

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 approximately 1.5 scale miles of track with 38 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). There is beer from Denver, a host of domestic and industrial goods, plus charters and maintenance work. There is period passenger and freight rolling stock as well as items such as a crane, snow plows and several dump trucks used for distributing ballast and rock for track maintenance work.

Since the last Show in May an extension for Farmington and Silverton has been constructed. This completes the trackwork for this layout – construction and fitting out has thus taken about two years overall. An additional High Sided Gondola (4438) has arrived to convey coal to Durango, along with 3 Skeleton Log Cars (17,18 & 19) for transporting lumber from the Posta logging site to the Sawmills at Durango.

The all-steam locomotive register totals 13 (2 x Porter 0-4-0 coal fired Switchers, 1 x Porter 0-4-2 wood burning Switcher, 1 x 2-4-4 Forney coal fired Tank, 7 x 2-6-0 coal fired Moguls and the Colorado Mining Company's 28 Ton coal fired Climax and 14 Ton wood burning Shay – both of which are geared locomotives for coal and lumber haulage respectively). A system is installed to provide steam locomotive sounds such as whistles, bells, braking, coupling up, and steam exhaust and blow off noises.

If you would like to drive a locomotive then please ask the Engineer Staff and they will show you how to use 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 of your own.

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 and the Solent Sub-Division of the National Model Railroad Association (USA))