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ALWAYS FRESH

MAGAZINE

NUMBER ONE

R.I.P.

IZ THE WIZ

1958-2009



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly out-of-focus shot of several colorful highlighters. The colors include orange, blue, yellow, green, and pink. The highlighters are arranged in a way that they appear to be scattered or overlapping, creating a vibrant and textured background.

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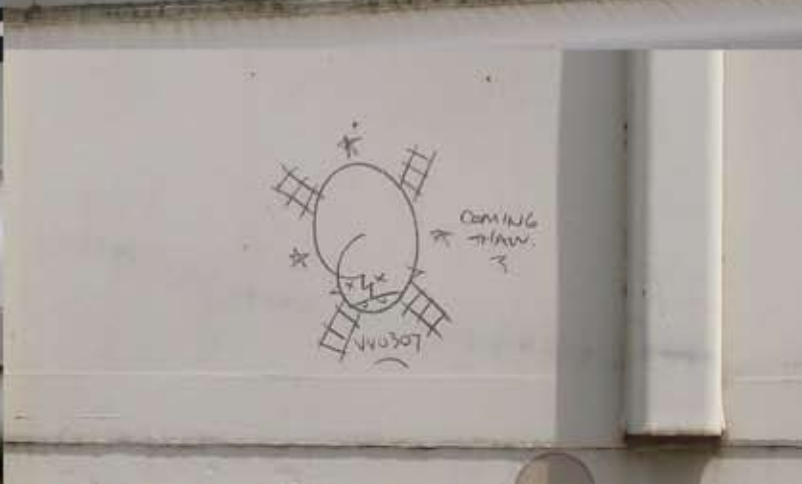
Vol. 1

Hecho Interview.....	pg. 07
Guts Interview.....	pg. 09
Aint Nothin But Paint Huffin.....	pg. 12
Horus Interview.....	pg. 16
Zeus Interview.....	pg. 20
Flicks.....	pg. 23
FR8s.....	pg. 27
Coloring Page.....	pg. 31

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HECHO

Interview by DJ K-FLiP

What do you write?

Hecho.

Where are you from?

St. Catharines Ontario. Im living in Lima, Peru at the moment.

Where did the inspiration for your name come from?

Hecho ("eh/cho") means done or made, in Spanish. I started with it when I was down in Chile... it sorta sums up my attitude when i finish something on a wall; "Yup, its done, just get on with it". it feels good to write it under something i've just done... gives it a kind of finality.

How long have you been writing?

On and off for like 7 years now. Painting way more consistently the last 2 i'd say.

How did you get into graff?

Ahahahaha jocking the RC crew like everyone else from that period in St.Catharines!

What was your earliest experience with graffiti?

Checking out Able and Die-bold stuff behind St. Paul street. I remember they painted a KARMA piece with a big happy Buddah beside it...then walking to Thoth and being all like 'whys it called thoth, guys? guys?' (It's a pretty cultish story...but kids from St. Catharines will get it at least.)

What was your own personal first time like?

Cold and windy in that nasty mid-winter sorta way. i think it was like -26 or something ridiculous. freezing my ass off, painting drippy red stock cap tags with one of those small krylon cans. Hahaha I had this giant, stupid mowhawk that made things even colder, because i was too stubborn to put it under a touque. I was totally jocking the RC crew - like I said - while they painted a production. I remember I walked away with my hands completely destroyed.

How would you describe you local scene?

Kids bomb a lot in Lima, I suppose. A lot of tags and chrome. There are also some really freaky writers who are making wicked transitions between the art world and the graff world...building nutty funhouses and sculptures; they still find time to destroy stuff in the street though. I like that.

Do you prefer bombing, piecing or freights?

I've just about always painted characters. Not to say i dont have huge respect for bombing...but I feel like I gotta lot to learn about the simple, fast stuff. Its something I really wanna work on in the future.





Who would be some of your influences?

Elicsr definitely...from the outset. I remember going to TO as a kid, some of my first times alone and seeing his stuff on the street...before that I don't think it even registered with me that you could paint characters on a wall. Then there's obviously the people who took the time to school me a bit as I was starting out...I think a lot of my can technique comes from hours watching Guts outline his shit. These days I get influenced by just about everything...trying to keep my eyes as open as possible...

Other artists your currently digging?

I'm really feeling the dudes who hand paint the lettering on all the city busses here in Lima...that sort of straight up super clean artisan talent is really hard to find in North America I think.

Do you have any crazy stories?

I just got back from doing indigenous drugs in the jungle. That was pretty crazy.

Do you prefer legal or illegal walls?

I dunno. Its hard to say. In Lima it's hard to get quality stuff on the street without asking permission first, but its not like you gotta do much more than knock on peoples doors. In Canada I always painted illegal, or without permission, but I didn't paint nearly half of what I wanted to.

What are your aesthetics for open space?

I'm always looking for little corners, spaces in between doors and walls, etc. Since I paint characters its easier to fit things into small areas...but these days I'm pretty open. I think more than anything else I'm trying to learn how my stuff interacts with the stuff around it. There are a few masters of that kinda intervention...Os Gemeos come immediately to mind, for example.

What would you want to say to everyone reading?

Ahaha not a clue...

Any shout-outs?

Shiit man I dunno...too many people....if you're doing your thing and you're doing it well then you've got my respect, so you should insert your name here _____.

What do you write?

Let me take the time to answer that correctly... Big Guts One, reppin' RC, BH & NWK.

Where are you from?

Ontario, originally.. I reside in the west though...

Can you break down what RC, BH & NWK stand for?

Ruthless Crimes, Booze Hounds & North West Kings...

Where did the inspiration for your name come from?

It's a long story really... but when I was doing even worse than I am now... years back.. it just kind of came to me as a descriptive word for what I do..

How long have you been writing?

I guess.. let me see now... 11 years.

How did you get into graffiti?

It's my favourite thing to do... you know... as soon as I got a hold of it... it was like artwork... like I'm working on a painting right now, in my backyard... so I mean I've been doing art forever... and when I found this.. it was the best alternative...

What's your earliest experience with graffiti?

I don't know... probably like 10 years old... 9 years old... seeing it in Toronto... driving down the Q.E.W. used to love that...

What was your own personal experience like? Your own personal first time?

Shit man... I was nervous as hell... I didn't really know what to expect, and it turned out real bad... cause I had no experience... or control with the medium as well... so... yeaah...

How would you describe your local scene?

Dead, and, or dying? (Laughs)

Do you prefer bombing, piecing or freights?

All of the above

Do you have any influences?

Yeah... my environment!

Any artists you're currently digging?

I'd have to say European and Central American kids are really killing it right now... I don't know... that's some of my favourite new shit

What do you want to say to everyone reading?

I mean if your thinking about... ya know... getting into this... it's not a joke... like it's 100% or else you'll fall off within the first 3 years... so just know what you're getting into... and take it for real!





Any shout-outs?

Yeah just... what up to you (K-FLiP)... DJ Grip... ya know... all my homies in Ontario... obviously my crew... all of em... and yeah... that's about it man...





AIN'T NOTHING BUT PAINT

HUFFIN TORONTO '09

Photos by: Nick Wons







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HORUS

Interview by Big Daddy Def

What do you write?

HORUS, but I used to write WYMP alot.

What crew(s) are you in?

I've never been a big crew type guy, but I've been reppin OG- Old Guns- for a year and a bit now. I used to drop TCC a lot more, but we don't really paint much anymore, shout out to SADER and FATHOM, out there doing their thing!

Where are you from?

I was born in Nova Scotia, but raised in Ontario, pretty much all the burbs north along Yonge St. until I finally ended up living Downtown Toronto in 97/98 - that's when I really got serious about painting and getting up.

When did you first start doing graffiti? and what made you want to start?

There was a summer around mid 95 maybe? I was living with some friends north of Toronto. Me and my buddies started going out and painting some toy ass tag style pieces and logo type stuff..no caps, just Canadian Tire stocks and fans. We'd blaze and get stupid high on paint fumes and just bug out over the pictures of our pieces the next week. Eventually I took a summer off from school and moved to Toronto, went to a lot of raves, and spent a lot of nights awake, either drawing or painting. I guess living in the downtown core during 97-99 was a good place to be, lots of dudes were getting up, College and Spadina were always fresh-So being around it all just made me more hype to get better and it's never stopped.

Explain your name?

Horus-(from wikipedia)

Horus is one of the oldest and most significant of the deities in the Ancient Egyptian religion who was worshipped from at least the late Predynastic period through to Greco-Roman times. Different forms of Horuses are recorded in history and these are treated as distinct gods by Egyptologists.[1] These various forms may possibly be different perceptions of the same multi-layered deity in which certain attributes or syncretic relationships are emphasized, not necessarily in opposition but complementary to one another, consistent with how the Ancient Egyptians viewed the multiple facets of reality.[2] The earliest recorded form is Horus the Falcon who was the patron deity of Nekhen in Upper Egypt and who is the first known national god, specifically related to the king who in time became to be regarded as a manifestation of Horus in life and Osiris in death.[1] The most commonly encountered family relationship describes Horus as the son of Isis and Osiris but in another tradition Hathor is regarded as his mother and sometimes as his wife.[1] Horus served many functions in the Egyptian pantheon, most notably being the god of the sky and god of war.

I never thought of any of that when I chose the name, to me the symbol of the single eye has been a thing repeated in my art subconsciously for as long as I can remember holding a pen. I tattooed an eye of horus on my arm about a month before trying to write with it as my tag. At the time I was writing WYMP/WIMP - writing is my passion, whats your master plan. WYMP was my way of defaming myself when I was starting out. I knew I was toy, and didn't feel like running around dropping some loudface handle, I used to love the irony of it, but eventually I felt like I was getting bored with the letter structure I had eventually evolved with those letters. When I started looking at my new ink and saw the symmetry in the word HORUS, and I was inspired to break out some next level pieceing and rep my name a little harder, so at the 416 expo in 2002 I think?..I painted my first Horus piece, and started painting only from sketches for the next year or so to get tighter at reproducing what was in my blackbook.





How often do you paint?

I wish I could paint more, lets say that I'm down to maybe 6 burners in a year, but also 5-10 paid mural type walls plus maybe 20 canvases a year. I recently moved out to Vancouver, and the scene here has put a damper on my ability to go rock a wall without travel or a lot of planning. I'm looking forward to coming back to Toronto and getting a lot more wildstyle pieces put up in 2010.

Whats your local graffiti scene like?

Right now Vancouver is local, and it feels pretty restrictive about public art and its content being approved of by the community. There is a scene here, and there's some talented kids as well as some really sick old school kats, but it's not easy to find large productions or graff walls compared to Toronto or Montréal. Van's scene is underground – For better or worse.

I've painted a few walls out on Vancouver Island, with Hype and Loves, they got a wild country style thing goin on out there..I painted at a wall where there was a deer one day, the wall was basically sided to a busy highway with nice visibility..wordup to Hype for hooking that spot up.

My other painting grounds would be Toronto, I love Toronto and how easy it is to paint, writers there are serious about their craft, and so many dudes are at the top of Canada's talent pool. Crews are doing sick productions legal and illegal, and the bombing never stops.

Where has your art taken you?

Graffiti for me started as small little wannabe burners in concrete golf tunnels, I got into doing mad stickers, then a lot of blackbook drawing. The blackbook work eventually turned into paintings and selling them, or doing commissions, as I painted more I got more professional gigs. Everything has snowballed from just drawing and painting, to now I am coordinating and curating public art events and graff expo-type stuff. The legal stuff has turned into a full time gig , it may make it hard to do a nice burner now and then, but It also puts a roof over my head and constantly challenges me to paint beyond just letters and wildstyle. I pretty much keep busy with some kind of art every day, it's been a journey and it's far from over.

What other artists are you digging?

Retna. That dude blows my mind.. A lot of the MSK stuff is just so dirty I want to vomit. Their hustle is tight too, getting paid all over, but keeping the art at the top of the game without a doubt.

(<http://digitalretna.com>)

In Canada, HSA is always up to something super strong, the Keele wall usually kings the city. Montreal has some really sick piecers too, even though they get branded a bombing pool, some of their productions are international quality for sure.

Share a crazy graffiti story with us?

There's been a lot of good ones. Painting with Fathom for a few winters, (yes winters) we'd invariably get into some kind of near miss with a cruiser and the donut machines inside. We got lucky a lot of times, but eventually every rat gets caught up. One time I did get away, I was painting a little storage shed in a park downtown Toronto. It was winter, and I was hunched down dropping a two colour fill, two letter throwup. The spot was nicely concealed off to





the side of the park, but its a spot that gets a lot of action in the area nearby, so I probably should have been more on point. Anyways, I'm just finishing up when I notice a cruiser creeping ever so slowly through the park. The fucked part was this park doesn't really have a road, just a wide walkway, but these law enforcers were just creeping along in the snow banks anyway, so when I looked up and saw them I was like "oh shit, what the fuck..they can't drive here." so I crouched down into the shadows and it rolled past and dropped onto the street nearby, like 30 feet away. Then they rolled back and popped up the spotlight on me, I jumped up and booked the opposite direction and all I could hear was the revving engine of that Caprice accented by screeching as it hard broke around the corner coming to intercept me. I ducked into the first driveway and ran into the back cellar stairwell. I was gone in 30 seconds and as I dropped into that stairwell, I heard the car right in front of the house, at the mouth of the park entrance...I think the Moon God was with me that night cuz it served as a dark perfect bunker for me while I sat for about 30 minutes listening to that car track back and forth in the area hunting on me. My only savior was the cold night, I banked on that cop not getting out to foot track me I was so high on adrenaline I couldn't feel the cold, but I knew my toes were getting stiff..eventually I had the most paranoid creep walk home alone..getting home was such a relief, and that hit stayed up for months, I think it lasted till summer at least, so I saw it and have always gotten a chill when I think about sitting there with that cruiser just furiously revving and braking as the tried to find me. The night we hit the Mr. Pongs Rooftop and Two of our 3 man group got arrested...that was a funny one, up till the jailtime... There were a lot of nights like that, such killer near misses, the rush, the relief of getting away....If it doesn't give you chills, yer probably doing it wrong.

Future plans?

I'm in the process of moving back to Toronto right now, which means wrapping up current projects, commissions, murals etc. When I get back to T.O. I'll be doing some graff event work, and beginning an apprenticeship at a friends tattoo shop. I'm pretty stoked to try tattooing, it's going to take my illustration to a next level and really be something that pushes me to get a lot better at everything..

Since I don't get to paint so much anymore I'm trying to pour all my energy into art and make it something sustainable so I can live the dream.

Words of wisdom?

The proof is in the paint. You gotta give respect to get respect.

Shoutouts?

HOLLA to OG Crew, Star, Belo Liks, Law, Ment...Hype, Loves, Demoe, Sper27, Pestoe, SueMe, Mitch @ third, Fathom, Sight, Sader, Cruz, Elicsr, Vlad, Uberto, Bad Idea, Big SHOUT to Tusko and his family! Local daps to Girl23, and Ekons for making an impact of Vancouver's street art scene. As well my SGC brothers who've put up with me for the last year..These are the guys who were with me at the start of it all, and after almost 15 years I've had the chance to get tight with them again...Like a phoenix from the ashes we got product in the works and no time like the present. Last shout out to manifesTO crew. I'll be working with them this summer. Putting on some big cultural exhibits so keep an ear out for that, HUGE things comin up fast!



Check out HORUS on the Web !
<http://p4design.onsugar.com>
<http://blackbook.onsugar.com/>
<http://horus.them.ca>

vandalwear.com



ZEUS

Interview by DJ K-FLiP

What do you write?

ZEUS ONE

What is your earliest memory of graffiti?

Grade 4...someone came to school...and someone painted up my basketball wall...I been into it ever since then man...

When did you start writing graffiti

I started probably around 92...but I didn't get into cans till 2001.

What about your own personal first experience? What was that like?

Markers...big fat jerky markers...my buddy stealing a can of gold paint.

Who would be some of your influences?

Definitely BACON...just all the way around...he spent alot of time showing me some stuff...he's always a cool kat. KWEST for freights...

What's your personal favorite thing to paint?

I Like freights...I like painting all by myself in the middle of nowhere...and just crushing it...5-6 hours...

How would you describe your local scene?

Where I live I'm theres only myself and AKRIS writing now...I used to live in the city...lived out here for a long time...now I just go out... and I...not really local...I just jump in my car & go... I like that better...

Do you have any personal favorite spots that you've hit?

Personal favorites...me & SPUD did a roller hit down over at the train tracks at Dufferin and it's still riding & it's high...it's probably one of Toronto's highest ones...biggest ones...TRIK is definitely the king of that shit...but I got one up there that's nice that's still alive...so it's good!

Do you have any crazy stories?

Yeah lots... I fell off the wall on the D.V.P...







Ouch.. What kind of injuries resulted from that?

A big stiff back the next day...I was too drunk to even remember...Umm...I got chased up on some rooftops in London...back in like 94...got chased like in Juice! (Laughs)

Do you prefer Legal or Illegal?

I like illegal walls...as long as I pick a wall that I can work at...I like taking my time...I got into graffiti to get really good at it...not just to be a bomber...in the beginning it was bombing...but I don't drink anymore...so bombing is not the same...my leg shakes...it doesn't look as good...I like taking my time...I like being in a good spot...that's why I like freights...that's why I like bridges...that's why I like roller hits!

What would you want our readers to know about you?

Umm...gonna keep going strong...wether it's graffiti or art...graffiti started off a whole bunch of realms for me...tattooing...air brushing...umm... as I get older I wanna do other stuff...I don't have time to be out bombing & wrecking the streets all the time...I still love to go paint & hit freights...but..for wrecking my future...and trying to make a name for myself on the streets...it's not really worth it..I rather just get good & make lots of money instead.

Do you have any beefs?

I don't have any now...but I have had in the past, that's for sure...at one point in time...every time I put something up, people kept going over me...and then, eventually my style got better & people started leaving my stuff alone...but still man... people gotta know the rules man...tags...bombs...burners...don't be going over my shit some little bubble bomb on some fucking burner shit...

Do you have any shout-outs?

Naw...nobody in graff propley shoutin me out..but ya know...one love to AKRIS, SPUD, BACON, FATHOM...umm all the cats that helped me over the years...in good ways or bad ways...ART CHILD...all the cats...





FLICKS







Photo: DefOne



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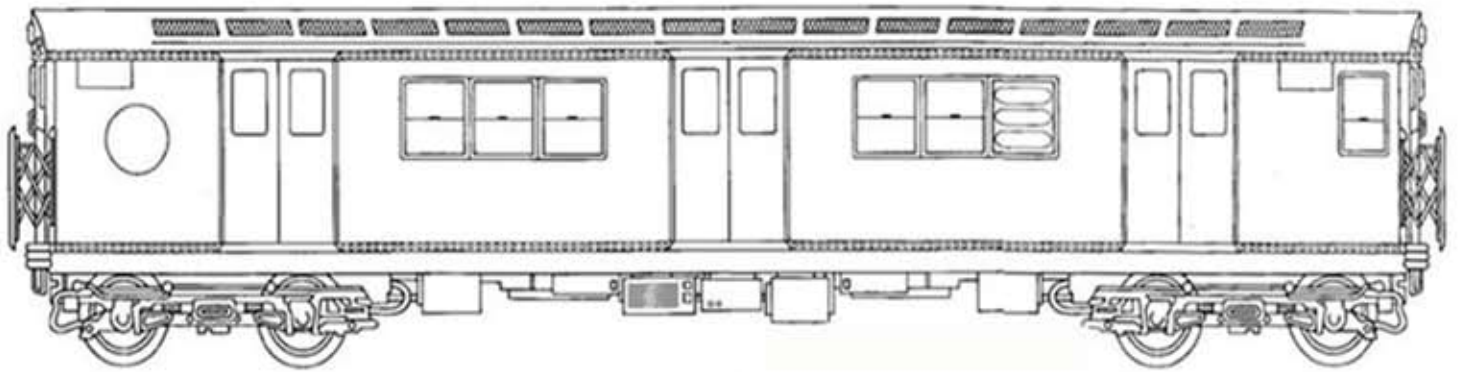
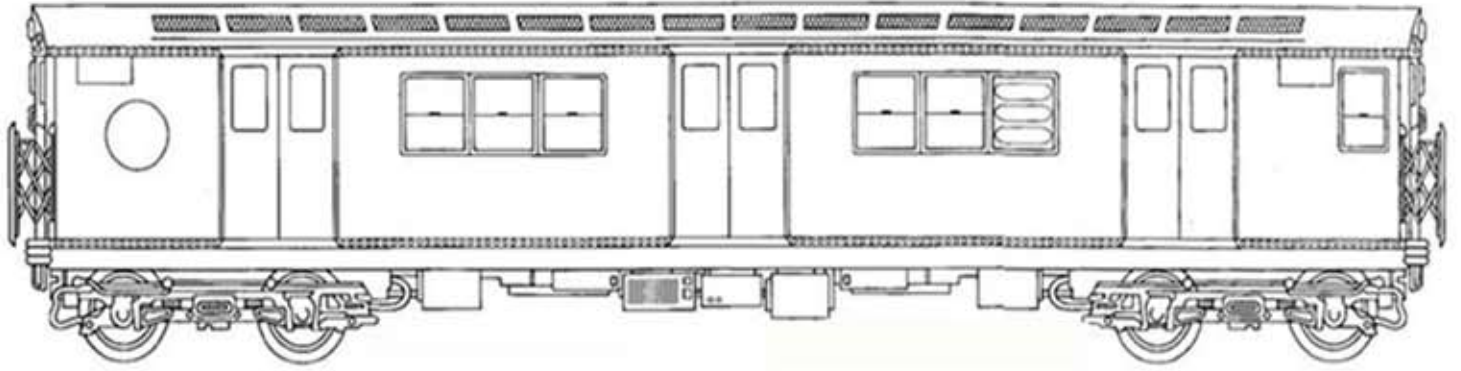
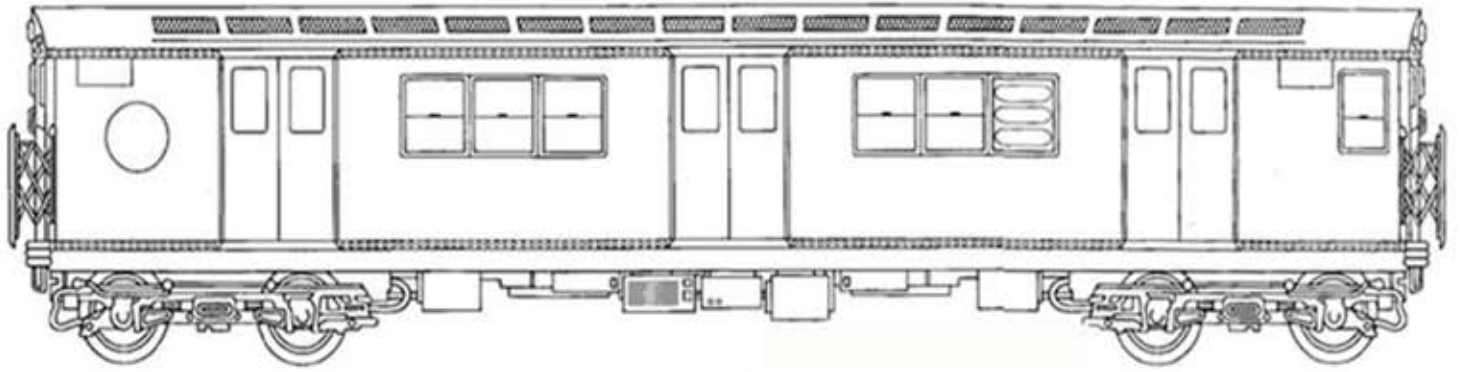
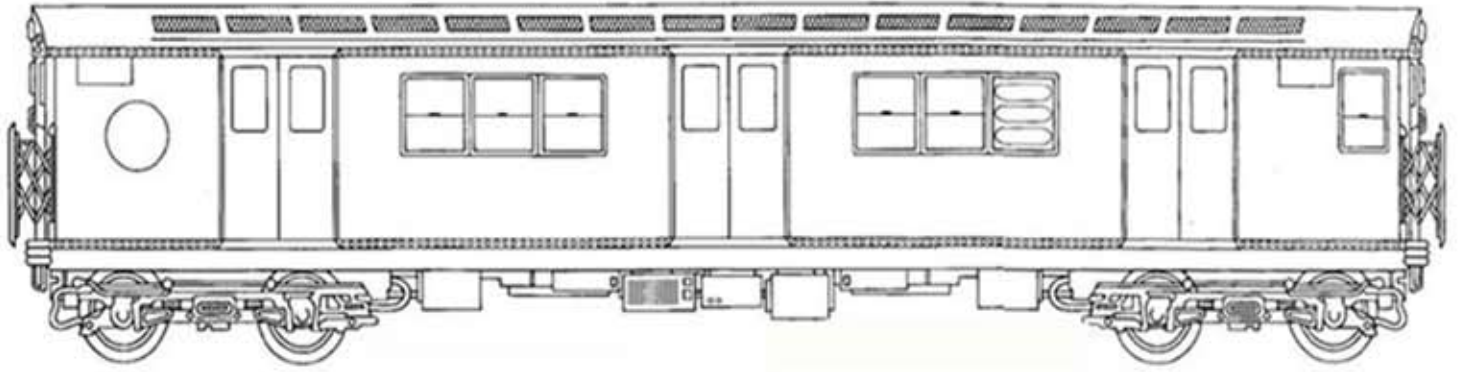












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