

# Kadee®

The Coupler People®

May 2026



**New Products, News,  
Made & Assembled**

**and Information...  
Entirely in the U.S.A.**

## Mastering Kadee Large-Scale Couplers for Reliable Operation

Large-scale modelers (#1, A, G, F, and related gauges) often face coupler incompatibility when mixing equipment from manufacturers like LGB, Aristo-Craft, USA Trains, Bachmann, and others. Factory-installed hook-and-loop or varying knuckle designs lead to coupling incompatibility. Kadee® large-scale knuckle couplers solve this by providing an aftermarket knuckle coupler that is compatible across brands of equipment (when properly installed), while offering realistic appearance and smooth performance.

### **Choosing the right size Kadee® Coupler for your large scale layout.**

Kadee® offers two primary sizes for large scale:

**G-Scale couplers:** Larger profile suited to 1:22.5, 1:20.3, 1:29 models. These provide better coupling reliability on tight curves. Newer #900/906 (body mount) and #909 (truck mount) AAR Type “E” styles feature a more prototypical look with hidden knuckle springs. Original Style #830/831 have exposed knuckle springs. See [kadee.com](https://kadee.com) for comparison.

**#1-Scale couplers:** Smaller and typically used on 1:32 models, #1 Scale Couplers also come in both AAR Type “E” styles and Original styles.

Both AAR Type “E” styles and Original styles are fully compatible with each other, but also aftermarket/large-scale knuckles as long as heights match. The newer AAR Type “E” versions mate seamlessly with older Original Style Kadee® couplers despite visual differences.

**Note:** G-scale and #1-Scale couplers don't operate together: they are mounted at different mounting heights.

**Pro Tip:** Check Kadee's Large Scale Coupler Reference Charts and Conversion Lists on [Kadee.com](https://kadee.com) for model-specific recommendations. Many popular cars need only minor shimming or draft gear box swaps. Most conversions have a final installation instructions link on the website if it is not covered in the specific product instructions.

### **Critical Installation:**

**Proper mounting is essential!**—poor alignment causes coupling and uncoupling issues.

**Height is everything:** Kadee® Couplers should be mounted at NMRA-recommended height. Only use a Kadee® Coupler Height Gauge (#880 or #980): Must be 1.125” from railhead to coupler centerline for narrow gauge for G-Scale couplers (#829 or #1929) and 1.0625” for #1-Scale couplers. Inconsistent heights lead to vertical slip or unwanted uncoupling on grades, dips, or transitions in a layout.

**Centerline mounting:** Align along the car's longitudinal centerline. Mount the included draft gear boxes square to the end of the car and secure with screws. We offer an assortment of fasteners for different applications (see [Kadee.com](https://kadee.com) for more info on fasteners). Though truck mount couplers are an easy and convenient way of converting cars, body mounting improves realism and reduces “porpoising” on uneven track compared to truck mounted couplers.

### **Common body mount fixes:**

For couplers mounted too high, add styrene shims between gearbox and the car body to lower coupler. For couplers too low, add shims between the truck and the car body to raise the coupler.

On tight curves, to ensure there is plenty of coupler swing, trim or notch draft gear boxes, as shown in the instructions. For more clearance; if needed, the back of the box can be notched for truck or wheel clearance.

Trip pin must be .125” (1/8”) above the rails. Trip pins are factory set and should not be bent. If the trip pin is not at .125” (1/8”) above the rail the coupler is mounted too low or too high. If too low, the trip pin catches on uncouplers, switches, turnouts, or ties. If the trip pin is too high, the coupler may not uncouple properly over uncoupling magnets.

Lubricate moving parts on the couplers with #231 Greas-em Dry Graphite Lubricant only. For smooth operation, never use any oil on any Kadee® products.

### **Operational Best Practices:**

All couplers on a train should be consistent. Use Kadee® Couplers mounted at correct mounting heights, squarely on the centerline of the car for best results.

Converting your rolling stock to Kadee® eliminates brand-specific headaches and allows for smooth operation. While initial installation takes time, the payoff is highly dependable, realistic operation that enhances any large-scale layout—indoors or out.

For detailed coupler conversion charts, <https://kadee.com/lsccl/>.  
Happy railroading!

# May 2026 New Rolling Stock!

Kadee® prides itself in creating and manufacturing premium "RTR" rolling stock as close to scale & detail as possible. Model railroaders can expect only the best quality & craftsmanship with every Kadee® quality product. Nothing stacks up to the accuracy, detail, quality, & authenticity of Kadee® Cars over all other "RTR" cars on the market.



Ready-to-Run Rolling Stock



Made & Assembled Entirely in the U.S.A.



**NEW**

Functioning Cushion Underframe

6423 ACL #35144 ..... \$44.99

Atlantic Coast Line  
Series: 35100-35413  
BLT, 1962 - Factory New  
Black  
Functioning Cushion Underframe

## Current In-Stock HO-Scale "RTR" Freight Cars

042826

### 40' PS-1 Boxcars

-  4339 ACY #3383 ..... \$44.99
-  4534 AA #340 ..... \$42.99
-  4838 BCK #1037 ..... \$43.99
-  4839 WP #20813 ..... \$46.99
-  5025 USN #61-06454 ..... \$42.99



5318 RUT #447 ..... \$51.99



5328 N&W #64528 ..... \$46.99

### 50' PS-1 Boxcars



6127 MP #82345 ..... \$42.99



6402 GN #39870 ..... \$49.99



6417 ACY #3600 (low inventory) ..... \$43.99



6419 WP #36011 ..... \$43.99



6420 D&H #22011 (Minor Paint Defects) ..... \$49.99 \$39.99



6422 GM&O #59521 ..... \$44.99



6423 ACL #35144 ..... \$44.99



6934 KDC #033 (blue) (low inventory) ..... \$51.99

### 50-ton AAR "Standard" Open Bay Hopper



7528 MILW #96053 ..... \$46.99



7529 MILW #96050 ..... \$46.99

### 2003 CU FT. PS-2 Hopper



8051 NP #75423 ..... \$45.99



8052 SSW #77112 ..... \$46.99



8054 SLSF #84015 ..... \$46.99



8343 M&StL #70351 (low inventory) ..... \$44.99



8660 D&RGW #18333 ..... \$46.99

### 50 Ton AAR Flat Car



9506 UP #57059 ..... \$54.99

Coupler Conversions can be found at [www.kadee.com/convpl](http://www.kadee.com/convpl)

CNW, DRGW, MKT, MP, SP, SSW, UP, & WP marks are made under trademark license from Union Pacific Railroad Company.

WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD - Small Parts - Not for children under 14 years.

Lettering similar to cars shown \*Subject to change without notice.