

Those intending to build a miniature circus or only certain pieces of circus equipment, should first of all adopt a scale on which everything will be fashioned. The popular sizes are 1/4 inch to the foot, 1/2 inch to the foot, and 1 inch to the foot, each of them having advantages and disadvantages.

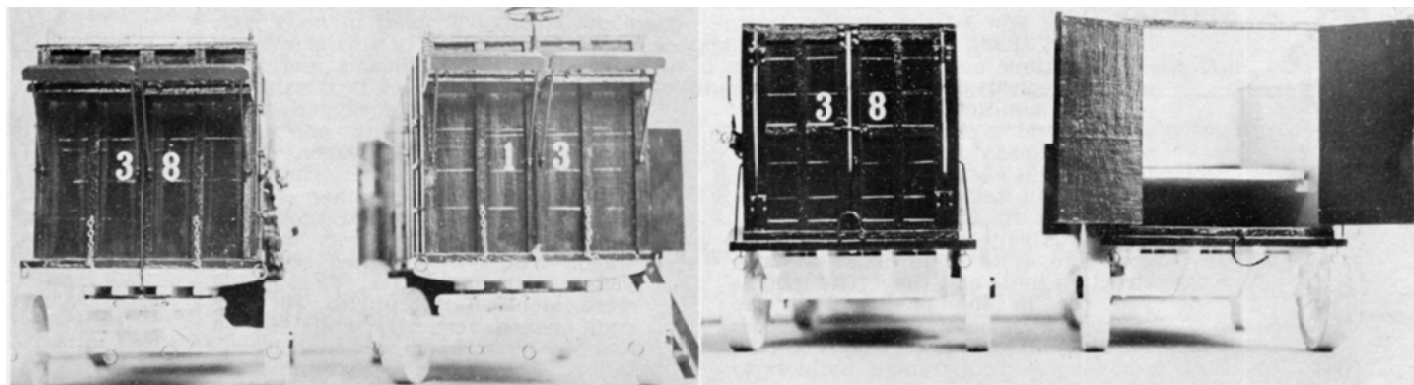
A circus built on the 1/4 inch scale can easily be set up in its entirety in the average sized room, while one made on the scale of 1 inch to the foot will require a good sized lot or yard to set it up.

When building on a 3/4 inch scale, a wagon 16 feet long will be 4 inches long on the model on the 1/2 inch scale the same wagon will be 16 inches long. Knowing the dimensions of a certain tent, wagon, railroad car, horse, or any piece of equipment it must be reduced to scale and the wood or other material to be used purchased in the necessary size.

When making circus wagons on the 1 inch scale, most of the parts can be cut out of white pine stock 1/4 inch thick, 1/4 inch thick and a few of the heavier pieces may have to be made out of 3/8 or 1/2 inch thick stock. A wagon built on the 1/2 inch scale would require wood just half the thickness of the 1 inch scale stock; if working on the still smaller scale of 1/4 inch, the wood will have to be 1/4 as thick as that used on the inch scale. In addition to having the necessary measurements, good clear photographs of the piece to be built are an invaluable aid to the model builder.

Circus wagons range in length from 12 feet to 40 feet for the big pole wagons. Most cage wagons are anywhere from 12 to 16 feet long, and hippopotamus or rhinoceros cages are as long as 18 or 20 feet. The fancy highly-carved Tableau and Bandwagons ranged from 18 to 28 feet in length. As a rule the bed of a circus wagon is 3 1/2 to 4 feet from the ground, and from the bed to the roof or top of the wagon, they average 6 feet with slight variations. Circus wagons are made in two widths: Those which are 6 feet wide have the type of undergear with the wheels on the outside of the wagon body, while those that are 7 feet wide have the gear and wheels entirely underneath the body.

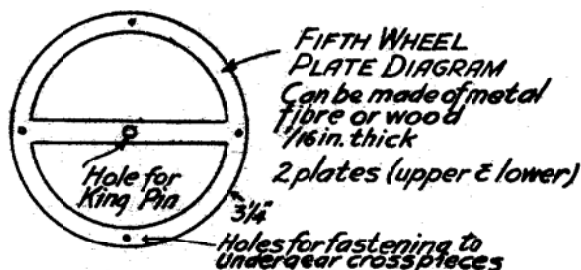
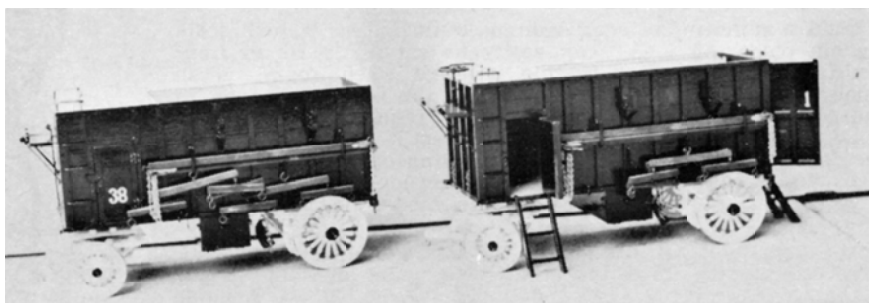
The wheels are also more or less standard in diameter. Front wheels usually run from 30 to 36 inches in diameter, while the rear wheels are 42 to 48 inches in diameter. Width of the steel tires ranges from 3 to 9 inches, according to the size of the wheel and the weight of the load on the wagon on which it is to be used. There are always 16 spokes in a typical circus wagon and most of the fancy cage wagon wheels have the vari-colored "sunbursts" between the spokes.



Left - 1 Inch per foot scale Model showing front end construction of circus baggage wagons (R.B. & B.B. stake and chain) length 16". width 6... height 6" with platform type undergear and axles. Foot brake on No. 38 and wheel brake on No. 13. also shows seat railing, foot board, corner loading rings. Safety chains to lock wheels when loading on flat cars. Wagons have 3" front

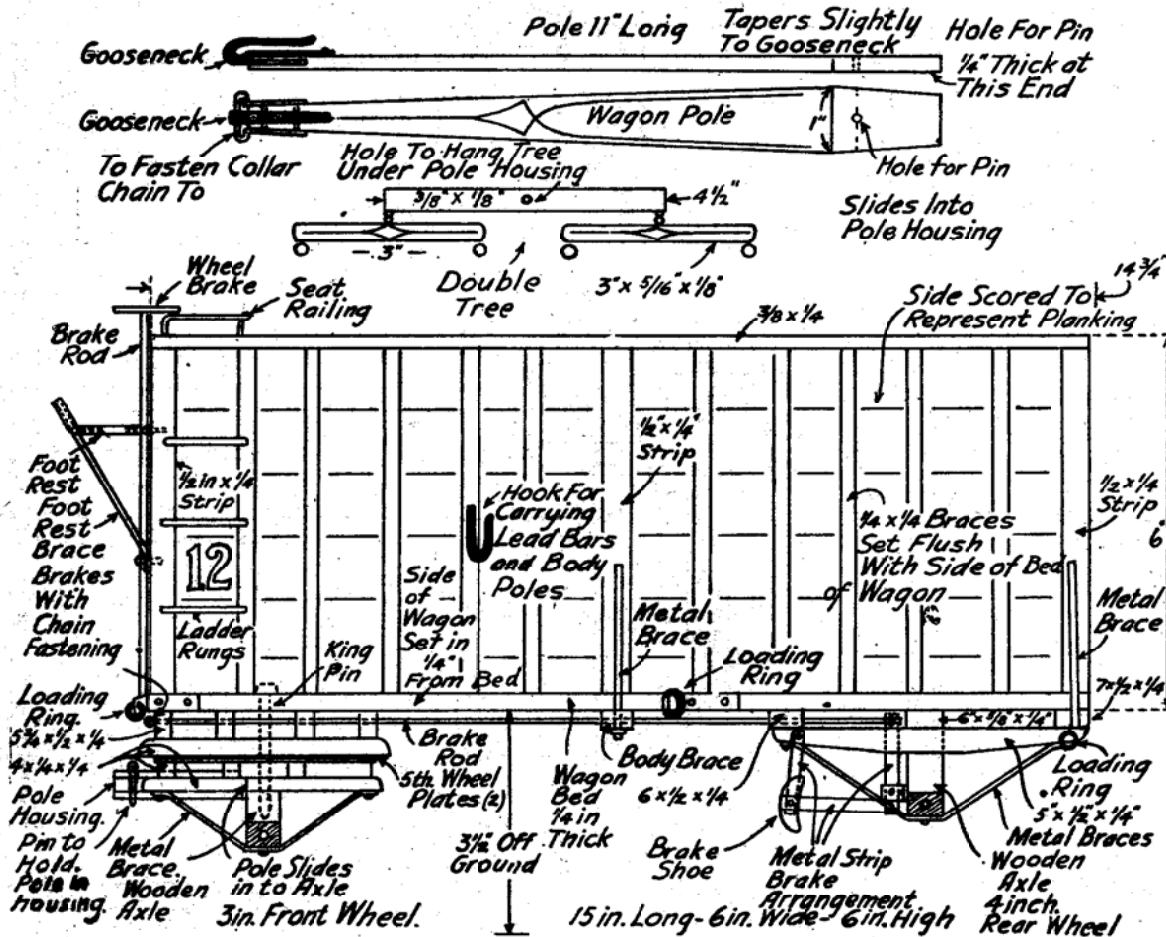
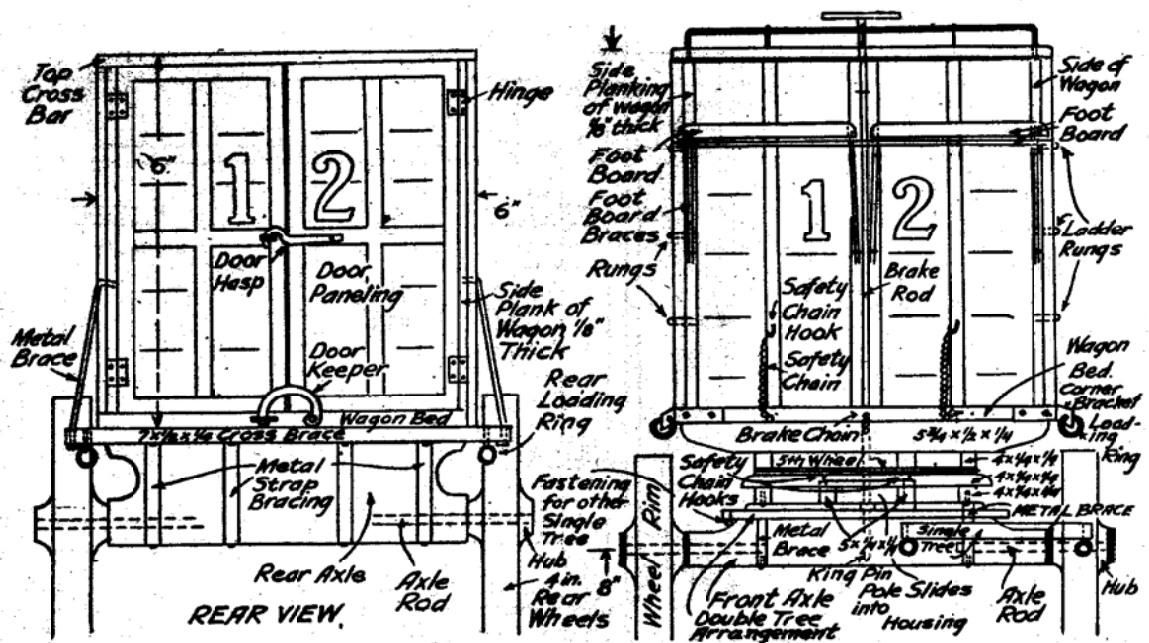
and 4" back wheels. Right - Rear end construction of No. 38 and No. 13 circus baggage wagons, showing 4" rear wheels rear axle and bracing, rear loading rings door construction, door hasps, keepers. etc. Also can be seen side cradles for carrying equipment on side of wagons.

Left - side views of No. 38 and No. 13 "Stake and Chain" Wagons, showing construction detail. Boss Canvassman's quarters were in front of wagon. These are 1" scale models built by Mr. Robert Good. The actual wagons were used on the Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey shows during the thirties.



Generic Circus Wagon

DATE: None	SCALE: 1/3" = 1'	SCANNED & REVISED: 12/20/2005	Pg 1 of 2
Circus Model Builders			
Drawn By Robert Good			DRAWING NUMBER #0187



Drawings are shown about one-third inch to the foot scale; for "O" Ga. scale the size of the model will be about 3/4 the size shown; for "HO" Ga. the model will be approximately 3/8 of the size here reproduced. For "S" gauge (3/16" = 1 Ft.) the model will be about one-half the size here shown.

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