



**SUNSHINE
MODELS**

Preview

GATX Type 30 8K Tank Cars For Food Commodities



Tank cars were specialty rolling stock almost exclusively owned and managed by private companies, not the railroads. During the steam and early diesel era, Union Tank Car Company and General American Transportation Corp. dominated the marketplace. In 1948, Union Tank operated 41,432 cars and General American owned 39,857 cars. Lesser private tank car companies were Shippers' Car Line (an ACF subsidiary) with 9716 cars and North American with 4503 cars.

In the late 1920s, GATC introduced a tank car design that in 1930 became known as the Type 30 for the year. The design featured a 26' 8 1/2" distance over truck centers and 36' 8 1/2" over striker. Various tanks from 8,000 gallons to 12,500 gallons were applied to the underframe, the 8K and 10K capacities being the largest blocks.

The visual characteristic of the Type 30 design was a frame with a more open appearance than competitive designs. There was no side sill from the bolsters to the end sill and only a modest end sill. The frame featured massive bolsters that bore the weight of the tank and included a poling pocket in the end. The tank dome was larger in diameter than the ACF design, but shorter in height.

A variety of companies leased (or purchased) cars from GATX (or other leasing companies with GATC Type 30 cars) for edible food commodities, such as corn oil, cane syrup, cotton oil, fats and liquid sugar. A.E. Staley, the Clinton Co., Penick and Ford, Southern Pacific, Consolidated Rendering, Union Starch and Refining, Corn Products Refining, Anheuser Busch and Crystal Car Line were some of the many companies using the GATC Type 30 8K tank car.

Since these companies were conscious of the advertising potential of the cars, they often had General American paint the cars in bright colors to display the company name and its respective food commodity. Typical of the food companies was A.E. Staley of Decatur Il. Its name and logo were emblazoned in black on an aluminum car. Taking the objective one step further, they had some cars painted in the nearby University of Illinois colors. Tank cars appearing in Illini orange with blue lettering were striking.

The food commodities cars could be ARA Type 103 or 203 cars. The 103 cars had a safety valve (see the Staley car above), while the 203 cars had a frangible membrane on the tank dome (see several other photos).

87.8-87.16

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Some of the cars issued rode on ARA Type Y trucks. This design was an offshoot of the Pennsy 2D-F8 trucks with a notable droop in the cast side frame under the spring package. Others used trucks similar to the ARA cast side frame design.

Sunshine will offer over the next year some specialty kits with decals for lettering several of the food commodity cars built to the GATC Type 30 8K tank car design.

These Sunshine tankcar kits are a combination of plastic tank and some detailing parts, brass stanchions and Accurail couplers, as well as vacuum cast parts in gray urethane. Kits include all detailing parts (except trucks) and proprietary decals. Full instructions and a Prototype Data Sheet are included. Trucks are available separately.

(All photos are prototypes)



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Many of these cars are planned for Naperville 2009.

- ___ Kit #87.8 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Clinton Company white and red decals for black car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.9 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with A.E. Staley black and white decals for silver and black car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.10 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with A.E. Staley blue and white decals for Illini orange car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.11 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Penick and Ford white decals for black car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.12 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with diamond "S" white dome decals for S.P. black liquid sugar car, \$38
- ___ Kit #87.13 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Consolidated Rendering white lettering decals for black car, \$38
- ___ Kit #87.14 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Crystal Car Line aluminum lettering for scarlet red car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.15 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Corn Products Refining Co. black lettering for black and alum. car, \$40
- ___ Kit #87.16 GATC Type 30 8K gal. non-insulated tank car with Union Starch aluminum and black decals for bright red car, \$42
- ___ TM 7 A.R.A. Type Y twin coil 2D-F8 trucks with V-9306 sideframes in white metal with metal wheelsets, \$6.00
- ___ TP 40 Plastic, black, non-magnetic A.R.A. design five coil spring trucks with metal wheelsets, \$5.00
- ___ Chalkmarks E.26, Tank Cars, \$4

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Add \$4.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 6.875%), Canada \$15.88 for six kits

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