

Here's the original photo from the Shorpy website— good-looking turn-of-the-century reefer car.

Full size for HO



I made an educated guess as to size and proportions and straightened the car sides out with the "distort" function in Photoshop.



I used the distorted side as a template for recreating the lettering in Adobe Illustrator.



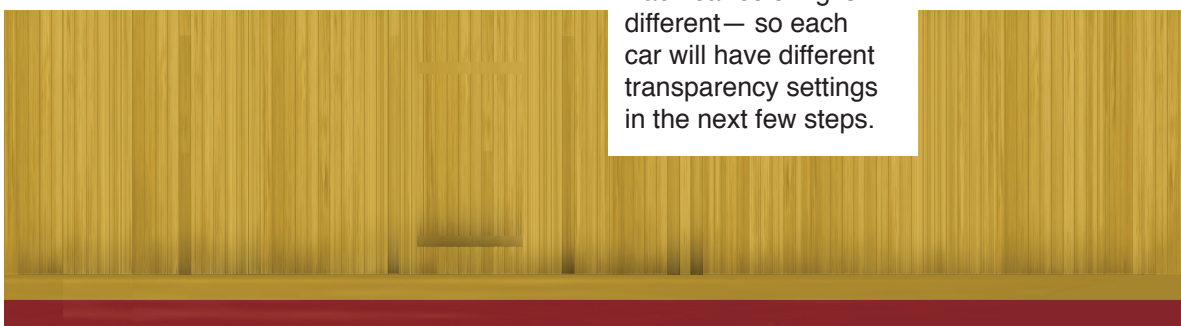
Here's the final Illustrator file (grey background added for visibility).



We're back in Photoshop now. Here's the base art for the Photoshop file— raw, weathered boards



And another Illustrator file with the board edges which, hopefully, match the file above. (Use it as a template.)



Each car coloring is different— so each car will have different transparency settings in the next few steps.

In Photoshop, add color on a new layer, made semi-transparent so that the boards show through. The “eraser-brush” function is handy for this.

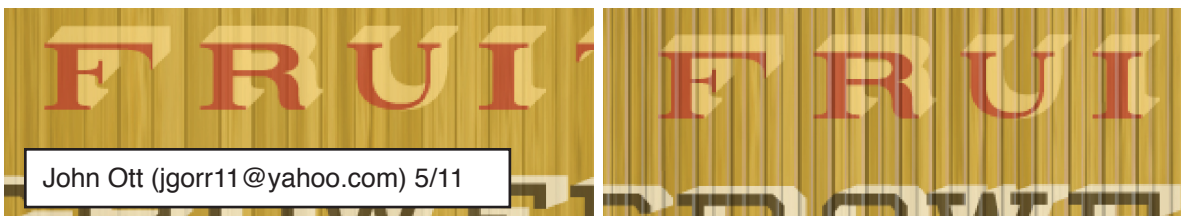


The lettering from the Illustrator file on the previous page goes on the next layer. It's set for about 80% opacity.



The fascia is cut from these stripes

Finally, the board edges go on to two new top layers— one layer dark, for the shadowed board edges, and one layer light, shifted a few pixels to one side, for the highlighted edges.



These layers are also semi-transparent, run through the lettering, and give the boards their dimensional look.