



# Locomotives: The Modern Diesel and Electric Reference

By Greg McDonnell

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*"This new oversize, full color book is the 'Diesel Spotter's Guide' on steroids. . . . After you get locomotives, you'll WANT to go out and see what's new!"*  
-- Railfan and Railroad

*"This is a field guide that is also elegant, so my advice is this: Buy two copies, and toss one in your car, and put the other one on your coffee table."*  
-- Trains

This remarkable large-format reference is the essential photographic reference to modern North American locomotives. **Locomotives** covers all mainline models built for North American railroads from the mid-1970s onward, from EMD Dash 2s and GE Dash 7s to the latest 70 Series and Evolution Series models, as well as Green Goats, Gensets and mainline passenger electric-powered locomotives.

Containing nearly 300 photographs of the more than 120 locomotive models from every locomotive manufacturer, this is the definitive reference for the North American rail fan. Greg McDonnell provides concise yet comprehensive information on each model, along with easy-to-read tables of production totals, build dates and mechanical specifications.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

Diesel spotting seemed to be a whole lot easier back in the mid-1960s when we were kids watching New York Central trains at Town Line in Dearborn.... Of course train watching at Town Line has changed rather dramatically since then and identifying diesels isn't as easy as it once was.... This up-to-date diesel and electric locomotive guide book picks up where Louis A. Marre's book, *Diesel Locomotives: The First 50 Years*, leaves off. With a few exceptions, all of the latest locomotive offerings that can be found operating in North America are covered in this information-packed volume by noted author Greg McDonnell.... Like the first *Diesel Spotters Guide*, this book is the best contemporary locomotive reference guide available from any source. (David J. Mrozek *The Michigan Railfan Vol. 72 No. 1 Issue 696*)

### About the Author

**Greg McDonnell** is the author of 10 books on a wide range of transportation subjects and a professional photojournalist for railroad publications in the United States and Canada. He received the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society's Fred A. and Jane R. Stindt Photography Award for significant contribution to the photographic interpretation of North America's railroading history. He lives in Cambridge, Ontario.

**Jerry A. Pinkepank** is the author of the original *Diesel Spotters Guide* and founder of the diesel locomotive news magazine *Extra 2200 South*. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### WHAT ARE THESE DIESELS?

The headline appeared on a full-page ad in the February 1967 issue of *Trains* magazine and with it, a photograph and a promise. The photo was a Don Wood image of Pennsylvania Railroad Alcos, Baldwins, EMDs and FMs of every imaginable shape and size crowding the shop tracks in Altoona, Pa. The promise? "Just a glance through the all-new *Diesel Spotter's Guide* and you'll know their makers, model numbers, wheel arrangements, and horsepower." The first all-encompassing guide to North American diesels, Jerry A. Pinkepank's 304-page manual was, for diesel fans, just what the doctor ordered.

For a kid in school, filling the prescription was another matter. Money was always in short supply, and there were Beatle albums to buy and 45s and film and *Trains* magazine. It was a big day when the package marked with a Kalmbach "K" and a 1027 North 7th Street return address arrived in the mail. Pinkepank made good on the publisher's promise. In the pulp pages behind a glossy color cover adorned with the faces of SOO GP35 722, L and N C420 1306 and Santa Fe U28CG 358, the *Diesel Spotter's Guide* told all, from the oft-disputed difference between a GP7 and a GP9 to a detailed description of the Alco Blunt truck, to spotting details and production totals for everything from the Baldwin AS16 to the GE U50. It was the best three dollars and fifty cents I ever spent.

Forty years and half a dozen editions of the *Spotter's Guide* later, locomotives and railroading have changed immeasurably. The three units that graced the cover of the original DSG have long ago been scrapped, and

the railroads that owned them have been swallowed up in mergers; GE, still considered a newcomer in the road-diesel trade when the first *Diesel Spotter's Guide* hit the stands, has been the number one locomotive builder in North America for more than 20 years ... and three dollars and fifty cents will buy a good cup of coffee.

Railroading, nevertheless, remains as exciting as ever, and the fascination of locomotives is undiminished by the consolidation of the continent's major railroads into a handful of supersystems. Through it all, Kalmbach and authors Jerry A. Pinkepank and Louis A. Marre maintained the standard established in 1967 with continuously updated versions of the diesel reference book known to generations of locomotive fans as simply "the *DSG*." This book aims to uphold the standard and honor the tradition of the *Diesel Spotter's Guide*.

This book picks up new locomotive production where Louis Marre's *Diesel Locomotives: The First 50 Years* (Kalmbach 1995) leaves off and updates the information first published in *The Field Guide to Modern Diesel Locomotives* (Kalmbach 2002). However, its starting point is not a single date. Electro-Motive coverage begins with the 1972 introduction of the Dash 2 series and all models cataloged at that time. This includes the SW1000, SW1001 and SW1500, switcher models that predate the Dash 2 but remained in production beyond 1972. General Electric coverage begins with the Dash 7 series, introduced in 1977. Wabtec's MotivePower Inc., along with its Morrison Knudsen/MK Rail/Boise Locomotive group predecessors, which began building locomotives at Boise, Idaho, in 1991, is also included, along with Alstom's Hornell, N.Y.-built PL42s, RailPower's hybrid Green Goats and the latest genset switchers from National Railway Equipment Co., RailPower Technologies Corp., MotivePower Inc., as well as locomotives from Brookville Equipment and ACS64 electrics from Siemens.

The scope of this volume has been broadened to include electric passenger locomotives currently in service on the Northeast Corridor. The limited number of electric freight locomotives, none of which are presently in common carrier service in North America, are not included. Electric locomotives built between 1972 and December 31, 1988, are included in Marre and Pinkepank's *Contemporary Diesel Spotter's Guide* (Kalmbach 1989).

Although the production of MLW-Bombardier falls within the chronological coverage of this volume, the fact that none of the company's locomotives remain in service on Class 1 railroads (in fact, very few remain in service in North America at all) precludes inclusion here. Pre-1977 GE U-series "U-boat" models are excluded for the same reason. Although a small number of U-series GEs do survive in the employ of short lines, the last U-boat in service on a Class 1 railroad, CSXT U23B 3305, was retired in 2000. All of these models are, however, included in Marre's *Diesel Locomotives: The First 50 Years*.

Industrial locomotives and rebuilds are outside the realm of this book. However, a few exceptions have been made: EMD BL20-2s, GE Super 7 locomotives and several Morrison Knudsen/Boise Locomotive models constructed using the frame and some remanufactured components from retired locomotives are included here. While convention dictates that a locomotive is defined by its frame, the aforementioned models are essentially new locomotives constructed on a recycled platform. By the same premise, Green Goats and genset locomotives built on reconditioned frames are likewise included. From a trackside perspective, they fall quite squarely within the mandate of this book and its goal to help answer that perennial question: What are these diesels ... and electrics?

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Lewis Wood:**

The book Locomotives: The Modern Diesel and Electric Reference has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

**David Gaytan:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside along with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like Locomotives: The Modern Diesel and Electric Reference which is obtaining the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's view.

**Shirley Vega:**

This Locomotives: The Modern Diesel and Electric Reference is completely new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information as it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having bit of digest in reading this Locomotives: The Modern Diesel and Electric Reference can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books build itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in guide form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is no in reading a book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book kind for your better life and knowledge.

**Dorothy Vinson:**

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