

6. Mat Thompson's Plant, Stock Cars & Engine



My HO scale Swift Packing Plant ([photo above](#)) was built by combining two large Walthers flour mill kits and some additional Walthers Modular pieces. My intent was to create a large industrial complex worthy of rail traffic. After laying out the kit pieces to form two long walls and two short walls, assembly was as easy as it is for most Walthers brick structures.



The 50' stock cars ([photo right](#)) being spotted by OCR #11 are kitbashed from Proto2000 Mather 40 foot cars as described in a January 1998 Model Railroader article.



The final run of Union Pacific Challengers was built in 1943. Twelve engines were diverted to the Northern Pacific and two of these went to the SP&S. My efforts to represent SP&S 911 is the most extensive engine kitbash ([photos above and below](#)) I have attempted. The starting point was a Clinchfield Athearn Challenger with a single smoke stack. Athearn parts were used to convert the tender to oil. Two Cal-scale water pumps were mounted on the boiler door and the front railings were replaced using handrails meant for an SW7. The toughest part was swapping out the cab with a Kemtron plastic all-weather vestibule cab. I lettered SP&S 911 with Microscale decals.

Mat Thompson, MMR

