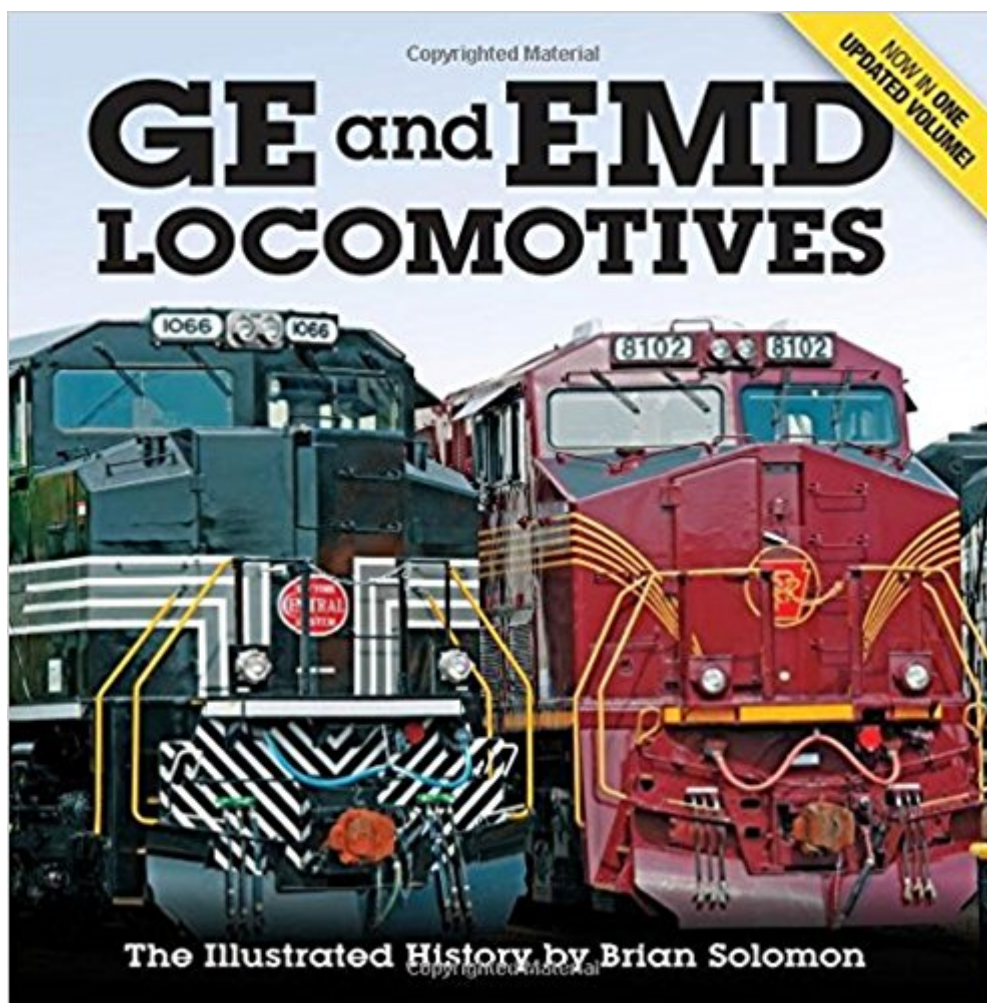


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# GE And EMD Locomotives: The Illustrated History



## Synopsis

The complete history of the world's foremost locomotive builders. With roots stretching back to the turn of the twentieth century, General Electric and Electro-Motive have designed some of the most iconic locomotives in the history of North American railroading. Now, for the first time, acclaimed rail author Brian Solomon's landmark historical accounts of these manufacturers' North American machines (GE Locomotives, 2003, and EMD Locomotives, 2006) are available in a single photo-packed volume. In GE and EMD Locomotives: The Illustrated History, nearly 400 rare photographs (more than 300 of them in color) are accompanied by thorough histories of the two manufacturers, beginning with their earliest efforts in the 1890s and 1930s, respectively. Solomon brings the story up to date with afterwords detailing such recent developments as GE's revolutionary Evolution locomotives and EMD's SD70ACe and SD70M-2. From General Electric's electrical legends - the Pennsylvania Railroad's E44s, Amtrak's E60s, and Milwaukee Road's "Little Joes" - to EMD's mid-century F units, workhorse GP and SD locomotives, and Dash series, all the way through to the rivals' most cutting-edge modern "green" designs, GE and EMD Locomotives: The Illustrated History leaves nothing unexamined in the important histories of these industrial giants and the competition that continues to drive them forward.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brian Solomon is one of today's most accomplished railway historians. He has authored more than thirty books about railroads and locomotive power, and his writing and photography have been

featured in the world's top rail publications, including *Trains*, *Railway Age*, *Passenger Train Journal*, and *RailNews*. He divides his time between Massachusetts and Ireland.

Combining Brian Solomon's excellent GE and EMD reference works into one softcover title, railroad enthusiasts can have an outstanding history of both of the major remaining North American locomotive manufacturers (in fact, the world). Combining solid historical research, insight from the research, beautiful archival and current photographs, this combined volume is a must have for both the casual enthusiast and the serious railroad historian. As is the nature of the ever-changing locomotive manufacture industry, there are recent changes to the field which are not covered in this volume. These include recently developed and released Tier-4 emissions standard compliant locomotives from both manufacturers, as well as extensive recycling and rebuilding activities on the EMD side (likewise, the impact of EMD's purchase by ProgressRail/Caterpillar from General Motors is ripe for additions in future editions of this book). I hope that Solomon can revisit and update these volumes to reflect recent changes in these areas. Likewise, there is room to consider the extensive reuse and remanufacturing trend among the Class-1 railroads (especially Norfolk Southern's extensive rebuilding programs of motive power from the last 20 years, such as the SD9043 to SD70ACu and the "Dash-8.5" and DC-to-AC programs). It's written at a level that it is entertaining for fans and deeply researched enough to serve as a proper educational reference. But the photography alone is well worth the price.

Just what one would expect from Brian Solomon. My library is bursting with Mr. Solomon's works and, no doubt, will finally succumb as this prolific writer continues to enhance the subject matter he knows so well. I had the opportunity to operate many, many of the locomotives described in the book, and viewing the magnificent pictures was enough to bring back the smell of diesel fuel, creosote and warm brake shoes. Anyone interested in railroading cannot do better than Brian Solomon. On a personal note, the General Electric U28B was hard to beat...even from the cab of a Rock Island unit!

Great book, actually two books in one put together. A detailed information on the two main brands of locomotives in US. The book is very detailed in historical pictures and has technical details on the development of the two companies with the engines used in US and information on the models made for export only. Very readable and a pleasure to pass pages just to see pictures, I really enjoyed it.

Typical Brian Solomon work, wonderfully researched and collated, with beautiful photographs taken by the Author as well as by others. The Author has taken great pains to ensure that the developments in Diesel Locomotive and Electric Loco technology are easily understood even by folks not in the field. If one has even a passing interest in Railroading, it will serve as a highly enjoyable book, prior knowledge of Railroading only adds to the pleasure. Not too technical, not light on the contents either; with an excellent mixture of technical and general facts, the author has provided a visual history of the Diesel and Electric Locos in NA by GE and EMD which would do well to serve as an ornament in every Railfan's book shelf

This book was generally informative, but too many of the photos were "artistic" with nice effects such as sunsets but locomotives with darkened profiles so that details were invisible. I would have preferred photos that displayed the details of the different locomotives. Almost a third of the text was repetitive listing of horsepower, tractive forces, and other specifications of locomotives that could better have been represented in tables that would be easy to look up, take little space, and leave more room for the history of the locomotive, manufacturer, or railroad that owned or operated the locomotive. I was a bit surprised by the typos and missing verbs here and there.

Brain Solomon does an excellent job in this updated copy of his book of not only discussing the history of locomotives in general, but also detailing the rivalry and history of GE and EMD locomotives. I found the early section discussing Electric Locomotives and how GE and Westinghouse had both begun experimenting with AC power/traction almost 100 years ago, yet it would not be until the late 90's that AC-traction really took off. This part, I found especially interesting, as it does a good job of laying a foundation for the new section of Brains book on AC-traction. (The main reason I bought the book). This is a great (condensed) read for anyone interested in the details and history of GE/EMD locomotives, without delving too deeply into the minutia of the actual components.

good book

What a nice book! Full of photos and lot of interesting information...Highly recommendable if you are into knowing about trains, specially GE and EMD...The book, while soft cover, is very high quality, shiny paper, heavy, smooth, very well done...I am totally happy with it.

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