

Product Review: The Ruston & Hornsby Class 07 shunter from Silver Fox

by Colin Watts

This is a basic overview on the RTR Silver Fox 07 shunting locomotive, the prototypes which were based at Eastleigh (and partially Bournemouth) before withdrawal and sale/disposal. Attached is a potted history sheet.

When I ordered D2987 there was a small reaction from John Hazleton, proprietor of Silver Fox models, in so far as most of his 'green livery' orders were for D2985!



I ordered up a green liveried version and it arrived with the correct coach-style roundels on the small cabside rather than the ferret and dartboard that usual adorned locomotives. The paint is well done, especially the wasp-ends which are excellent. Photographs of the 07s in green livery are rare, especially in colour, and so in part one has to rely upon distant memories. The Ruston etched makers plates are an excellent touch.



The chassis is standard Bachmann and I did not measure the model to see if there had been any compromising of the dimensions to suit - in all honesty the locomotive really looks the part and so I considered there was little point in rivet counting. The mouldings are very clean and crisp with a good level of detail. The model appears solid and robust; I do not have any concerns over its ability to withstand the rigours and handling that occurs on exhibition layouts.

If I was to raise any observations then it would be towards the use of flush glazing and I will in time contact Dave Ellis at South Eastern Finecast in order to see if his arm could be twisted to add it to his range.

Similarly the handrails are moulded, but these do not seem to detract from what is after all a very small locomotive. However, it must be said that this is really being picky on a super model! Similarly the roof-mounted horns are part of the integral moulding and yet I cannot fault these at all - very clean and crisp with no real benefit if they had been a separate moulding. At £85, complete, painted and ready to run, the locomotive does not come cheap. (£28.50 for a basic resin moulding from DC Kits) However, it is not a cheap model and I would not like to make one for that price. Given the quality and specialist nature of what is in part, a hand-built item, I think it resents good value.

I certainly love mine and look forward to further models from Silver Fox!

Other models to look out for from Silver Fox in the not too distant future will be the prototypes "Falcon" and "Kestrel".



Ruston & Hornsby Class 07						
ORIGINAL NUMBER	INTRO'D	TOPS NUMBER	TOPS NO. CARRIED FROM	1976 ALLOCATION	DATE OF WITHDRAWAL	NOTES
D2985	6/62	07 001	1/74	EASTLEIGH	7/77	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. PRESERVED.
D2986	6/62	07 002	12/73	EASTLEIGH	7/77	SOLD
D2987	6/62	07 003	10/73	EASTLEIGH	10/76	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. SOLD & CUT UP 6/85
D2988	6/62	NOT CARRIED			5/73	WITHDRAWN IN GREEN LIVERY. CUT UP 11/73
D2989	6/62	07 005	2/74	EASTLEIGH	7/77	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. SOLD
D2990	7/62	07 006	1/74	EASTLEIGH	7/77	SOLD & CUT UP 10/84
D2991	7/62	NOT CARRIED			5/73	WITHDRAWN IN GREEN LIVERY TO DEPARTMENTAL USE.
D2992	9/62	NOT CARRIED			5/73	WITHDRAWN IN GREEN LIVERY. CUT UP 7/76
D2993	9/62	07 009	1/74	EASTLEIGH	10/76	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. EXPORTED TO ITALY
D2994	9/62	07 010	4/74	BOURNEMOUTH	10/76	PRESERVED
D2995	10/62	07 011	1/74	EASTLEIGH	7/77	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. SOLD
D2996	10/62	07 012	4/74	BOURNEMOUTH	7/77	SOLD
D2997	11/62	07 013	12/73	BOURNEMOUTH	7/77	FITTED WITH AIR BRAKES. SOLD
D2998	11/62	NOT CARRIED			5/73	WITHDRAWN IN GREEN LIVERY. CUT UP 8/76

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