

## 11. Alex Belida's Densmore Tank Car



Because I like early-era railroading, I decided to scratchbuild an original Densmore Tank Car when I was working for my Master Builder-Cars certificate. The car was built using prototype plans and a research paper done for the Petroleum History Society as well as the 1866 U.S. Patent Office submission by the Densmore brothers. The HO scale model was constructed using stripwood, brass wire, and a 3D printer to make the cone-shaped tanks over which I glued individual staves. The hoops are made from painter's masking tape spray painted flat black, trimmed in very thin strips, and fitted over the staves. There are stabilizer bars running from the floor of the flat bed to the tank top beams to hold the tanks in place together with shaped wood blocks on the flat car at each end and in between the tanks. There are brakes on only one truck. Simulated oil spillage was created using authentic oil, purportedly from Drake's Well, that I found in a small bottle on eBay. (The bottle did have a drawing of Drake's Well on it so it must be true, right?) The trucks are Bitter Creek woodbeams. The link-and-pin couplers are from Prescott Hobbies. The car is lettered for the Oil Creek Railroad. It's my favorite because it has a lot of character. *Alex Belida, MMR*