

Lionel Southern Pacific GS-2 Legacy Steam Locomotive Number 6-11419

This locomotive was released by Lionel in the fall of 2013. The history behind the GS-2 is very interesting.



The **GS-2** was a streamlined 4-8-4 Northern type steam locomotive that served the Southern Pacific Company from 1937 to 1956. They were built by Lima Locomotive Works and were numbered 4410 through 4415. GS stands for "Golden State" or "General Service."

Per Lionel, the GS-2 had a very different appearance than that of the GS-1. The GS-2s were streamlined and designed for high-speed passenger service. They were the first to receive the red and orange "Daylight" paint scheme and were used for the streamlined debut of Southern Pacific's premier passenger train, the *Coast Daylight* in 1937. The following year they were replaced by the improved GS-3 engines. During World War II, they were painted black and silver and were used to transport troops. In the 1950s their side skirting was removed for easier maintenance, and the locomotives were assigned to general service, pulling such trains as San Jose-San Francisco commutes, the "Coast Mail" trains, and freight service.

I was first attracted to this engine by its clean looks. After more research, I found this engine is a good puller. Probably its best attribute is its combination steam quilling whistle or piercing horn. The sound is very strong.

Other features include:

- Legacy RailSounds
- Fan Driven Smoke Unit
- Directional Lighting and backup lights on the tender
- And many more!

As in Lionel's tradition, the paint is top notch. The interior figures are comfortable in driving this large engine. The add on details from the handrails, running lights generator, whistle and more to the molded in details gives this engine its exciting look and feel. The tender has superb running lights, back up light and many added on details like the ladder, opening hatches, and hand rails.

This is really a great engine that I would highly recommend.

Story by Jim Sobczak
Pictures by Herb Koch

