Baltimore & Ohio
Class EM-1
2-8-8-4 “Yellowstone” [HO]

Early 2010

As with so many other late-built steamers, Baltimore and Ohio's Class EM-1 2-8-8-4 came about thanks to World War Two. As with other roads, the war put increased traffic burden on existing equipment. More road power was needed. Although diesels were desired, the War Production Board limited the numbers of diesels available. Modern steam was the answer. The B&O had success with with earlier articulateds in heavy drag service, and other roads had success with simpled articulateds in high speed freight service. Thus, the B&O Engineering Department felt that simple 2-8-8-4s would provide heavy hauling at higher speed. It was a darned good guess!

Though designed for the west end grades of the Cumberland division, wartime saw the 7600s anywhere in the division, pulling nearly anything the war effort required - coal drag, fast freight or passenger service. This versitility continued through the end of steam operations (and beyond - #651 and #659 serving to deliver steam at a chemical plant into 1960). In spite of their short life, many steam fans consider the EM-1s the best-looking articulateds ever built.

The first 20 (nos. 7600-7619) were constructed in 1944, with 10 more (nos. 7620-7629) built in 1945. As with other "war babies", the EM-1s had a short service life, all being retired by 1957. Renumbered the year before their retirement, we will ignore the re-numbering and concentrate on the "7600s" in the mid-1950s. The Division Point and Boo-Rim Precision will produce a limited quantity of these husky beauties, so best contact your dealer NOW!

B&O #7615 near Nance, PA in October 1955

As usual, we are indebted to those folks who publish the information and photos we need. We urge you to buy their books and photos.
- Baltimore & Ohio's Magnificent 2-8-8-2 EM-1 Articulated Locomotive by Thomas W. Dixon & Bob Withers (2007, TLC Publishing)
- B&O Steam Finale Volume II by Deane Mellander & Bob Kaplan (1988, National Railway Historical Society)

Also, thanks to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Historical Society for preserving the data!

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Class EM-1 2-8-8-4 “Yellowstone”-type Series 7600-7619, 1944, Baldwin : Select your road number, but NO guarantees!

DP-9600.00 B&O #7600 Class EM-1 2-8-8-4 _____

#7600 ___	#7601 ___	#7603 ___	#7604 ___
#7605 ___	#7606 ___	#7607 ___	#7608 ___
#7609 ___	#7610 ___	#7611 ___	#7612 ___
#7613 ___	#7614 ___	#7615 ___	#7616 ___
#7617 ___	#7618 ___	#7619 ___	

Class EM-1 2-8-8-4 “Yellowstone”-type Series 7620-7629, 1945, Baldwin: Select your road number, but NO guarantees!

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