

Lionel NYC GP-35 Diesel Engine #6131
Joe Fondacaro - Queen City Hi-Railers

I grew up in Upstate New York and my home town was a frequent stop on the New York Central line; we rode the NYC often. At the age of 3, I received my first model train from my parents on Christmas 1946, a year after my Dad returned from WWII in Europe. It was a Lionel NYC 221 Steam Engine and tender with a 3 car freight set and a caboose. It still runs well and it is perhaps a topic for a future report. I was hooked on Lionel model railroading.

Recently I purchased a Lionel NYC GP-35 Diesel Engine #6131 (pictured below). This diesel engine contains the Lionel Legacy Control System, which makes operation of all functions easy and portable. The Odyssey II speed control feature permits a wide range of operating speeds through different scenes of the club's and my layout without losing pulling power.

All of the Legacy Railsounds are clearly audible, crisp and life-like. The varying diesel engine sounds and the dialogue between both cab-to-tower and tower-to-cab gives a real sense of the train in operation. The horn, bell, diesel smoke and directional lighting contribute so much realism that they enhance the fun of running this engine, as well as watching for those attending our shows. And the action of the electrocouplers is crisp and realistic, especially with the added Railsounds of operation.

The two powerful maintenance free motors provide excellent pulling power. I've had as many as 17 cars behind this GP-35 and it has handled it with ease, even at slower speeds. These motors also give me the peace of mind that maintenance is not an issue, other than periodic cleaning and lubrication.

Last, but certainly not least, the classic NYC logo and other NYC markings make this Lionel engine a pure pleasure to run and watch run. I am totally pleased with this Lionel diesel engine as I am with all my Lionel engines. I wouldn't hesitate to purchase another and also recommend it to my fellow model railroaders and visitors to our shows.



