

# Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway

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The 7mm ('0') Scale layout portrays the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway's Three Foot Gauge service from Denver to Durango and onto Silverton, as well as the Durango to Farmington Branch run as a Colorado & Southern operation for variety. The time period is 1900 to 1905 at the peak of goods transportation. The model scene is primarily set at Durango and its precious metals (chiefly silver) smelter. The layout has around a scale '0' gauge mile (125 feet) of 16.5mm narrow gauge track plus 29 switches and a manually operated turntable. Electrically the layout is run under dual cab control which enables two locomotives to be operational at any given moment. The Durango daily schedule of train arrivals and departures is set out overleaf.

Trains featured are the Durango/Denver Mails (including a Denver Federal Mint bullion car to carry silver to Denver), the Durango/Silverton Accommodations and the Durango/Farmington Flyers. In between are way freights to and from Alamosa and Chama, ores from Silverton, coal for the smelter and locomotives from the Durango City Coal Mine at Carbon Junction, lumber from the Posta forests for the Durango Sawmills with timber exports in all directions, livestock movements (sheep from Silverton, beef from Farmington, plus pigs from Iowa transferred at Denver to the narrow gauge – all destined for Durango's slaughterhouse), imports of beer from Denver, a host of domestic and industrial goods, and railroad maintenance work.

Construction of layout buildings has progressed overwinter – the American Smelting & Reduction Company's smelter at Durango is now complete. Durango Station and the Passenger Car Servicing Facility have been made. The RIP/Maintenance Facility is under construction. Other buildings required are the Locomotive Depot and its Coaling Facility, the Durango Sawmills Facility, the Stock Yard, and the Durango Freight Depot. In addition, a number of small sheds are required around the layout. Some ballasting work has been carried out by the smelter and the turntable.

Since the last Show in October four new locomotives have been delivered (a third Porter, in the shape of an 0-4-2 wood fired switcher, for Durango Sawmills as well as three 2-6-0 Moguls, numbers 17, 18, and 19, in Vanderbilt Black livery to cover way freight services to Chama and Alamosa on the Denver line plus services to and from Silverton). These additions bring the current steam locomotive register total to 11 (3x Porter Yard Switchers, 1 of which is wood-fired, 6 x Moguls, 1 x 28 Ton Climax and 1 x 14 Ton wood-fired Shay).

The passenger stock has been augmented with three Combines and the freight stock topped up with a mixture of Box Cars, Gondolas and Flat Cars. These additions enhance the comprehensive service already operated on the main line and over the Farmington Branch. Further additions to stock will be made as the layout progresses.

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

Thank you.

(John Feltham (Gosport American Model Railroad Group))