

Walthers Budd 46-seat Coach

By Steve Sandifer

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<u>932-16303 85' 46-Seat Coach without skirts</u>	ATSF	Blt. 1953, #2816-2860 (CS&CC250) (PCL5:113). Skirts were later removed for easy maintenance.
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The 2002 release Walthers Budd 46-seat Coach 6305 is a model of ATSF 2816-2860 leg rest chair cars (Budd, 1953). These were built for the *El Capitan*. These were the last equipment purchased before the change to Hilevel equipment. After the Hilevel cars arrived, they saw service on *The Chief* and *San Francisco Chief*. Most of these went to Amtrak November 1, 1971, becoming 4810-4828 (2816-2836), 4850-4872 (2837-2860).

How well do these cars shape up? The attached photos are of the car straight out of the box. The metal grabs have not yet been added. They come with a quality molded plastic interior. The interior has 48 seats, as do the plans in Randall's Budd book, Frailey's book, and a Santa Fe Circular. Stagner's *ATSF Color Guide* has a color photo on page 8 and calls it a 46-passenger car. The *Railway Passenger Car Annual Vol. 1 & 2* and the *Amtrak Car Spotter Vol. 1 & 2* lists them as 48-passenger. Walthers' says, "While the prototypes were fitted with 48 seats, two were usually reserved for the train crew, so that 46 paying passengers were carried."

Tom Cockle reports, "Regular usage of 2816 class chair cars prior to the combined Super Chief and El Capitan (Jan. 12, 1958) included:

- 1) on the Chief after that train got chair cars (and lost its transcontinental Pullmans to the Super Chief) on Jan. 10, 1954.
- 2) on the San Francisco Chief from its inauguration in the Spring of 1954 until it got Hi-Levels in 1964.
- 3) on the Texas Chief beginning Winter 1955, until it also got Hi-Levels (off-season) in Spring 1968.
- 4) and, of course, these cars had been built for the El Capitan, and lasted until it went Hi-Level July 15, 1956."



These are the finest plastic coaches I have ever seen. However, there are some shortcomings (I hate to criticize such an excellent model).

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- The windows are divided by an upright support into two portions. The divider is cast into the glass windows but is not painted silver. Tom Cockle suggests using silver decal strips to color that support. Microscale 124-4 has the decals for this purpose.

Prototype photos:



#2845 in Amtrak service at Chicago on April 14, 1973. Owen Leander photo, Robert J. Yanosey collection, from Lloyd Stagner's *ATSF Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment*.



See a photo of 2829 on the Q-Station site.

2822 is available through Rail Journey's West. An interior photo is on their site.

The April 2001, issue of *Model Railroader* had drawings and photos of these cars.

Also see the prototype in *The Passenger Car Library, Volume 5, Santa Fe / Southern Pacific*, by W. David Randall, RPC Publications, 2002.

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Santa Fe Steel Rails through California by Duke: Page 104/105 has an undated two page spread of the San Francisco Chief with four of these cars--all in skirts. Page 94 has an undated pic of the El Capitan passing South Pasadena with one of these cars, skirted, ahead of the obs.

Santa Fe Streamliners by Zimmerman. Page 73 has full page pic of El Capitan on Cajon on March 7, 1954, with several of these cars, all in skirts.

Santa Fe in Color, Vol. 4 by Stagner. Page 117 has a June 1953 pic of El Capitan leaving LAUPT with several of these cars visible, all skirted. Page 122 has an April 30, 1971 pic of a switching move at LAUPT, with one of these cars, unskirted.

The Surfliners by Stephenson. Page 95 has an undated pic of two of these cars, unskirted, in San Diegan service. Page 33 has a 1970 partial view of 2816, unskirted, at Oceanside in San Diegan service.

Valley Division Vignettes by Krieger and Icanberry. Page 90 has a Nov. 12, 1967 view of one of these cars, skirted, arriving Richmond on the last Train 7.

Quarter Century of Santa Fe Consists by Frailey. Page 69 has an undated picture of 2839, skirted. (Might be a companion shot to the builder's photo of 2839 in the new Randall book).

Thanks to Tom Cockle for some of the information above.

For interior photos, there is an ad showing interior on pages 39 and 48 of *Santa Fe, The Chief Way* by Robert Strein.

This Budd product postdates some brochures on this website, but those photos will indicate the style of interior decoration.