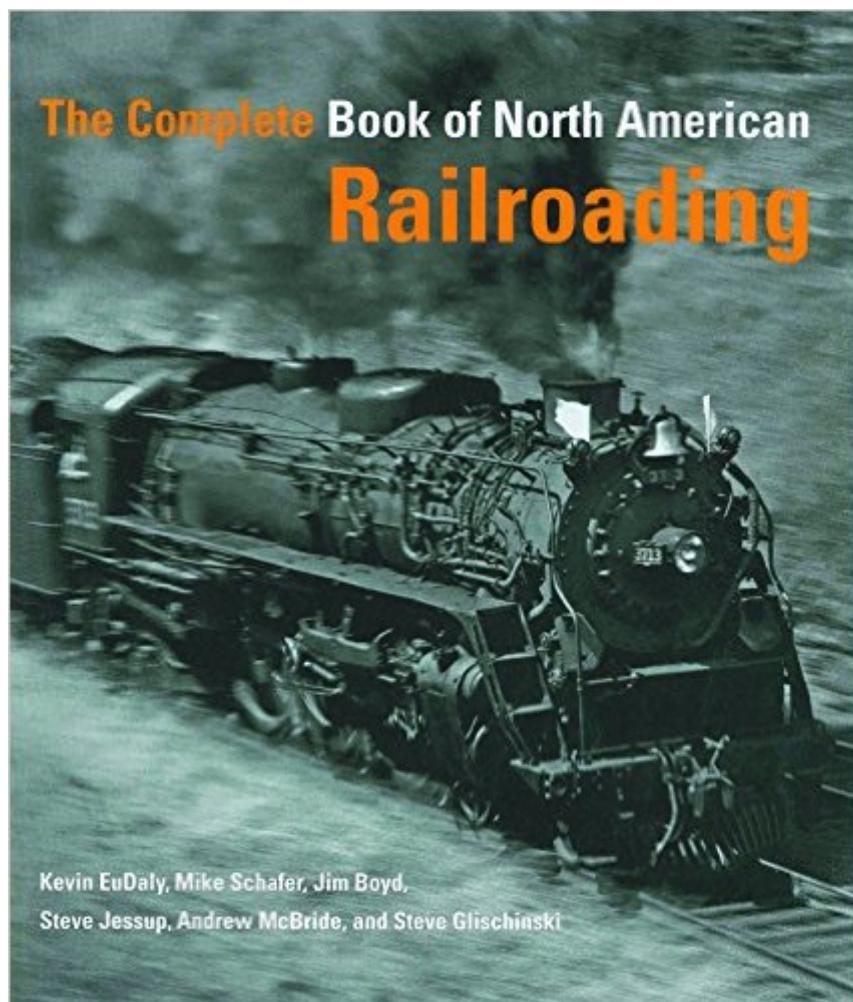


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The Complete Book Of North American Railroading



Synopsis

It would be impossible to imagine the rapid growth of the United States and Canada without railroads. From the industry's first tentative steps in the early nineteenth century to the railways of our day, here is a fitting celebration of that legacy—an all-encompassing tome for hardcore railfans and casual enthusiasts alike. For more than 150 years, railroads have transformed everyday life in North America - Bringing goods to market, carrying travelers across the continent, seeing us through wars, enriching our folklore, and proving indispensable to our economic, industrial, and social infrastructures. And that's not to mention the mind-bending technologies and machines that railroads have spawned. The Complete Book of North American Railroading celebrates the people and machines that have made this growth possible. In these pages, a cast of railroading authorities team up to tackle the industry's genesis; the development of steam, electric, and diesel-electric locomotives; the golden age of passenger travel; workhorse freight haulers; railroad infrastructure; and modern railroading operations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I first ordered THE COMPLETE BOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN RAILROADING, I was afraid that it was possibly going to be another general railroad book pieced together from other similar publications and containing photographs seen many times before along with an overly high-level text. I was pleased to find that my initial concerns were totally unjustified. The book covers the wide range of North American railroading from its inception to the present day. While a story of this scope needs to be limited to major issues and cannot be told in great depth to stay within reasonable page

limits, the authors have done an excellent job of telling the overall story while providing essential details, where they add value. I have been reading railroad books for many years and own quite a few, but I found that I learned a number of things of which I was previously unaware from this book. The organization is excellent, the writing is clear, and the selection of photographs, most of which are in color, is much better than one would expect in a book of this type and price. I found the photographs' composition and variety outstanding, and there were very few of the head-on views of locomotives that seem to be all too prevalent in today's railroad magazines and books. Their reproduction quality is also well above average. The only issue of significance that I identified was an apparent error in a graphic on page 157 describing traction motor performance. I believe that the curves shown for diesel-electric locomotives represent tractive effort not power. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in railroading, whether you are a neophyte or an experienced railroad buff.

A book which is good in practically all respects: informative text, good covering of its subject, fine photographs, good printing. Very good value.

I purchased this book for my 6 year-old son. He is in love with trains! There are pictures on every page and they are beautiful. We read a little bit to him each day and I learn something every day. The text is thorough, but not heavy. The book is well-constructed with heavy duty pages and high quality photos. This would make a great coffee table book - one you might actually pick up and read! Perfect for train aficionados everywhere!

I've always liked trains and I wanted a book to learn about the railroad industry and its history in the US. After reading some of the reviews on this book I decided to order it. I couldn't have been more pleased with the selection. It gave me all the information I wanted in just the right amount of detail, at least for me. The balance between the pictures and the text was very good and they fit together on each page well where you didn't have to flip back and forth between pages. The text part was written in an interesting way, not in a boring textbook manner. The pictures were clear and sharp with a glossy type look which looked professional. I liked where most of the captions on the pictures gave information about the trains and the location where the pictures were taken. I also liked the parts in the book about the Milwaukee Road which was the railroad nearest me growing up in rural central Iowa. The authors of this book did a very good job overall and covered every aspect of the railroad industry. Even after I was done reading the book I've often gone back to just look at the

pictures. I highly recommend this book if you want to learn about railroading in North America.

This is an entertaining, light overview of the development of the modern railroad/system with good pictures.

What's not to like about a book with lots of pictures of trains. However this one gives one of the best accounts of the history of North American, mainly US but some Canada, railroads I have read. A large book and good value for money at the \$30 I paid for it. I can highly recommend it. It should appeal to railway history buffs and people who just like to look at trains alike.

A real soup to nuts compilation of American railroading history. From where and how it all began to how and why it entered decline, to merger and revival and possible high-speed future there is rarely a break in the action. Historians, fans, foamers and nostalgia buffs all find nuggets to spark a glow of rememberance of past thrills and hopes of future conquests of time and speed led by the "twin streaks of rust" of railroading in America. I really appreciated the cost discount from so I can purchase others on this subject!

Wonderful historical review of our nations railroads. Well written with fantastic photos. If you like American railroading, this is the book to get.

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