

CLRC (Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club) Product Review

Subject: AT&SF 86 Foot Hi-Cube Boxcar 81703

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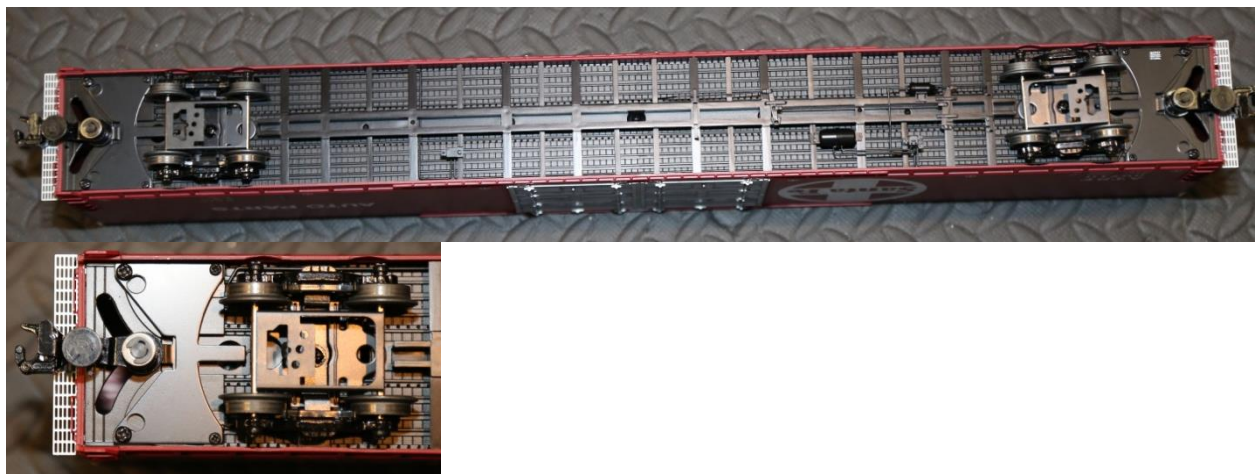
The Lionel Hi-Cube Santa Fe Auto Parts Box Car is built to bring light weight large volume parts to Automobile assembly plants. The Big Doors allowed fork lift trucks to unload large part filled pallets, racks, or crates in a minimal amount of time.



Lionel's rendition is BIG. This model of an 86' long car is over 21 inches. That is the length of two cars. The markings on the car are crisp and details up to the detail I would expect for this premium car. The painting matches are great and I love the big silver doors. (The doors are molded in and do not open.)



The underbody is also well detailed. Also notice the coupler housing mechanism. Lionel calls this kinematic coupler. The "V" slots allow the uncoupler arm to extend on curves allowing for the car to be navigable on tighter O54 (54 inch) diameter curves. One can convert to Kadee couplers, but then the minimum diameter is 72 inches.



*Kinematic Coupler*

Bottom line, I like this car and the heft that it brings to a train consist.