the integrity of the decal. Be sure to read and follow the directions Microscale provides on their website and instruction sheet. Thin film decals are trickier but much nicer than the ones we messed with as children.

Northeastern Refrigerator Express (NERX) is a fictitious railroad private owner company, The artwork and instructions for these convention cars are the property of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association but hobbyists are permitted to freely download these files for personal use and distribute them to others for non commercial purposes. Commercial users or people with any questions are asked to contact Michael Tylick, MMR at michael@raildesignservices.com.