

Plano Model Products - Walkway Frames Kit #11680 for A-Line' Gunderson Twin-Stack Container Car

Before starting to build car, please read through instructions completely, both ours and A-Lines, and become familiar with them. The better you understand the instructions, the easier the assembly process will go.

For additional modeling information on A-Lines Gunderson Twin-Stack model, see the August and September 1992 and July 1993 issues of Model Railroad magazine.

All parts in our kit are tabbed together in some way. They will need to be cut apart to match the illustrations in these instructions. We suggest waiting until you are ready to use the parts before cutting them apart. **USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN CUTTING PARTS APART! THE MATERIALS USED IN THIS KIT CAN BE SHARP AND SMALL PIECES MAY FLY WHEN CUTTING APART! PLEASE WEAR EYE PROTECTION!**

We recommend you don't start bending the frames until instructed to. By themselves, these frames can be fragile but will be sturdier once assembled.

Start assembling cars per A-Line instructions. Assembly should be followed through step 3, except walkways. Let the cement on the drawbars dry thoroughly so they won't move during the next few steps.

Cut out paper template on dashed lines. We have included drill locations for the end grab irons should you wish to add them. Fold template on solid lines and tape to top of car end drawbar. The outside corners should line up. Using the supplied T pin, carefully press a drill pilot point in the center of each '+' on the template. The two on each side are for the grab uprights. Repeat on other end of car. ** If you find these paper templates hard to work with, we have a brass drill template that works much better. Just ask for our #179 Maxi Stack brass template. ** When all points are pressed, remove template and using a #78 drill bit, drill a hole in each of the

pilot points. The holes should be at least 1/16" deep. At this time drill all other holes for building and detailing your model. If you are using our Bicke Rod Guards #136, now would be a good time to drill those holes as well. A-Line sells a detail kit #22900 that contains a few extra details you may want to add.

Finish building cars through A-Line step #11 with the exception of the walkway frames. Don't forget the lift rings in the #148 Walkway Kit.

Now to add the walkway frames to the car. Look over the pieces in the kit. There should be 10 pieces in the kit: 2 platforms, 4 grab uprights and 4 'U' supports.

A note about bending these frames to shape. Look closely at where the bends will be made. You will see small half etch score lines. These are the inside of the bends and should be made in that direction. DO NOT try to unbend or bend in the other direction or the parts will break apart. All bends can be made with a pair of pointed tweezers.

Place two of the 'U' shaped supports in the holes over the coupler pocket. (View 2) They should be facing the outside edge of car. ***** WARNING: Check the inside of the coupler pockets for mounting pins poking through. They may need to be trimmed to clear couplers. Bend the legs of the platform down 90 degrees and install over the U supports. (View 3) Check coupler pockets again.

Adjust parts so they are square with each other and glue (CA type) together and to car. Also apply a dab of CA to any gaps between parts to fill them in and strengthen assembly.

Bending stanchions to shape. (View 4) Looking at each stanchion, you will notice they are divided in half by a clothed half etch line. This is the inside of the bend. Using a pair of tweezers or small needle nose pliers, bend each stanchion 90 degrees of line, forming an angle iron shape.

If you plan to add grab irons to uprights, you might need to carefully clean out mounting pins in the center of the upright to bend out 90 degrees the opposite direction of the angle iron shape. CA these two pins into the holes in the side of the car end drawbar. (View 5) The platform should rest against the upper support on the grab upright. Trim grab irons to about 3/32" long and CA into holes in the stanchions. An additional grab can be added to the two holes in the lower-center area of upright.

Do not add the walkways of this time as the prototypes are not usually painted but rather a galvanized metal. Repeat the same procedure on the other end of the car. Add any other details you plan to add before painting.

This should now complete the walkway frames portion of the detailing project. When ready, paint the units to match your model or prototype of your choice and allow to dry.

Center a walkway (our kit #148) on each platform frame and add a drop of CA to the edge of the parts and allow it to encapsulate them together.

Now apply decals of your choice, weather if desired, over spray with clear, add trucks and couplers and set on the ready track. Congratulations on just finishing your highly detailed HO Gunderson Maxi Stack container car.

We hope you enjoyed building these frames as much as we did developing them. We would like to also suggest our HO Thrall car walkways and frames kits and Husky Stack kits for the A-Line models. For more information on these kits and all of our photo etch details, please visit your local hobby supplier or visit us online.

Thank you and happy modeling!

