

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway

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This 'O' Scale layout portrays the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway's Three Foot Gauge service in Colorado from Denver to Durango (450 miles) and then on to Silverton (a further 45 miles) plus the branch from Durango to Farmington in New Mexico (50 miles) run here as a Colorado & Southern operation. The date is 1905 which was at the peak of goods and ore transportation for the precious metals (mainly silver) mining industry in Colorado. The layout is set around Durango and its silver ore smelter. The model layout has 1.25 scale miles of track with 34 switches ('points') and a turntable. Electric Dual Cab Control enables any two locomotives to be run at the same time. The daily train schedule at Durango showing arrivals and departures is set out overleaf. The full timetable can be seen on request.

Trains featured are (a) the Durango/Denver Mails (including Pullman cars), (b) the Durango/Silverton Accommodations and (c) the Durango/Farmington Flyers. In between are Way Freights to and from Alamosa and Chama (between Durango and Denver), metallic ores brought down from Silverton for smelting, coal for the smelter from the Durango City Coal Mine just south of Durango, lumber from the Posta forests for the Durango Sawmills, and livestock movements (sheep from Silverton, beef and horses from Farmington, and hogs from east of Denver). There is beer from Denver, a host of domestic and industrial goods, plus special charters and railroad maintenance work. The layout features period passenger and freight rolling stock as well as maintenance items such as a wagon-mounted crane, two snow plows for the winter and some dump trucks for distributing ballast and rock for track work.

Since the last Show there are 3 more Box Cars for freight haulage – one each for the Rio Grande and the Colorado & Southern plus one for the Nobel Corporation for transporting explosives safely from its Denver facility to the mines at Silverton.

The all-steam locomotive register totals 13 (2 x Porter 0-4-0 Switchers, 1 x Porter 0-4-2 Switcher, 1 x 2-4-4 Forney Tank, 7 x 2-6-0 Moguls and the Colorado Mining Company's 28 Ton Climax and 14 Ton Shay geared locomotives for coal and lumber haulage respectively).

New for this Show there are now steam sounds to accompany the running of the locomotives. You can hear the Conductor call 'All Aboard' as well as bells, steam whistles, squealing brakes and clanging couplings not to mention coal being shovelled, compressed air blowing off and a host of other locomotive noises.

If you would like to drive a locomotive then please ask the Engineer Staff and they will show you how to drive using a mobile controller. If you are new to model railways the Club hopes that driving today will encourage you to take up railway modelling as a lifelong hobby - one from which you can derive much enjoyment as well as acquiring new friends and the skills for construction and operation of a layout.

Please feel free to give advice and ask questions – your interest will be appreciated.

Thank you, John Feltham (Member of Gosport American Model Railroad Group)