

Lionel Steam Engine 2025
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I must have been 8 years old when I started running my older brother's Lionel Train set. The year was around 1956. The set consisted of a coal dumping car, a baby ruth boxcar, a gondola car plus a Lionel caboose.

But the engine was the real main event, the 2-6-2, 2025 with its whistle tender. We had a bunch of track which fit nicely on our Ping-Pong table in the shape of perfect rectangle. With those 90 degree turns I had to be careful on the throttle as it frequently took flight and landed on the hard concrete floor of our basement. As soon as that happened a quick prayer was heard and the engine hit with a most horrible thud. I walked over and opening one eye peeked at the remains of my beautiful train engine. But, what was this? It seemed OK!!! I couldn't believe it. Was it my quick prayer or just good old Lionel engineering and manufacturing? Picking it up slowing and cradling it in my arms like my new born baby brother I quick gave it a diagnostic once over. There was a ding in the cowcatcher and the front head lamp plate was off but I could see no other damage. Amazing! Then came the real tests: placing it on the track I gave it a slight push, the drivers seemed to move OK and then I gave her a little throttle. A blast on the whistle gave me confidence to push on and I hit the directional level on my transformer. She slowly pulled away and I was once again running down the rails. Unfortunately, I didn't learn my lesson very well regarding being too heavy on the throttle. My 2025 went off the table two more times that I remember, but kept on running. I don't know how many times the test guys at the plant would run them off the table during the punishment test, but that cast iron heavy weight lasted forever. I run two of them today. They just keep on running.

