



D&RGW Steel Boxcars



In 1939, the Denver and Rio Grande, faced with a deteriorated fleet of rolling stock, began to purchase steel boxcars. They were 10'4" IH cars with 6' doors, 12 panel sides, elongated 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, solid side sills, Duryea underframe, AB brakes and cast side frame trucks. Inserted in the 1939 purchase were 100 cars with a 15' door opening. These 2500 cars refurbished the fleet and lasted for years. The cars defined the appearance of D&RGW boxcars during the late steam and well into the diesel era.

The entire fleet of new boxcars was built by Pressed Steel Car Co. in Pittsburgh PA. They benefited from light weight. The weight reduction came from two additional posts per side that allowed thinner steel side sheeting.

The first 400 cars with 6' doors arrived in 1939 with wood running boards. They were numbered 68000-399. The remaining 100 cars in the order had a 10'8" IH, 15' door opening and Apex running board. The left side had narrow panels with ACR rivets and the right side five panels with standard rivet pattern. These cars were designed for auto loading/grain service and received the numbers 65100-199.

The following year 500 6' door cars in the range 68400 to 68899 arrived. The first 400 cars had Apex running boards and the final 100 Blaw-Knox style. In 1941, another 500 6' door cars arrived and were

given the numbers 68900-69399. The running boards were 300 Apex style, followed by 150 Gypsum and 50 Morton style. All these first 1500 cars had Youngstown doors. Despite the wartime restrictions, another 500 in the range 69400-899 were built in 1942. All these cars had Superior doors. The first 250 cars had Apex running boards and the last 250 Gypsum style. All cars to this point had Ajax hand brakes.

Following the war, in 1945 and '46 the road received 500 cars with 3 1/2 over 4 improved Dreadnaught ends that became the 67500-999 series. These were divided. The first 250 came with Youngstown doors, Ajax hand brakes and Apex running boards. The last 250 cars came with Superior doors, Universal hand brakes and Gypsum running boards.

Until the late 1950s, the cars were boxcar brown with white lettering. They bore large D&RGW reporting marks and "Rio Grande" speed lettering on the right side.

The cars served well into the 1960s (there were 1684 cars in revenue service in 1965) and some lasted into the 1980s.

Sunshine kits are vacuum cast in gray urethane. Kits include all detailing parts (except trucks and couplers), decals and a steel roofwalk where applicable. Full instructions and a Prototype Data Sheet are included.

- ___ Kit#96.1 D&RGW 68000-399 12 panel steel box, Y'town dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, wood running board, white decals (1939-60s), \$40
- ___ Kit#96.2 D&RGW 68400-799, 68900-199 12 panel steel box, Y'town dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Apex r.b., white decals (1940-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.3 D&RGW 69200-69349 12 panel steel box, Y'town dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Gypsum r.b., white decals (1941-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.4 D&RGW 69350-69399 12 panel steel box, Y'town dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Morton r.b., white decals (1941-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.5 D&RGW 69400-69649 12 panel steel box, Super. dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Apex r.b., white decals (1942-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.6 D&RGW 69650-69899 12 panel steel box, Super. dr., 4/5 Dreadnaught ends, Gypsum r.b., white decals (1942-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.7 D&RGW 67500-67749 12 panel steel box, Y'town dr., 3/4 imp. Dreadnaught ends, Apex r.b., white decals (1945-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.8 D&RGW 67750-67999 12 panel steel box, Super. dr., 3/4 imp. Dreadnaught ends, Gypsum r.b., white decals (1945-60s), \$42
- ___ Kit#96.9 D&RGW 65100-65199 steel autobox, 15 ft. 3 section Y'town dr., 5/5 Dreadnaught ends, Apex r.b., white decals (1939-60s), \$44
- ___ Trucks TP 40 Black plastic cast side frame, non-sprung trucks with non-magnetic metal wheelsets, \$5

Name _____ Street _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Add \$4.00 for shipping per five kits in U.S. (MO residents add 7.6%), Canada \$15.88 for six kits

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