

Instead of the standard four-cycle car card system, the majority of layouts in the Rockford area use a somewhat unique car card system, sometimes called the "Rockford Standard", sometimes called the "Frese" card, but generally referred to as the "checkbox card". But it is similar to the standard 4-cycle car card, and the same routing rules apply.

The diagram shows a 'checkbox card' with the following fields and arrows:

- Car Color** (orange arrow) points to the 'Tuscan' field.
- Road Number** (blue arrow) points to the '16603' field.
- Road Name** (green arrow) points to the 'XM' field.
- Car Type** (purple arrow) points to the 'Dunston' field.
- Destination** (red arrow) points to the 'Clean Out Prior to Departure' field.

The card contains the following text:

**CC&S 16603**  
**XM Tuscan**

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**XM Dunston 1**

Rte: South  
Via: Champaign/Fairview Turn  
To: Dunston IL  
Swanson Elevator  
From: Champaign IL  
CC&S Yard  
Contents: Empty  
Clean Out Prior to Departure

Boxcar 40'	CC&S	16603	Tuscan
DUN - Swanson Elev.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CHA - Frese Milling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CHI - Wonder Bakery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CHA - U.I. Warehouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CHA - Freight House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
FVW - Freight House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
PAD - Freight House	9/1		
CHI - U.I. Warehouse	10/2		
HER - Garnhart Grain			
CHA - Frese Milling			
CHI - Wonder Bakery			

As in the above illustration, both types of car card include basic car information such as car type, road name, road number, and car color. Some additional information may be included as needed. The major difference is with the destination. On the four-cycle card, only the current destination is visible. On the checkbox card, all of the destinations are visible. The car is simply destined for the next unchecked location (in the illustration above, that destination is "HER - Garnhart Grain"). Once the car is delivered to that destination, the operator either checks the box, enters the session number (as in "9/1", the first session of September), or enters the date in 'month/day' form. Then the card is put into the appropriate card box, just as with a four-cycle card. Once the last destination in the column has been reached (in the illustration above: "CHI-Wonder Bakery"), the car will then be destined for the first line in the next column (in the picture above: "DUN-Swanson Elev."). For ease of routing, some layout owners have started to use milepost numbers in addition to, or instead of town names or town codes (I.E. "HER" stands for "Herrick, IL").