



Thompson B1 Steam Locomotive

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1 Background

Designed by Edward Thompson, Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London North Eastern Railway, the B1 was a mixed traffic 4-6-0 type locomotive for general passenger and freight duties. Initially designated "Class B", they had been reclassified to Class B1 by the time the first locomotive No. 8301 Springbok had been completed in 1942. The pre-existing Class B1 were reclassified as Class B18. The Thompson B1 would quickly become the most successful of Thompson's locomotive designs and a total of 410 were built by the LNER and British Railways (BR) and were to be found throughout the former LNER system in England and Scotland.

With the change in the policies of British Railways, the B1s were withdrawn long before their projected economic working life. Excepting No. 61057 which was destroyed in an accident in 1950, the first normal withdrawal was No. 61085 in November 1961. The remaining locomotives were withdrawn between 1962 and 1967.

Thompson B1 Specifications:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Cylinders | 20 x 26 inches |
| Driving wheel diameter | 6 feet 2 inches |
| Bogie wheel diameter | 3 feet 2 inches |
| Weight | 123 tons |
| Tractive Effort | 26,878 pounds |
| Boiler maximum dia. | 5 feet 6 inches |
| Boiler pressure | 225 lbs/square inch |

2 Rolling Stock

2.1 Thompson B1 BR Black Livery



3 Scenarios

3.1 An Introduction to the Thompson B1

On a local service to Sheffield, your experienced fireman will tell you all about the Thompson B1 Locomotive.

- **Type** Standard Only
- **Duration** 30 Minutes

3.2 Christmas Relief Special

In the run up to Christmas, extra trains have been provided. You will drive one of these special trains as a stopping service to Manchester. There are a lot of track changes and signal vigilance is vital.

- **Type** Standard and Career
- **Duration** 65 Minutes

3.3 Hello Campers

It is the start of the summer holidays and a special train has been chartered to bring guests to a holiday camp in Skegness.

- **Type** Standard and Career
- **Duration** 70 Minutes

3.4 Marylebone Express

Transport some coal to Dewsnap. You have been informed that a O4 goods train ahead of you is struggling due to the weather. Keep an eye out for red signals.

- **Type** Standard and Career
- **Duration** 65 Minutes

3.5 Steam Freight Revival

The rise of electrics over Woodhead is increasingly making steam locomotives obsolete. However, several Class 76s are undergoing maintenance so you are helping on freight duties with a double-headed B1 coal train.

- 4 **Type** Standard and Career
- 5 **Duration** 35 Minutes

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