

# MRH Questions, Answers and Tips



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: I want to know if some of my freight cars are the right kind and are numbered correctly for the railroad I model. A guy at the club said to look them up in an ORER. What's that?**

**A:** The *Official Railway Equipment Register* (ORER) is published four times a year by United Business Media. It was originally produced by the National Railway Publication Company.

It lists railroads and private car owners, reporting marks, company officers, head offices, connections and junction points and a large amount of useful Association of American Railroads data on car use, car

designations, and clearance diagrams.

The car listings include the AAR mechanical designation for the car type, a general description, the car type code, number series, inside and outside dimensions, door specs, capacity, and the number of cars in the series.

The reporting marks and numbers are always stenciled on the car. Many also show the car type (like XM for box car and FD for a depressed center flat car) and the type code, like G442, for a gondola (GB) 61' or over with a wood floor, sides 36" tall or higher, and drop ends.

What it does *not* include are photos of the cars or the builders. So it's a good tool for the prototype modeler, but not the answer to every question.

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No Tariff Supplements will  
be issued to this publication

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See Page II for State Commission Numbers and Cancellations

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**Figure 1: The Official Railway Equipment Register (ORER) lists railroads and private car owners, reporting marks, company officers, head offices, connections and junction points and a large amount of useful Association of American Railroads data on car use, car designations, and clearance diagrams. The cover image shown here is from an edition published in 1976.**

