

## Some paper and wood freight cars in H0 gauge by Fred van der Lubbe TCS 1297

More than 30 years ago I bought at the model-train swap-meet in Netherlands some ERGA German freight car kits and later some StromBecker American freight car kits. I did build some, but not all, of the kits. The similarity between the two brands is the period these were made (around 1950), the material (paper/cardboard, wood, metal), the size (H0 gauge) and the type of the cars (freight cars). See also the video I made on the subject: <https://youtu.be/zUjg619h53A>



### StromBecker

StromBecker or Strombeck-Becker Manufacturing Co., of Moline, Illinois, were makers of a huge range of wooden toys from the 1930s up until the 1950s, after which production switched to plastic. The company did manufacture a range of wooden/cardboard kits, to build scale model railroads, including freight cars. The company is perhaps most famous for the range of aircraft kits, but also made ships, road vehicles and other toys. The freight car kits had wooden bottom and roof while the sides were made with printed cardboard. They supplied in the kit also water based wood-glue and some wooden wheels and metal axles to make a display model. Of course, when you wanted to make a running model freight car trucks were available from a number of supplier in the USA. The kits also contained a small sheet of emery paper for the wood. I did build the B&O "Sentinel" boxcar but not the "Pacific Fruit Express" reefer I bought.





## ERGA

ERGA was a German company known for its affordable cardboard model railway kits, founded by Ernst Ganzer. Ernst Ganzer made designs for cardboard accessory and building kits, also for gauge 0, before WW2. After WW2, in 1947, Ernst Ganzer founded the company ERGA (combination of his first and last name) in Hamburg, Germany. ERGA kits were still available in the fifties. As the picture shows the ERGA kits were available in Holland with Dutch text on the box cover; the text on the side of the box and the assembly notes are in German. I made the Carlsberg beer wagon (catalogue number 146) and the Swiss open wagon. The DR closed van with catalogue number 136 I kept unbuilt. The body of the cars is made of cardboard. Included were metal axle guards and plastic wheels on metal axles, thus suitable for 2 or 3-rail running, and metal combined buffers and couplers.





