

Background

Beginning in 2005, regulations were enacted requiring freight railcars operating in the United States to have reflective material applied to their sides in an effort to improve grade crossing safety. Between 2007 and 2015, these yellow or white strips were phased into service. Currently, almost every freight railcar in North America features these distinctive reflective strips.

These strips are typically applied following Federal Railroad Administration guidelines, with 4"x18" (0.5-square-foot) strips at 12' maximum intervals

and one-square-foot strips at each end of the car. End strips are commonly created by placing two 4"x18" strips end-to-end or side-to-side.

These easy-to-apply, self-adhesive strips replicate those applied to the prototype railcars. Unlike decals or factory-printed markings, these strips will actually reflect light, including camera flash, daylight, and ambient layout lighting, adding another level of realism to your freight car fleet.

The sheet consists of 500 scale 4"x18" strips and 100 each of 8"x18" and 4"x36" one-square-foot strips for car ends, enough to do up to 50 sixty-foot railcars.



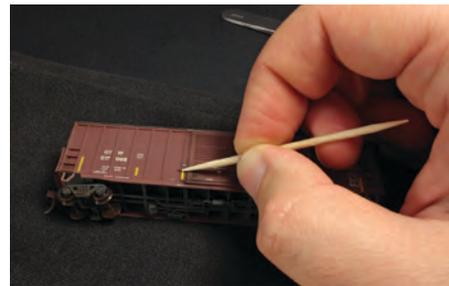
Reflective strips applied to AEX covered hopper. Reflectors have been applied in vertical manner closely matching FRA guidelines. Reference images of the prototype are very helpful in determining exact reflector placement.

Installation

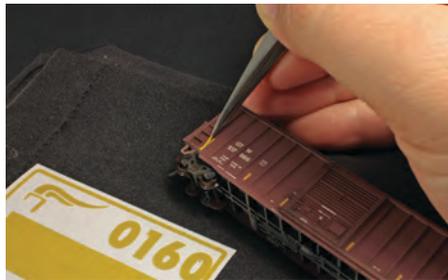
These strips can be applied to almost any model, whether brand new or weathered and graffiti-ed. Tools required include tweezers, a small blunt object such as a toothpick, and (optional) flat finish.

Begin by placing the model on its side with adequate cushion to protect details. Gently bend the backing material away from one corner of the desired strip, grab one corner with pointed tweezers, and pull the strip away from the backing. Place this strip in the desired location on the model.

Once in place on the model, the reflective strip can be adjusted slightly to get it into the desired location. When satisfied with the location, burnish the strip onto the surface of the model with a small blunt object such as a toothpick. Sharp objects or metallic items that may scratch the surrounding paint on the model are not recommended.

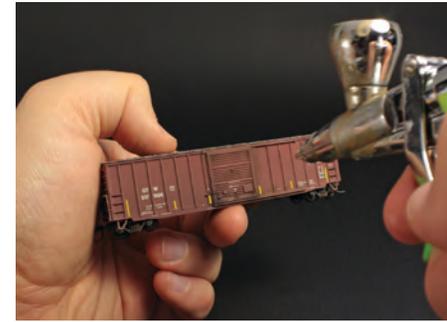


Please note that these reflective strips are best applied to flat surfaces and may not conform to surface details such as rivets. The majority of prototype applications avoid such complex surfaces for much the same reason.



Instructions, cont'd

To blend the strips into the model, a flat finish and weathering may be applied over top of the strips.



Once satisfied with the model, add it to your layout and enjoy the reflective qualities of these strips!

Application Guide

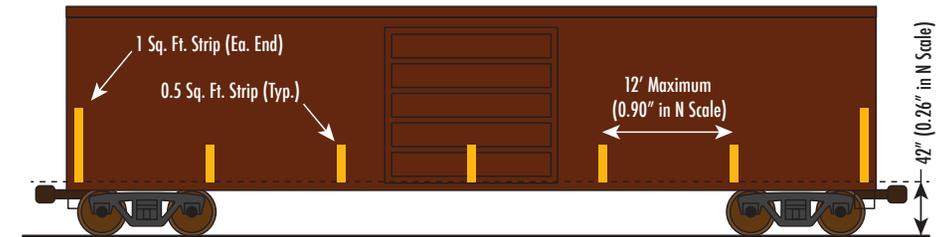
FRA 224 regulations include guidance on proper placement of reflective strips. The full document can be found with a quick Internet search.

The basic application requirements are below:

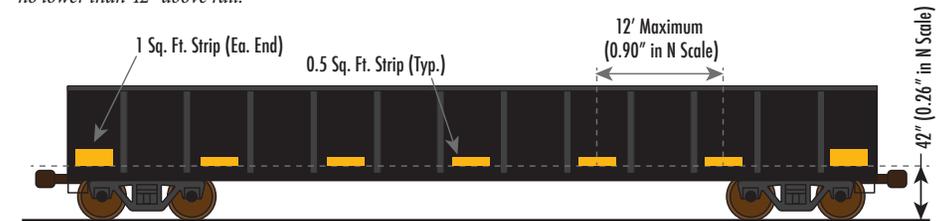
Car or Locomotive Length	Area of Yellow Sheeting Required (Square Feet)
Less than 50 ft	3.5
50 ft. to 60 ft	4.0
Over 60 ft. to 70 ft	4.5
Over 70 ft. to 80 ft	5.0
Over 80 ft. to 90 ft	5.5
Over 90 ft. to 100 ft	6.0

Installation Diagrams

Below are some recommended installation diagrams for freight cars with yellow reflective strips. Consult photos for other variations and applications.



Typical installation on over 60 ft to 70 ft boxcar showing vertical strips. Installation consists of 4"x36" one-square-foot strips at each end, with 4"x18" 0.5-square-foot strips in between at twelve-foot maximum spacing. Strips are installed no lower than 42" above rail.



Typical installation on over 60 ft to 70 ft gondola showing horizontal strips. Installation consists of 8"x18" one-square-foot strips at each end, with 4"x18" 0.5-square-foot strips in between at twelve-foot maximum spacing. Strips are installed no lower than 42" above rail.

See our website for a full list of available products!

This product intended for ages 14+.

If you are unsatisfied with this product for any reason, please return it for exchange or refund.

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P.O. Box 172 · Reese, MI 48757
smokeboxgraphics@gmail.com
www.smokeboxgraphics.com