

PRIME MOVER MODEL RAILROAD DECALS

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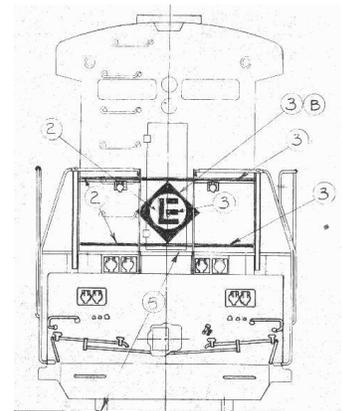
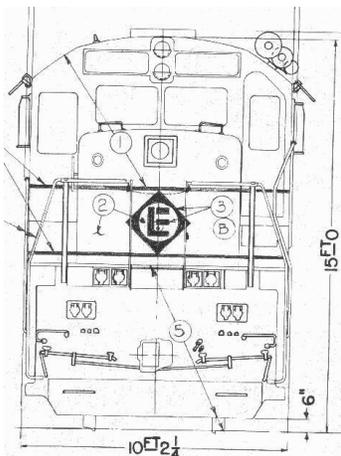
EL/NJDOT U34CH Diesels PMD-010



Background History: By the late 1960's the Erie Lackawanna Railway's fleet of passenger equipment was quickly running out of time. Its ancient fleet of Stillwell and Boonton coaches, as well as the tired E8 and RS3 diesels, were living on borrowed time. Plans were made to replace the archaic equipment, and in 1970, the first of the new equipment arrived - brand new U34CH diesels and Pullman-Standard commuter cars.

The U34CH was a brand new model for GE. Built with a 3600 HP prime mover, it predates the U36C by a few months. The unit utilized a generator driven off the motor (drawing 170 HP), which left 3430 HP for the locomotive. The unit was designed to work in push-pull and freight configurations, and often was seen on weekend EL freight trains. After the EL, the units were operated by Conrail, and then finally transferred to NJ Transit in 1983. Though renumbered, many units ran until their retirement in 1994 in their attractive "Bluebird" colors.

The Model: The flashy U34CH's were certainly a dramatic change from the standard maroon, gray and yellow Erie Lackawanna freight units. The units were painted a dark blue color ("midnight blue") with a silver stripe running around the entire carbody, and a black underframe and pilots. For the blue color, we recommend Polly Scale C&O Enchantment Blue, with a small amount of Polly Scale Engine Black added to darken the color. When new, the units appeared almost black. As the engines weathered, the blue faded to a lighter color, and for this color, you can skip the addition of the Engine Black paint. The silver stripe (we recommend Polly Scale ATSF Silver) ran around the entire carbody. It was 29-1/2" in width, and the bottom of the stripe was exactly 5" above the walkway.



DECAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: **1.** Make sure the surface to be decaled is clean and smooth. If the surface is not glossy or reasonably smooth, spray it with a gloss lacquer (such as Testors Glosscote). Surfaces that are not glossy are microscopically rough and can give a finished decal a "hazy" appearance. **2.** Cut the lettering off the decal sheet with a sharp knife or a pair of scissors. Be sure to cut as closely to the edge of the lettering as possible to minimize visible decal film. **3.** Place the decal in water until it slides easily on its backing. **4.** Slide the decal off its backing carefully onto the model, using a toothpick if necessary. If needed, add a drop of water to help maneuver the decal into its final position. **5.** Blot the decal with a lint-free paper towel to remove excess water. After dry, remove any extra glue with a paintbrush dipped in water; blot dry again. **6.** Apply a decal setting solution (we suggest Microscale's "Micro Sol" and "Micro Set") so that the decal will fit around any crevices or details. **IMPORTANT:** If using Solvaset, use sparingly or dilute with water so as not to dissolve the ink. After solution is applied, DO NOT touch the decal until dry. If any bubbles appear, slit them with a sharp blade and apply solution again. **7.** Give the model a final overspray of a dull lacquer finish (such as Testors Dullcote) to hide any decal film and to protect the decals.

Lettering for these units is simple and straightforward. Red striping bordered the silver stripe - the edges of the red stripes on the decal sheet should rest against the outer edge of the silver stripe. An EL diamond appeared centered on the front and back of the unit between the red stripes (see diagrams below). A red "F", indicating the front of the unit, is on each side of the unit just behind the front stairs. The unit number appears centered on the cab side, located just below the upper red stripe. The unit class (MCPG-33-8) is centered on the cab side just above the lower red stripe.

In the mid-1970's, the Erie Lackawanna started stenciling round "Safety First" logos on their units, and the U34CH's were no exception. Many received these logos, which were stenciled in the center of the silver stripe wrapping around the corners of the units. Some units had all four corners stenciled, while others had stencils on only the front left and rear right corners. Check photos for accuracy!

A special note for numbering the unit: At least two units (3370, 3372) were known to have a "non-standard" stencil for the number "7" - we have included this variation at the end of the number jumble on the decal sheet.

Numberboards are not included in this set; to cut down on the cost, we will be releasing numberboard sets for Erie Lackawanna GE diesels separately. Please note that this set also compliments our other set, PMD-009, EL/NJDOT Commuter Cars.

Useful References:

Carleton, Paul. *The Erie Lackawanna Story*. D. Carleton Railbooks, 1974.

Hyer, Richard and Zec, John. *Railroads of New Jersey*. Self-published, 1974.

Pennisi, Bob. *The Northeast Railroad Scene: Volume 4 - Erie Lackawanna*. Railroad Avenue Enterprises, 1979.

EL/NJDOT U34CH Roster

Number	Built
3351-3356	10/70 - 12/70
3357-3373	3/71 - 5/71
3374-3382	12/72 - 1/73