

# The Story of Brass Number Boards

## 2,856 Different Numbers Covering post-1928 Steam Locomotives

Probably the most visible feature on a finely detailed CNR steam locomotive is the number board just below the headlight. The CN LINES SIG has made available a complete set of all the numbers used on engines between 1928 and the end of the steam era.

### 200-1 ..... \$60.00

**Product #1** of 720 etched brass CNR steam locomotive number plates (696 numbered and 24 blanks) now fills in the holes in the overall numerical sequence of the three newer products. We have deleted the four X-10-a plates in our 200-1 product as we discovered these versions had a spacing problem between the numerals. That problem has been fixed in our new Product 200-2.

### 200-2 ..... \$60.00

**Product #2** of 720 etched brass CNR steam locomotive number plates. These sequentially cover all road numbers from #45 (a X-10-a subclass 4-6-4T) through the Newfoundland numbers, the 4-4-0's, the 2-6-0's, the 4-6-0's and many 2-8-0's (to #2494 from the N-2-b subclass). Those road numbers already included in our 200-1 product are not repeated.

### 200-3 ..... \$60.00

**Product #3** of 720 etched brass CNR steam locomotive number plates. These cover all road numbers sequentially from #2495 (also from the N-2-b subclass) through the rest of the 2-8-0's, the 2-8-2's, the 2-10-2's, and many 4-6-2's to #5139 from the J-4-e subclass. Earlier numbers are not repeated.

### 200-4 ..... \$60.00

**Product #4** of 720 etched brass CNR steam locomotive number plates. These sequentially cover all the remaining road numbers from #5140 (also from the J-4-e subclass) through the rest of the 4-6-2's, the 4-6-4's, the 4-8-2's, the 4-8-4's, the 0-6-0's and, finally, the 0-8-0's (ending with #8448, a renumbered P-4-d). There are also number plates for the pioneer diesel locomotives from the 1930s. Earlier road numbers are not repeated.

### 200-5 ..... \$200.00

All four of the preceding products, -1, -2, -3, -4.

### 200-10 ..... \$10.00

100 (10 each digit, 1-0) brass, 15-inch raised cab numerals (**wide style**) most common to CNR's Central & Atlantic Regions; and GTW.

### 200-11 ..... \$10.00

100 (10 each digit, 1-0) 15-inch brass raised cab numerals (**narrow style**) most common to CNR's Western Region, CV Railway, DW&P and Grand Trunk (NEL).

### 200-12 ..... \$6.00

60 (6 each digit, 1-0) brass 12-inch raised **running board numerals** for CNR 5700, 6100 & 6400/GTW 6400 steam locos.

### 200-13 ..... 40.00

**HO CNR/GTW design "open" cab kit** in brass for 2-6-0's, 2-8-0's, S1 2-8-2's, Ten-Wheelers and 4-6-2's. Also used by CV Ry., DW&P and GT (NEL). Produced exclusively for CNSIG by M.L.W. Services

### 200-14 ..... \$4.00

A cast brass sprue of 15 multi-pipe hangers for use on pipe-runs underneath steam locomotive running boards (while supplies last; these castings cannot be re-ordered)

## A Not-So-Secret Painting Recipe by John Morris

The objective is to pre-paint each sheet of 720 plates before using any individual plate(s). Prepping them this way will save time and aggravation later.

1. Cut each sheet of 720 plates into 12 sets of 60. **DO NOT** separate the individual plates.
2. Clamp each set of 60 with a hemostat along one fret edge to hold the set for painting.
3. Mix 50% thinner / 50% paint using Scalecoat No. 73 Bright Caboose Red (which is reasonably close to CNR Red No. 10) and airbrush it on. Do not make the coverage overly heavy as you do not want to fill in the etched-in surfaces.
4. Place all 12 painted sets from one original product on a cookie sheet and bake them in an oven at 175 degrees F (approx. 80 degrees C) for two hours. Cool before starting the next steps.
5. Acquire a fine/medium flexible sanding stick (usually available in hobby shops which deal in model aircraft).
6. Use the fine grit side of the stick to rub the paint off the raised surfaces of the numerals, letters and edges. Inspect your work carefully under magnification as you go along.
7. Carefully clean all the plates with a fine soft cotton cloth to remove all paint dust created in Step 5.
8. To protect against future tarnishing of the raised brass surfaces, get out your hemostat and airbrush, etc., once again. Apply a protective clear coat of Scalecoat No. 52 Clear Gloss (this time a mix of 60% thinner / 40% gloss).
9. **Do not bake** the plates at this time. Some brands of clear glazes have turned yellow from the heat.
10. Repeat with the other three sheets.
11. Now your lifetime supply of CNR steam locomotive number plates is ready to be applied on locomotives.
12. Five minute epoxy provides some work-time to get number plates straight and level. .... 2009/09/09