

15. Bill Mosteller's Gondola



This is an imported brass Nickel Plate Products Virginian "battleship" gondola, wearing Great Decals! lettering. I like it because the car is a signature Virginian car. It screams West Virginia coal! The HO scale model sits too high on the trucks, due to pop-off truck attachment hardware (although I worked on this one and it sits lower but still not quite right). The spacing of the vertical rivet lines on the car sides varies and is complicated (unlike a 2-bay, 8-panel hopper, where the spacing is uniform), but differs from the prototype. Unlike the superior Varney paper carsides version, there's not much interior detail, but the Varney sat on Commonwealth trucks, 'cause nobody had Buckeyes when they released that car. *Bill Mosteller*