CPR caboose modelling: Upgrading and finishing your Rapido Trains Canadian Pacific Railway "Engineering Services M.O.W. Transporter" van

The latest model to be released by Rapido Trains is the Canadian Pacific Railway "Engineering Services M.O.W. Transporter" van. A total of ten (10) yellow vans were modified and fully repainted by CP into white M.O.W. vans in 1999 (420989-991), 2000 (420986-988) and 2002 (420982-985). At the time of this writing, all except 420989 are still in service for CP. The Rapido model has been designed to most closely match prototype vans 420984, 420985, 420986, 420989 and 420990.



Special model features of the Engineering version:

- The newer type of larger oil filler panel was installed at the factory and the old high mount pipe location was plated over as per prototype practice. This is good because the candy cane striping goes over this panel that was found on all of these white vans. The original Rapido run of yellow cabooses included this as an add-on part.
- Road number specific details. I am only aware of 420989 and 420990 with road # on the cupola ends and the models reflect this!
- The Rapido model has the earlier notched roof edge but five of the CP prototypes (420982, 420983, 420987, 420988 and 420991) were made from the newer version (originally from the 434621-434734 range) with sloped roof edges. Rapido chose road numbers that most closely matched the prototype.
- A small parts bag of painted vandalism screens for all of the windows is included with the model. The modeller must glue these in place with Weldbond as explained in the Rapido documentation.

Extra Parts in Your CP Engineering Services Van

You will notice some differences between our CP Engineering Services van and our standard Angus van. The stacks have been plated over, and other changes have been made to the car body. Many of the Engineering Services vans also received vandalism screens over the windows. We have included these in the box. You can apply them over the windows with either Weldbond (apply when the caboose is horizontal and let it fully dry before doing the other side) or CA/Super Glue, used sparingly.

With the help of CP Caboose Expert Manny Jacob and designer Sean Steele, Athabasca Scale Models has designed screen door kits to fit both our Engineering Services van and our standard CP van. The MSRP is \$11.95 per kit and these can be ordered from your local dealer or directly from Athabasca Scale Models.

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There are a number of things you can do to make a wonderful model even better. Here is what I have done:

1. Remove the cupola and then remove the two seats. This step is optional but I removed these seats and am saving them to detail the cab interiors on my VIA F40PH-2s. They seem to be closest available in the hobby.

2. Replace the couplers with scale size Kadee #58 or 158 and cut off the trip pins (optional)

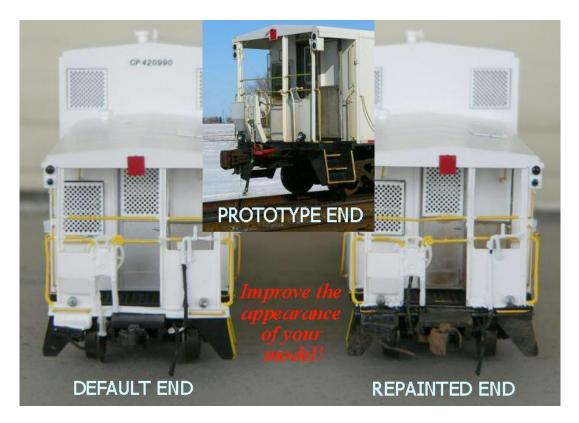
3. Assemble (Plexiglas windows only), install and weather (to a darkened colour) Athabasca Shops storm doors #4235 (MSRP \$11.95).

4. Remove the white safety bars from the body end window and glue the vandalism screens to every window (identify the various sizes first) on both sides of the van including all cupola windows (check prototype photos of the exact van you are modelling to be sure). It's a good idea to glue the cupola side slider windows shut prior to installation of the screens. That will save you from having to keep hearing that clicking noise when you handle the model and the slider windows open.

5. Paint the trucks and wheel faces grimy black and dry brush with rust.

6. Paint the couplers a rust colour.

7. Paint the end railings in the correct colour scheme (the railing assembly is cast in white but the bottom section at the walkway should be black, note the before/after comparison photos).



- 8. Carefully paint black the two oil filler holes in the large side panel.
- 9. Cut off grab iron beside old high fuel fillers being careful to leave the two stumps in place.

10. Glue on small water pipe (see location on photos) salvaged from a 1st run yellow Rapido caboose.



11. Dry brush weather the under frame and ends with a rust colour.



12. Remember that while the prototype may appear to be "too new" to some modellers, time has started to show its effects even on these relatively modern vans. If you are trying to replicate a present-day version of these vans, consider some subtle rust streaking from the steel vandalism screens, which are now rusting through as shown here.



Prepared by Manny Jacob, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 2011.