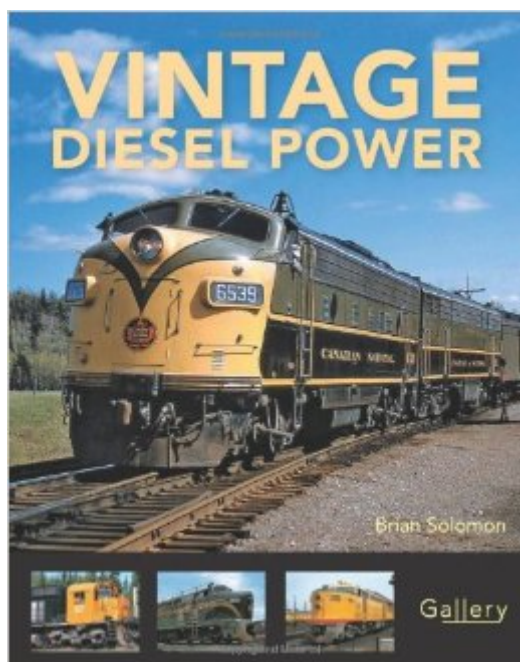


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# Vintage Diesel Power



## Synopsis

This formative period of diesel locomotive evolution is examined with the help of more than 250 modern and period photos depicting passenger, freight, and switching locomotives. Author Brian Solomon covers every prominent manufacturer of the period—including Electro-Motive, Alco, Baldwin, and GE—as well as iconic models like Geeps, E and F units, PAs and FAs, sharknoses, U-boats, and more. The photographs take in the grand geographic and technological breadth of North American railroading and are accompanied by detailed captions identifying the locomotives pictured and explaining their roles in this crucial era of American railroading.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

After World War II, the American railroads increased the speed with which they replaced their steam locomotives with the new diesel locomotives from the five primary manufacturers. Vintage Diesel Power, the new book by Brian Solomon from Voyageur Press, brings us 200 photographs from the 1940's to present day. The book covers the first-generation locomotives from post-WWII until the 1960s when those locomotives were replaced by newer, more powerful models. The book is organized by manufacturer: Alco Baldwin Electro-Motive Fairbanks-Morse General Electric I learned a lot about the manufacturers who have gone out of business. While the railroads are still packed with GE's and EMD's, Alco, Baldwin, and Fairbanks-Morse are now collectors items. Seeing short-lines and museums who still operate and preserve these lesser known brands around the country. The book is heavy on great photographs from a variety of railroads. Many of them are from Brian

Solomon and his father Richard. However, he adds photographs from numerous other photographers to fill in the blanks. The book does not attempt to provide detailed roster lists within its 192 pages, it is more of an overview of railroads and models.

This book on Vintage Diesel Power is rich with history on the diesel locomotive. I found this book a great read, with lots of pictures. The book size makes it a must for ready reference and a perfect travel companion.

When I first got the book I was disappointed as I was hoping for more text and history of the evolution of 1st generation Diesel Electric locomotives. But the book grew on me and I'm happy to have it in my collection. The book is arranged by manufacturer with a short 3-4 page introduction to each section talking about the company. The rest of each section is a collection of nice photos with detailed captions showing the locomotives that company made organized by type and year made. For example the EMD cab units are grouped together after the road switchers. There aren't a lot of vintage photos so most of the photos are of currently operational or restored units. My specific example: Being a fan of the PRR, I notice that most photos of the E8's and E9's are newer and there is no explanation as to why there is now equipment in the panel that would have been the dynamic braking machinery. The panel should be plain yet there are fans and other vents there in the photos. Searching the web, I found information that Head end power was added there in the 1970's. Information like that, which is missing limits the use of the photos for modeling use. I also found one page where the photos were mislabeled. What I also would have liked to have seen would have been photos of some of the cab interiors, as well as photos with explanations of the features of a representative sample of locomotives as in different truck types for example. So while this is a nice book to thumb through and enjoy the photos, the actual information in it is shallow. But if there is a better book out there I haven't found it yet.

There are pictures of just about every style diesel locomotive manufactured by these companies from the early 40's to the late 70's. There's a summary about each manufacturer and a description of where and when the picture was taken and type of locomotive. Mostly illustrates freight trains. But there are examples of passenger operations. Good section on CNJ FMs. Can't beat it for the price. Book measures 6 1/2"x8". Pictures are clear and nicely cropped.

This is a book that should be in every railroad fans library! Mr Solomon has pictures (very clear

pictures) of all of the diesel manufactures, and the written history that goes with the different manufactures pictures. I can't say enough good things about this book.

The author has compiled a splendid set of photographs -- both vintage and contemporary -- to illustrate the book. Quite a few period color photos are included: a nice change from books that are heavy on B&W images. The book is organized in sections by manufacturer, with each page in the section having the mfg name in the upper corner for easy navigation. My only critique of this excellent volume is that I would have like to see more on the Train Master. But hey, you can't have everything, right? Highly recommended.

I saw this as a companion to my other diesel locomotive reference books, plus it looked like fun! I am pleased with the book's composition, it's great photography, and of course the memories it brings back of watching trains as a youngster. I am thankful that Mr. Solomon saw fit to put together this great collection of photos for railfans and modelers alike. John Scott Prescott, AZ

I downloaded this book to have nice photos to look at on long plane rides but the photographs are too small to enjoy on a tablet. The info however is a very good resource

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