



# ACF PD3500 FLEXI FLO HOPPER

BY RAPIDO



H. E. BROUSE PHOTO (RUDY GARBELY COLLECTION)

**MSRP**

2-Pack	\$89.90 US	\$109.90 CAD
3-Pack	\$134.85 US	\$164.85 CAD
6-Pack	\$269.70 US	\$329.70 CAD
Single Car	\$44.95 US	\$54.95 CAD

Built between August 1964 and June 1966 the American Car & Foundry (ACF) 3500 cu. ft. covered hopper was an early innovator in pressure differential unloading and a marketing masterclass thanks to the "Flexi Flo" tag coined by the car's biggest customer, the New York Central railroad.

Other than seven cars built for Shippers Car Line (SHPX), a subsidiary of ACF, the NYC was the only purchaser of the PD3500. They made up for it in quantities, with a total of 220 cars rolling off the Milton, Pennsylvania, production line over three subtly different batches.

Through the Penn Central years, plenty made it through with their full NYC paint continuing to be exposed to the elements with nothing more than reporting mark and number patches. The Conrail era meant many cars were repatched again, making them rolling billboards in north-eastern railroad history! Many others were fully repainted, with Conrail applying at least three different schemes.

By the 1980s and 1990s, most remaining cars would be transferred to Conrail's Merchants Despatch Transportation Co. (MDTX) subsidiary, and then the later sale of cars to NAHX (for Lafarge), gaining new full paint schemes and being seen throughout North America. By the 2000s, patchouts were the norm with a plethora of different reporting marks popping up and no part of the USA or Canada was off limits to seeing these unique cars continue to earn their keep.

Many cars were still in use well into the mid 2010s, only being ultimately retired due to rules regarding age of cars used in interchange service.

**The Rapido N Scale Flexi Flo Hopper includes:**

- Two uniquely-different body styles - Early and Late
- Unique 125-Ton Barber S-2 trucks
- Etched metal running boards
- Injection-moulded grab irons
- Fully detailed underbody with full discharge piping and brake equipment
- Factory-installed air pipes and coupler cut levers
- Available in singles and multi-packs

**ORDER DEADLINE**  
**November 15, 2022**  
**EXPECTED DELIVERY**  
**TBA**



CANADA: 500 ALDEN ROAD • UNIT 21 • MARKHAM • ONTARIO • L3R 5H5  
 USA: PO BOX 796 • HIGGANUM • CONNECTICUT • 06441  
 Tel. 905.474.3314. Fax. 905.474.3325. Visit. [www.rapidotrains.com](http://www.rapidotrains.com)

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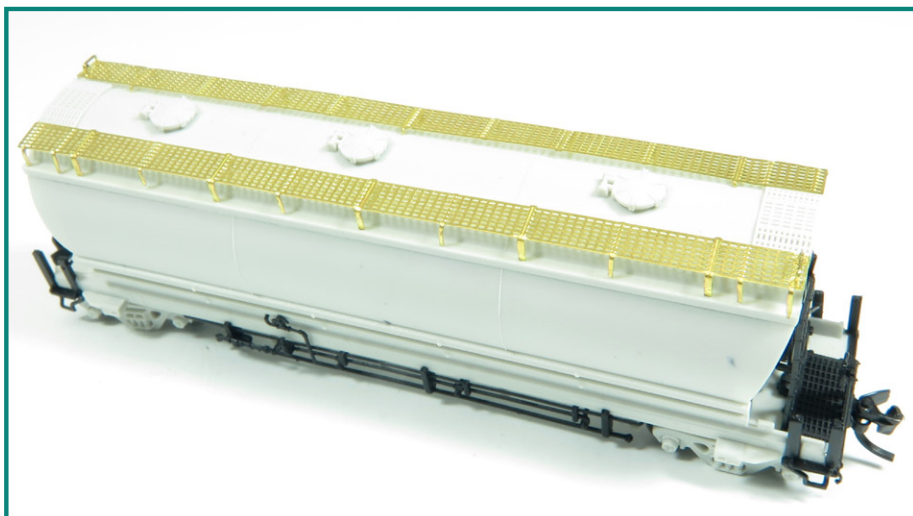
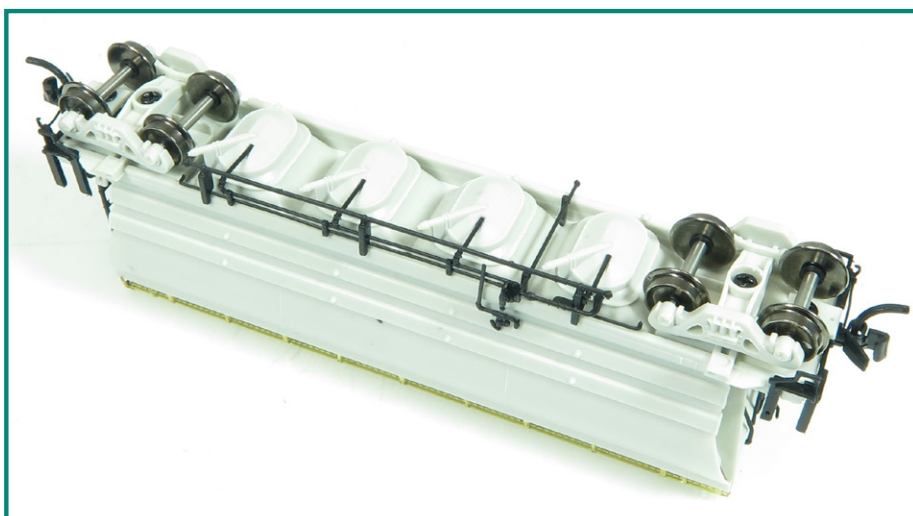


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FIRST INJECTION SAMPLES

SUBJECT TO REFINEMENTS AND  
REVISIONS BEFORE FINAL PRODUCTION



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DEALER NAME

## FMC CHEMICALS (SHPX)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533001A  
Item # 3-PACK  533001  
Car Numbers: 76002, 76004, 76006  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## NEW YORK CENTRAL (EARLY)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533002A  
Item # 6-PACK  533002  
Car Numbers: 885800, 885804, 885809, 885811, 885818, 885823  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## NEW YORK CENTRAL (LATE)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533003A  
Item # 6-PACK  533003  
Car Numbers: 885685, 885702, 885719, 885733, 885760, 885774  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## PENN CENTRAL (FLEXI-FLO REPAINT)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533004A  
Item # 6-PACK  533004  
Car Numbers: 897825, 897840, 897854, 897861, 897887, 897892  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## PENN CENTRAL (EX NYC PATCH)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533005A  
Item # 6-PACK  533005  
Car Numbers: 897802, 897808, 897812, 897813, 897815, 897823  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## CONRAIL (FLEXI-FLO REPAINT)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533006A  
Item # 6-PACK  533006  
Car Numbers: 897829, 897838, 897848, 897865, 897871, 897894  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## CONRAIL (BILLBOARD REPAINT)



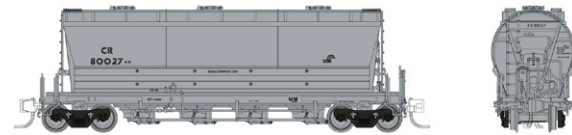
Item # SINGLE CAR  533007A  
Item # 2-PACK  533007  
Car Numbers: 897700, 897777  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## CONRAIL (REPAINT)



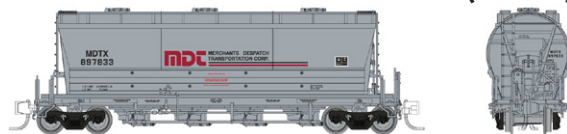
Item # SINGLE CAR  533008A  
Item # 6-PACK  533008  
Car Numbers: 897684, 897690, 897712, 897761, 897770, 897794  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## SCALE TEST CARS (PENN CENTRAL, CONRAIL)



Item # 2-PACK  533009  
Car Numbers: Penn Central 80019, Conrail 80027

## MERCHANTS DESPATCH (MDTX)



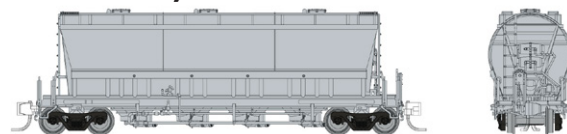
Item # SINGLE CAR  533010A  
Item # 6-PACK  533010  
Car Numbers: 897833, 897851, 897857, 897868, 897878, 897885  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## LAFARGE CEMENT (NAHX)



Item # SINGLE CAR  533011A  
Item # 6-PACK  533011  
Car Numbers: 1004, 1006, 1008, 1009, 1011, 1013  
(SINGLE CAR RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THESE NUMBERS)

## PAINTED, UNLETTERED



Early Style



Late Style

Item # SINGLE CAR  533098 Early Style  
Item # SINGLE CAR  533099 Late Style

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