

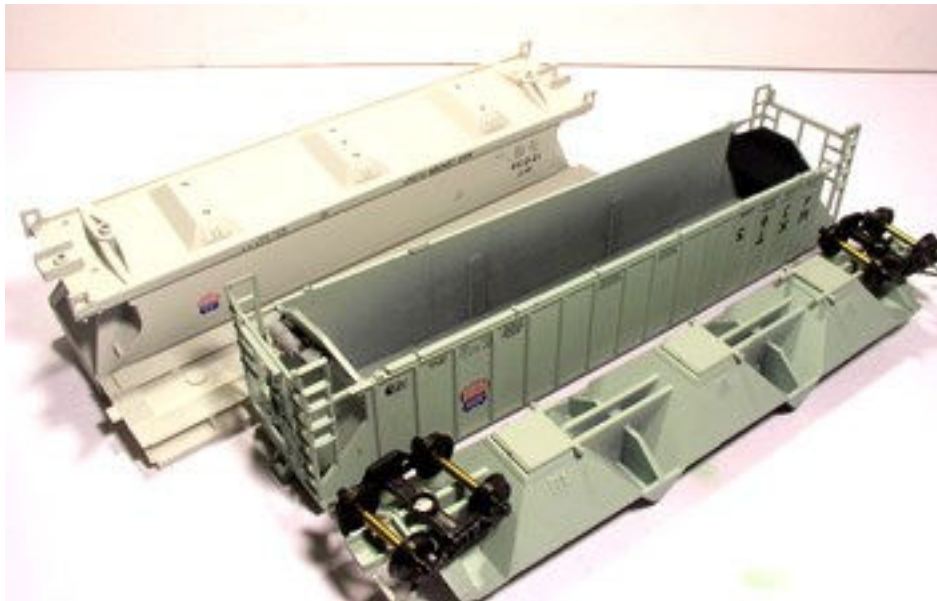
Car Body and Floor Arrangements

by Jack Hess

Car bodies are manufactured with various combinations of sides, ends, roof, and underframe. The arrangement of the body can have an effect on how the body can best be bashed.



Here are two of the most typical arrangements: sides/ends molded with the underframe (left), and sides/ends molded with the roof (right).



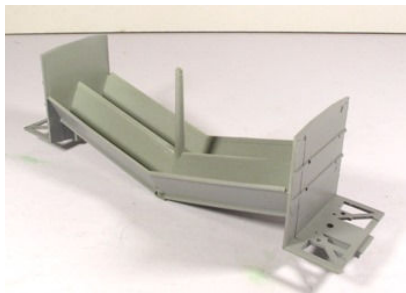
The same two cars turned over.

A body molded with the ends and the roof means that the roof and the body have to be considered when the body is modified. The underframe is modified separately and is constructed to fit the body. This arrangement makes shortening or lengthening of the car wheelbase much easier.

The other style with the underframe molded to the body makes changing the location of the body bolsters very difficult as they are often molded to the floor and have some type of overlay. This frees up the roof to be modified on its own.



This hopper car has the ends molded with the underframe, and the top and sides molded together.



This InterMountain Railway Co. model has the sides and ends molded as one piece with a separate roof and floor.