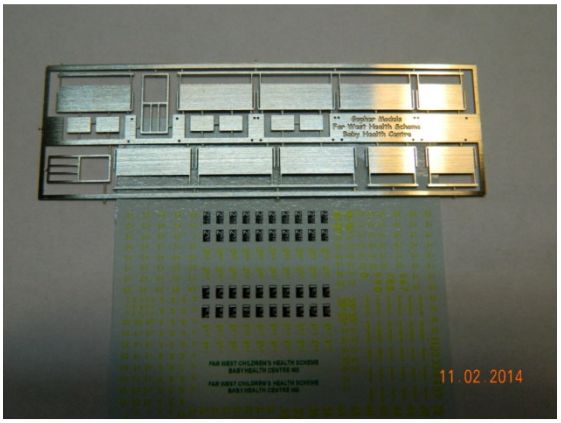
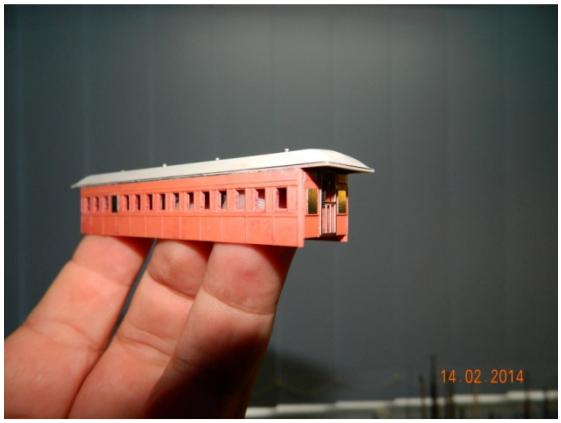
Far West Area Health car conversion for the Gopher Models FO.

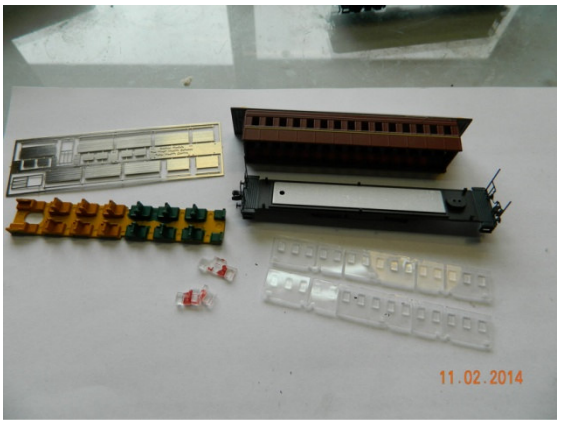
By Dave Pallas.



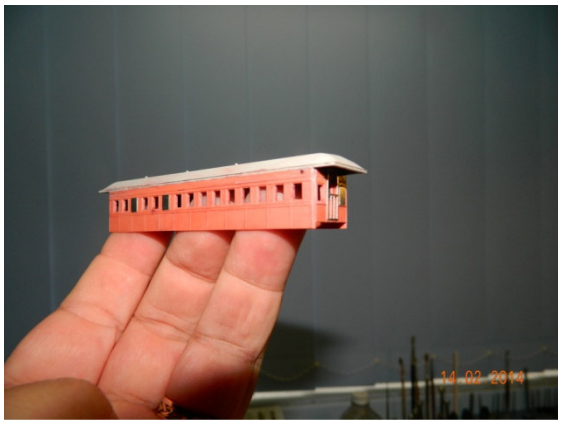
Kit contents
1 etch and 1 set decals.
You will require a FO with the wider spaced battens. 0.3mm and 0.5mm drills, glue and paint.



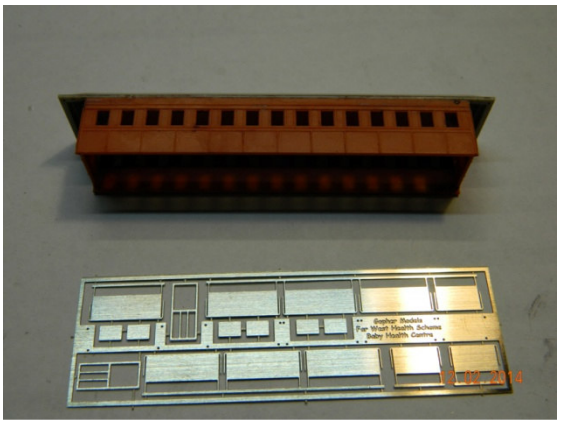
Step 3. remove the small window covers and the screen doors. Clean up any lumps on the etches. The window covers are glued to the outside of the wagon as per the above and below photos.



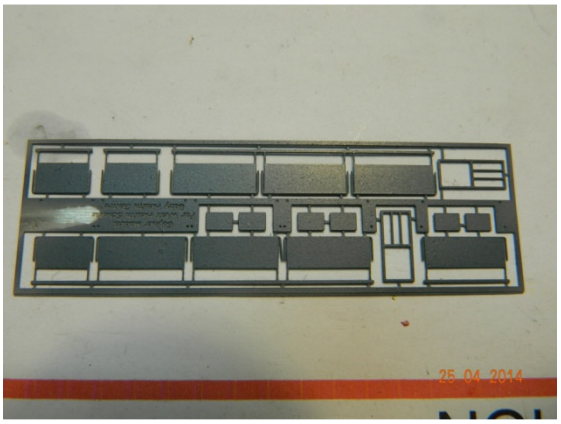
The car was converted from a later FO with the wider spaced battens.
Step 1 : carefully dissemble the wagon as above. The floor is only clipped in. Removing the bars off the end windows as well.



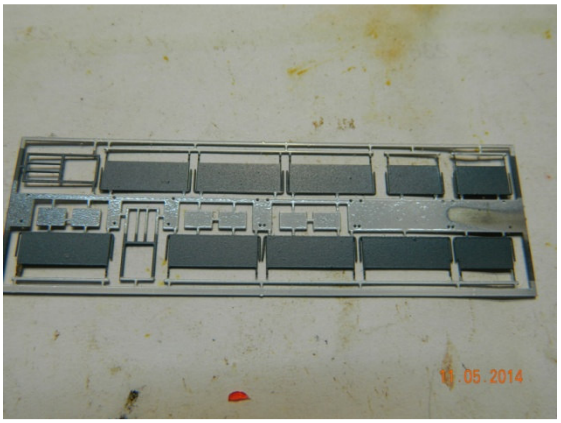
The screen doors are glued over the doors at each end. The sides have the window covers over different windows.
Step 4. Once the glue has set it is time to paint. If you did not strip the original paint off the wagon you will just need to mask off the roof from the black line up. I used an light grey etch primer. Once the primer was dry I top coated the wagon in gloss white. The wagons were delivered white with a silver roof and black linning around the base of the roof. The silver roof quickly weathered to a mottled black colour. Please refer to photos for detailing.



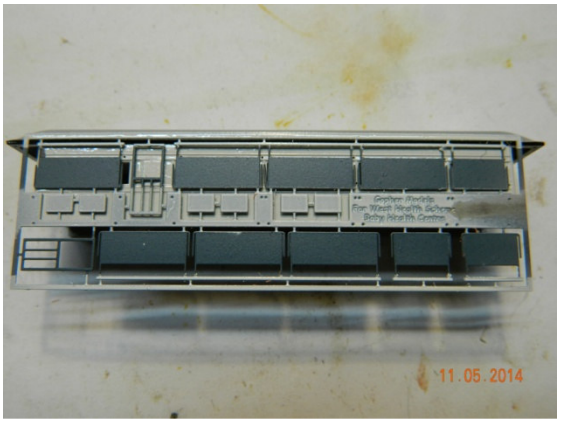
Step 2 I stripped the original colour off the wagon. You may want to skip this step if you like.



Step 5. Also take this time to paint the etch with a light grey primer as well. Here is where we hit our first problem.
What colour were the awnings?
Information I have been told was that they were delivered with green awnings with a white strip. I have seen video of the car with what appears to be a blue awning with a yellow stripe. It is possible the awnings were replaced sometime during the life of the wagons.

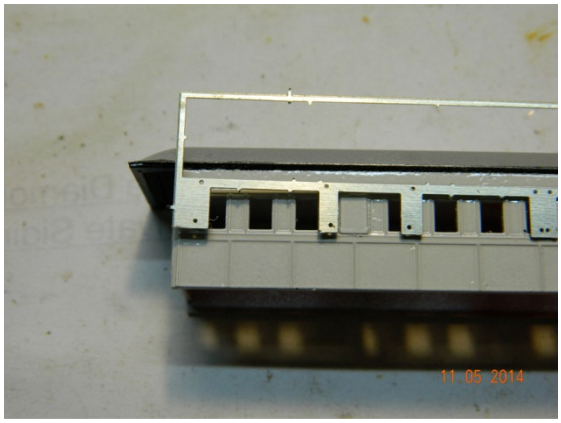


I painted mine RAF blue to simulate the canvas blue. Once the blue was dry I masked the awnings and painted the mounting bar gloss white.
(I used 2 etches for the ease of writing the instructions.)

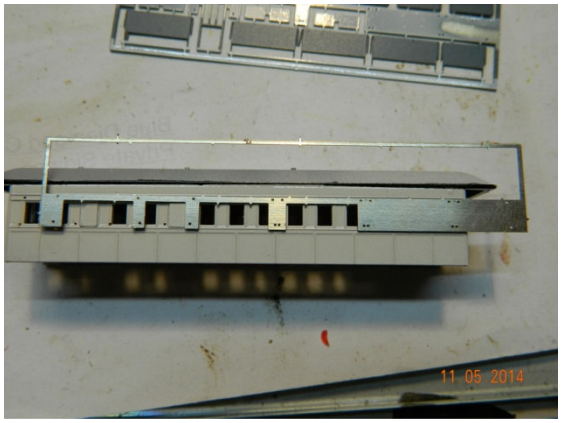


Step 6 the fun step. Best advice take your time with the next steps. Drilling the holes and fitting the awnings. You will need a 0.3mm and 0.5mm drill bit.

This is not straight foward as just placing the jig on the side of the wagon and drilling. Refer to photos for these steps.
On the etch you will seen that there are the following awnings. 1 wide, 2 narrow, 1 3 group and 1 4 group. The single wide and 4 group go on the side with the single window blanked out.



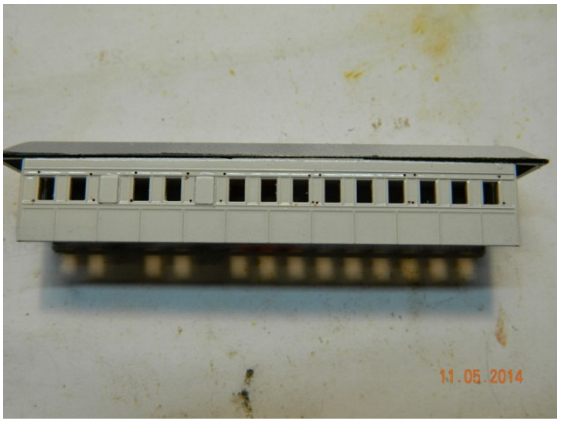
To use the jig select the spacing that matches the awning. The above photo shows the jig for the single wide awning. The closer together hole goe to the top of the window. The top of the jig lines up on the top raised bar that runs the full lenght of the wagon.
The easiest way to work out where the holes go is to place the wider spaced lower holes to just out side the edge of the windows.



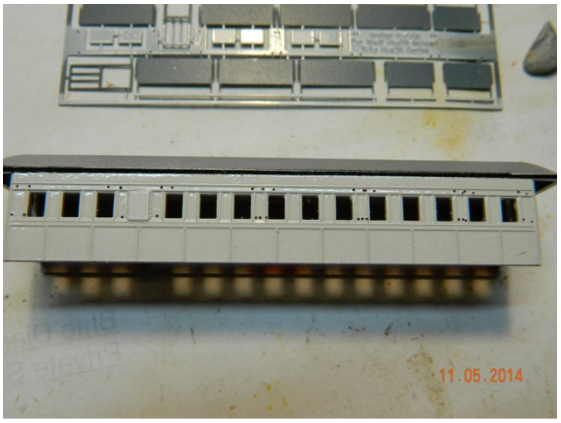
The above photo shows the jig lined up on the ready to drill the 0.3mm holes for the 3 unit awning that goes on the side with the 2 blanked out windows.



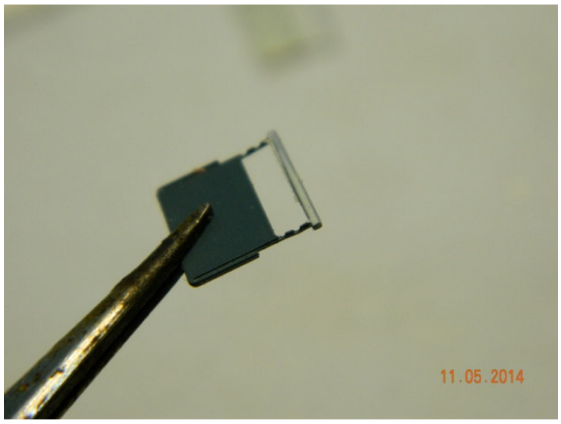
The above photo shows the jig almost lined up properly to drill the single narrow awning. Note the jig is upside down compared to the previous photo. The top of the jig should be on that top raised line. Remember the closer spaced holes go to the top the wider to the bottom.



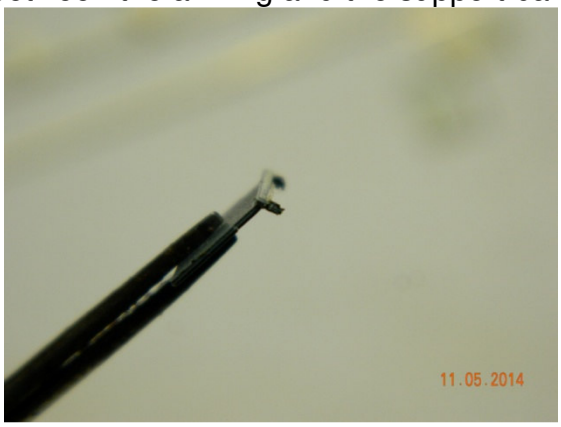
Here is the side with all holes drilled with the 0.3mm drill. I found it easy to fit the awnings if you now drill out only the top holes with a 0.5mm drill.



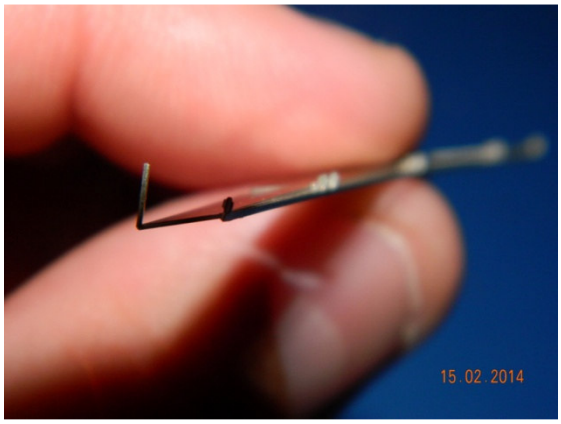
Here is the other side drilled out. Important note here The narrower awning of the 4 unit goes to the end of the wagon.
Yes in my rush to get this done I messed up the spacing's.
Just proves I am only human.



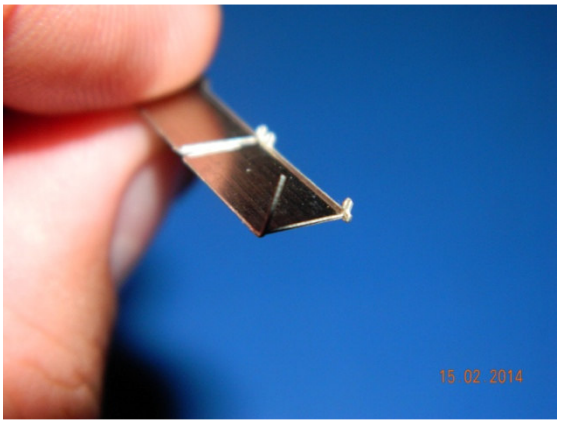
Step 7 folding the awnings. This step gets a little tricky and frustrating. If you look carefully you will see to small ½ etch lines on the bar between the awning and the support bar.



Ok the first fold is done at the middle ½ etch. It is folded over 180deg away from the ½ etch. The support bar is carefully folded up 90degs.

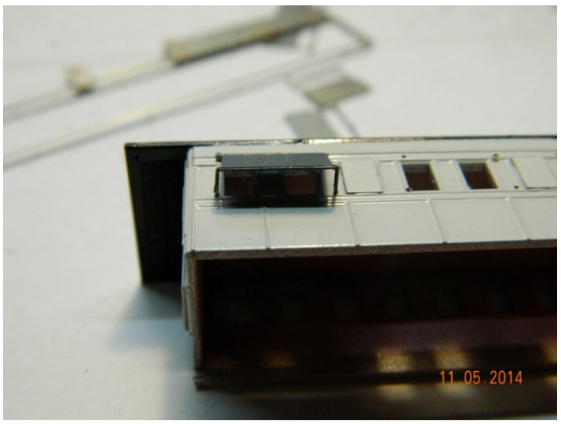


The lower standoff bar is folded out about 45 degs. As shown in the above and below photos.

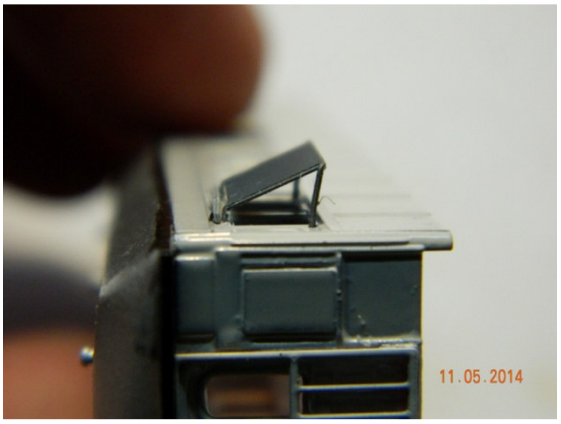




Don't panic if the break off.
I gave up trying to fold them up and cut them apart as shown above.



Now fit the awning into its holes. The lower standoff bars are inserted so they are flush with the inside of the wagon.





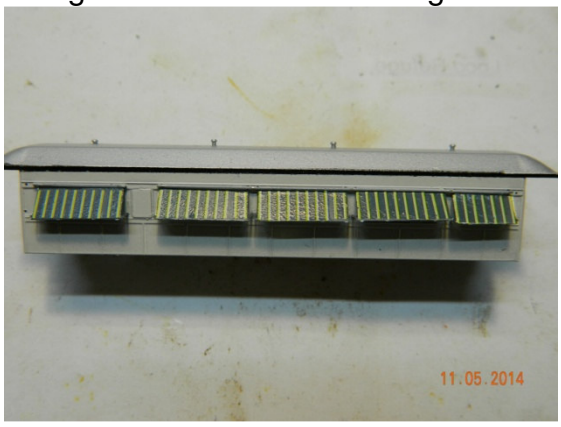
The above photo shows the top support bar in place minus most of its awnings. Insert the lower standoffs as above lining up the top of the awning with the base of the support bar. Carefully super glue in place.



Side A complete



Side B complete. Note the narrower awning goes to the end of the wagon.

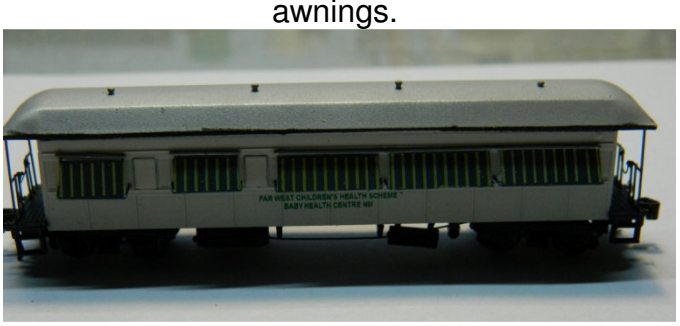


Sorry the decal sheet does not come with any stripes. I raided my decal box to find a suitable

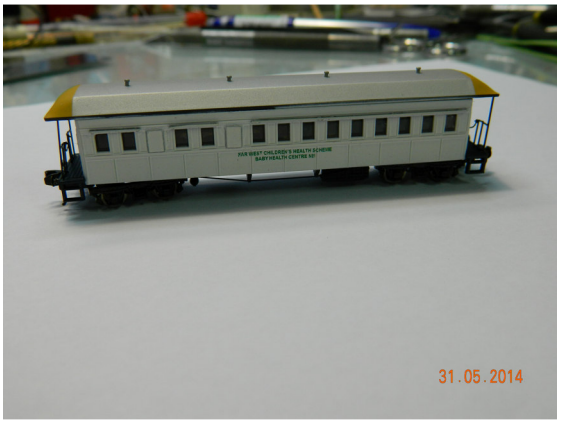
yellow stripe. The ones I used were about 1mm wide and cut to approx 5mm in length.



Then evenly spaced on the awnings. Approx 7 on the narrow awnings and 10 on the wider awnings.



Final step, Dullcote the wagon and let dry. Then reassemble and it is ready for a mini scene on your layout. The wagons never ran with the awnings extended.



For those who wish to have a running wagon you will need to do the following. Add window covers and doors as above.
Drill all required holes only above the windows.
Remove the awnings from their support bar.
Glue the bar in place above the windows.
Paint and decal the wagon as above and it is ready to be run.



Here are a couple of proto photos.



Happy Modelling.