

D&RGW Narrow Gauge Gondolas

The narrow gauge gondola cars were the workhorses of the railroad. They were sometimes listed as coal cars. There were several classes, and the Colorado Railroad Museum has seven examples. Six were built between June and July 1902 by the American Car & Foundry. No. 1741 was built in December 1903. Their numbers are:

- 1112 high side, rebuilt to pipe gondola
- 1217 high side
- 1239 high side
- 1249 high side
- 1413 side dump, rebuilt to high side
- 1423 side dump, rebuilt to high side
- 1741 gondola

These cost \$509.71 each, except 1741 which was \$639.78. The 1400 series was rebuilt to high side in the 1910s. Safety appliances were applied in 1913 to 1914. All of the gondolas were rebuilt in 1925 and 1926. Car 1741 was rebuilt again in 1944. Most of the work added about five inches to the sides of each car, thus the name "high side gondola."



No. 1217 on the Sundown & Southern Railway near Fort Lupton, Colorado, on June 17, 1972.

The cars were used throughout the Rio Grande narrow gauge system. Records show that many were based in Salida and ran over Marshall Pass to Gunnison. They carried coal out of Crested Butte, and were used in the 1950s on pipe trains to Farmington, New Mexico. Until 1956 they were in limestone service on the Monarch branch.

Car 1249 was sold in April 1969 for \$773.47 and 1239 in September 1970 for the same amount. The museum purchased 1217 and 1249 in July 2002. Cornelius W. Hauck donated No. 1423 in August 1971.

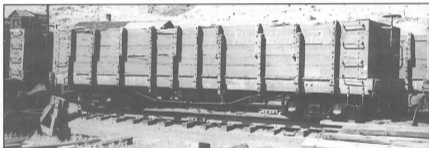
The gondolas were painted in the traditional Prince's Mineral Brown color with white lettering and numbers.

References

Brewster, Allen J., "Denver & Rio Grande Western's Narrow-Gauge Gondolas,"

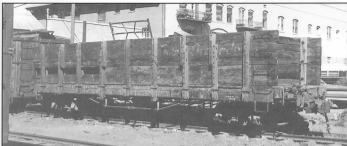
Model Railroader, August 1978.

Sloan, Robert, *A Century + Ten of D&RGW Freight Cars, 1871 - 1981, 2000*



No. 1234 was at Salida on July 5, 1956. Below is a representative 1400 series gondola rebuilt from side dump to a high side gondola.





Several 1200 series cars were modified for company service over the years, such as No. 1272 at Durango on September 4, 1971.

Gondola No. 1249 was at the Sundown & Southern on June 4, 1970.



The 1100 series is represented by car No. 1108 at Salida on September 25, 1949.

Colorado Railroad Museum

P. O. Box 10

Golden, CO 80402-0010

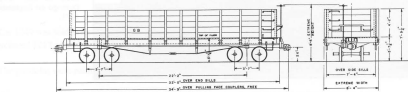
Compiled by Kenton Forrest, Robert Jensen, and John Tudek.
(all photos by John W. Maxwell)

2008

DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN R.R.
NARROW GAUGE GONDOLA - FLAT BOTTOM - No's. 1000 to 1499

F-215

AAR MECHANICAL DESIGNATION 108



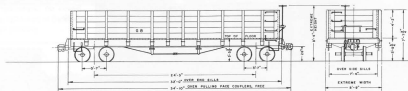
DESCRIPTION

GAUGE	3'-0"	SUPERSTRUCTURE	WOOD	MARKED CAPACITY, LBS.	30,000
JOURNALS	4" x 7"			LIGHT WEIGHT, LBS., AV.	22,500
WHEELS	28" CAST IRON	UNDERFRAME-WOOD	CAST STEEL DRAFT ARMS	MAX. WEIGHT OF LADING, LBS., AV.	55,600
TRUCK TYPE	ARCH BAR			CUBICAL CAPACITY (LEVEL) CU. FT.	875
TRUCK SIDES	MILD STEEL BAR-SEPARATE BOXES	DRAFT GEAR	CARWELL, G-23	CUBICAL CAPACITY (HEAVED) CU. FT.	1,200
TRUCK BOLTIER	CAST STEEL	COUPLER	TOWER- 92 HEAD	LENGTH INSIDE	30'-6"
SIDE BEARINGS	BARREN	BRAKE	92 912	WIDTH INSIDE	6'-10"
		HAND BRAKE	HORIZONTAL WHEEL	DEPTH INSIDE	6'-2"
				YEAR BUILT	1902
				BUILDERS	AMERICAN CAR & FOUNDRY CO.

DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN R.R.
NARROW GAUGE GONDOLA - FLAT BOTTOM - No's 1500 to 1899

F-220

AAR MECHANICAL DESIGNATION 108



DESCRIPTION

GAUGE	3'-0"	SUPERSTRUCTURE	WOOD	MARKED CAPACITY, LBS.	30,000
JOURNALS	4" x 7"			LIGHT WEIGHT, LBS., AV.	19,700
WHEELS	28" CAST IRON	UNDERFRAME	WOOD	MAX. WEIGHT OF LADING, LBS., AV.	55,500
TRUCK TYPE	ARCH BAR			CUBICAL CAPACITY (LEVEL) CU. FT.	890
TRUCK SIDES	MILD STEEL BAR-SEPARATE BOXES	DRAFT GEAR	WINER TAKEN	CUBICAL CAPACITY (HEAVED) CU. FT.	1,021
TRUCK BOLTIER	CAST STEEL	COUPLER	92 HEAD	LENGTH INSIDE	30'-10"
SIDE BEARINGS	FRICTION	BRAKE	92 912	WIDTH INSIDE	6'-11"
		HAND BRAKE	HORIZONTAL WHEEL	DEPTH INSIDE	6'-2"
				YEAR BUILT	1903, 1904
				BUILDERS	AMERICAN CAR & FOUNDRY CO.