

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part XI

by Bill Button



1890 Denver & Rio Grande 4-6-2 Steam Locomotive with Die-cast Tender

Every ten years the LCCA offers a locomotive to head the previous decade of convention cars which then completes an LCCA Convention Car Train Set. For the 20th anniversary the Denver & Rio Grande Western Steam Locomotive was selected. The 1990 LCCA convention was held in Fort Collins, Colorado.

This 4-6-2 Denver & Rio Grande steam locomotive and die-cast tender features smoke, magntraction[®], operating headlight and RailSounds[™]. The boiler is die-cast and is a Baldwin Hudson shell, which Lionel originally produced as the 685 and 2055 in 1953. The prototype of this loco was designed for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad by the Baldwin

Locomotive Works based on the Hudson type "3460" series locomotives. The boiler front and the area surrounding the boiler just past the smokestack are painted silver, while the rest of the boiler is painted dull black. Underneath the headlight on the boiler front, is the "1990" number board in white. The lettering "1990 LCCA" under the cab window, the sides of the running boards and the wheel rims are white.

The boiler uses the standard metal handrails and ornamental whistle and bell. This locomotive uses the 8900 series steam motor assembly, which is an updated version of the original 2055.

The die-cast tender uses the old pre-war 2224-T style shell along

with the standard six wheel trucks. The tender body is painted dull black and has wire handrails. Lettering is white. The LCCA souvenir notation "LCCA 20th ANNIVERSARY 1970-1990" appears on the rear side.

Although a 1990 appears on the locomotive, Lionel assigned it the number 6-18090. A special instruction sheet lists this locomotive as an LCCA item.

A 6-5906 RailSounds[™] activation button is included. Operators should note that this loco is wired the reverse of other RailSounds[™] locos. Reverse the tender to loco plug to get the whistle button to activate the whistle instead of the bell.

1,866 locos were produced.



17880 Denver & Rio Grande Western Wood-sided Caboose with High Cupola

The caboose body is a type II molded in black plastic and painted a dull black. The body sides and ends are wood-scribed and the roof is smooth except for the catwalk which is wood grained. There are two marker lights, one on each side on the cupola end. This matches prototype. A close examination of the body reveals faint traces of lines where the die was plugged to eliminate the two front marker light holes and shelves. A type II body normally has four marker lights, like the 6907 NYC and 6920 B&A. A look at the the large body window insert shows that there are four arms that extend from the center to each corner, with each corner having a hole for a red marker light to fit into. These red marker lights

are the same ones that are used on the NC5 caboose. The window insert is clear plastic. A frosted area under the cupola reduces the glare of the illumination into the cupola and directs more light toward the two marker lights. The high cupola is black plastic painted dull black and snaps into place with its own small clear plastic window insert. The cupola has four black plastic handrails that fit into the roof.

The herald and lettering are white and the convention souvenir notation reads "LCCA 20th Annual Convention, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 27-29, 1990". The caboose has a built date of 1-90 and the famous D&RGW herald *Royal Gorge Route* on the side.

The platforms and steps are

part of the frame and molded in black plastic. The detailing on the underside is also molded in. The handrails, brakewheels and smokestack are black plastic.

Originally Lionel assigned the number 17608, but later changed it to 17880. The reason for this change was that the 17600 series is for Lionel's Standard 'O' cabooses and the 17870 to 17899 numbers are for special club cars, like the LCCA.

Lionel has produced only two other all black cabooses, the PC 9172 and N&W 9182.

This caboose completes the LCCA 1980's second decade train set. This set is sure to become a collector classic and is becoming harder to find.

2,785 cabooses were made.