



# RAILROAD REPORT

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## Rivarossi Boxcars in HO

Great looking rolling stock at an affordable price point.

This month we will look at two HO steel wall boxcars from Rivarossi. They were supplied to us from our friends at Hornby America. I always enjoy evaluating rail products from overseas suppliers. Oftentimes the interpretation of a hobby item is different from that of a U.S. manufacturer and with these two featured products it's no different. I'm not saying one is better than the other, it's just different, and especially when dealing with hobby products, variety is indeed the spice of life.

The first boxcar we'll take a look at is the 50ft CB&Q Burlington Railroad 23200 with sliding doors and a roof walkway (HR6351). The packaging is bright and revealing for display and for customer examination. Revealing packaging is always welcome by any dealer as it prevents the torn open box that frequently sits on the shelf when the customer who did all the damage has lost interest, which as expected, always has a detrimental effect when trying to sell a product down the road.

The second boxcar is a 50ft Illinois Central 11000 with sliding doors, but no roof walkway (HR6381). Both boxcars are from new tooling. The shells appear to be from a single mold. The only major difference between the two cars is the add-on roof walkway used on the CB&Q along with the color of the plastic used for the line, and of course the road names.

Looking at a piece of rolling stock in the packaging is only enticement. It's



*Mounted to the cars are a much more realistic knuckle style of coupler as opposed to the more commonly seen Rapido style of coupler frequently used on most lesser expensive rolling stock.*



*The trucks have some truly impressive detail molded in place, and the nickel plated wheels roll ever so smoothly. For photos the cars had to be coupled to a locomotive to keep them rolling around the layout on their own.*

time to remove it from its protective clam shell. When done we see a wonderful rendition of the full-scale 50ft boxcar.

The color of the molded finish is realistically flat. The graphics are equally clean and sharp. The boxcars are one color only without separate items like the handbrake wheel and ladder. These are simply molded in place; however, the molding is so nice the eyes pass right over it. Taking into account the suggested retail price, this is not a detrimental feature. Everything in life is a balance, and in this case, the price vs. features works quite well.

One item that jumps out is the detailed trucks and nickel plated metal wheels. I was amazed at how smooth these cars were when placed on the rails. While trying to position the boxcars for photos, due to the slight imperfections in the layout, even on the areas that are supposed to be level, the cars would roll around to different locations on their own. Constantly chasing the cars around I finally gave up and the cars were coupled to a stationary locomotive to hold them in place.

Another item we were pleased to see is the couplers are the more standard knuckle type often seen in North America. Frequently European products, especially lesser expensive entry level products, are equipped with the Rapido style of coupler. The Rivarossi knuckle couplers worked perfectly, effortlessly coupling to the locomotive used to hold them in place for photos, and this

means they will also couple to any major manufacturer's equipment with ease.

The Rivarossi 50ft boxcars will look great on any layout and are targeted for scenes representing the era from 1955 to around 1975. Although they are inexpensive in price they look like they cost much more.

They are also the perfect vehicle to introduce a modeler to weathering effects and that means the all important add on sales. Plus with the affordable price point any mistakes made while the individual is learning how to apply weathering won't send him to the local emergency room suffering from heart palpitations.

Dealers should scoop these up quickly.



*The cars are molded in the appropriate color of plastic with perfectly applied contrasting road names. There isn't much in the way of add on details as items like ladders and brake wheels are molded in place, but it's done so well that the eyes tend to pass over without any notice.*



*Hornby is currently offering the Rivarossi 50ft style of boxcar in nine different road names along with sets of cars each containing six of same car, but with six different boxcar numbers. There are also several different multi-buy options available to assist dealers in getting their customers' freight line ready to haul.*

The units are very nice renditions and as mentioned several times they are available for a very good price, which when passed along, is something that makes every customer happy.

Hornby America currently offers nine different road lines, with each line including six different boxcar numbers. There are also six different multi-buy options to assist in getting the freight line stocked up.

Even though the molded detail is simple in nature, out of the box the cars look good and the graphics are crisp. And as expected the road names come in the proper colors, contrasting perfectly with the color of the car.

These boxcars are a great buy and will roll away fast. **HM**



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