

Large Scale Models of DSP&P Locomotives

Part 2: The Delton DSP&P 2-6-6T Mason Bogies

E. R. (Ross) Crain



Builder's photo of DSP&P #15 "Breckenridge", courtesy Delton Locomotive Works

Delton Locomotive Works (DLW) of Delton, Michigan produced the first large scale brass models of DSP&P 2-6-6T Mason Bogies, in 1:24 "H" scale, in 1983-84. The models were patterned after DSP&P #15 "Breckenridge", the best known of the 14 "light" double truck locomotives that Mason Machine Works delivered to the DSP&P in 1879.

This was the first group of brass models manufactured by Delton, in conjunction with RichArt Company of California. It was offered only as an electric powered 12 volt DC version. As on the original, the model's power truck swivels under the boiler. The center drivers are blind and it has a small diamond smokestack matching the builder's photo.

A total of 189 models were built, 140 in a somewhat garish red and burgundy, which was claimed to "closely match the paint color of the original Breckenridge". I personally doubt this, but that is the story promoted in the DLW history in the hardcover reference book by Lenny Sloboda (Sloboda Publishing, Asstator, Florida). Of the remaining 49 models, 10 were delivered in naked brass, the remainder in 5 different colour schemes, as documented in Sloboda's book.

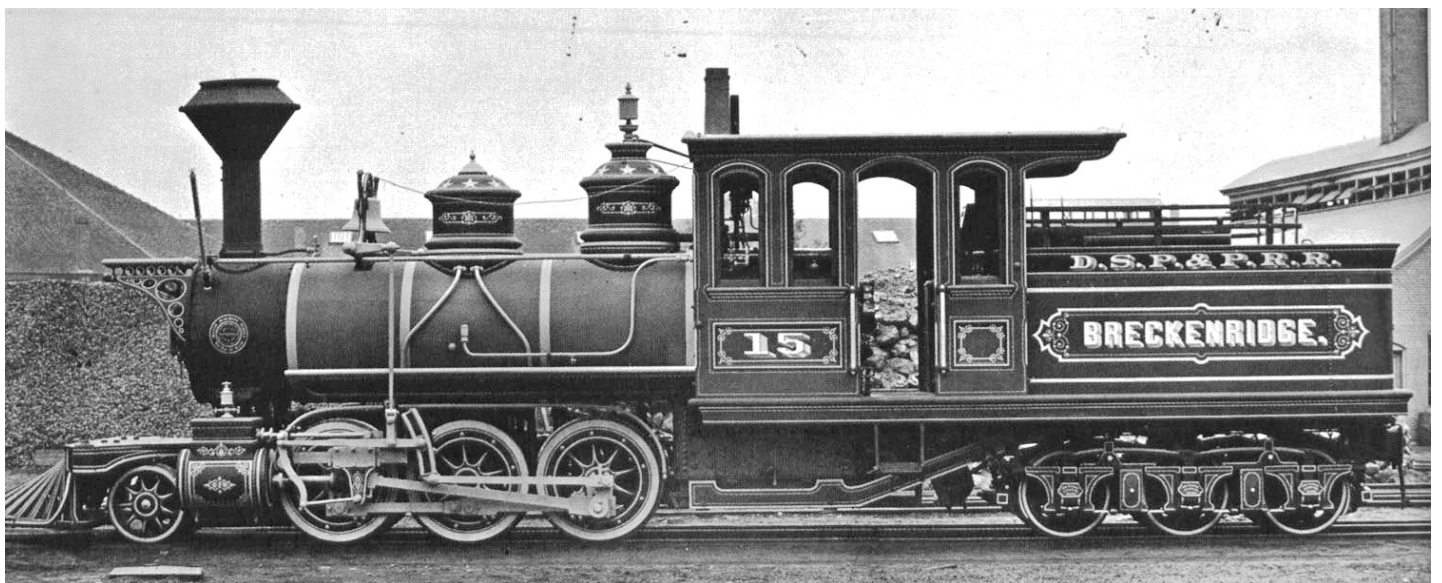
The level of detail is excellent, but not quite as fine as the more recent Accucraft version, partly because the model is 1:24 instead of 1:20 scale. The finish is also excellent, with many tiny decals applied to represent the various flourishes and stripes. Domes and headlight are well done. There is no coal in the coal bunker. The side cab doors are spring loaded but the front cab doors are solid. Windows are not moveable.

Drivers and rear bogie are painted red and look quite nice this way. Accucraft's versions have these items painted black. Photos have appeared online of burgundy-coloured models with the boiler repainted in Russia Iron, giving a much more attractive image than the bright red boiler of the original.

The original DLW locomotive was not "sound-ready" as this concept had not been developed at the time. It is relatively easy to add basic LGB-style sound sensors and an American steam sound module in the coal bunker. Full DCC sound might be more difficult due to lack of space. Both my naked brass and my burgundy / red "Breckenridge" are quiet and run well but they are sensitive to minor changes in grade.



Delton DSP&P #15 on the author's outdoor railway.



Mason builder's photo of DSP&P #15 for comparison to model.