

Camera Car Operation and Set Up. 6/4/17

A Micromark camera and wireless receiver with video connections to a TV was purchased by the club. Initially the camera was installed in a gondola and under battery operation. Unfortunately the gondola had to be pushed ahead of a loco, which looked a little odd. This camera was then transferred to an F unit loco body. However the battery operation meant that replacement of batteries was a constant maintenance issue.

Eventually, a new camera, transmitter and receiver were purchased and located into another F unit loco body which matches the Clubs Sante Fe F A and B units. The power input for the camera was converted to work from the track using a bridge rectifier, large capacitor and voltage regulator. In order to ID the correct loco, the F unit has an open front allowing the camera to look out and a red rear end. This loco body has no motor and no decoder and will need to be pushed ahead of a motorized loco unit- preferably the clubs Sante Fe units.

Meanwhile the old camera was reworked and fitted into a Daylight colored F unit. This also works from the track and has bridge rectifier, capacitor and voltage regulator fitted. It is also unpowered. This can be put at the front of either a passenger or freight consist.

To set up **The Sante Fe camera car**:

Turn on the power connection of the receiver and TV next to the South door. See pictures below.



The receiver can be seen with the small aerial just to the left of the TV. Once the power switch is on, check that the receiver unit and the TV comes on. At this point the TV should display white noise which means its tuned to the receiver but not getting anything.

Now go to the camera car – it's the Sante Fe (Red Warbonnet color scheme) F A unit – see below. Turn on the track power for the siding that the car is on. The three bright front lights should be on (both the headlight and the side lights). These are deliberately bright to illuminate the tunnels. The camera should now be transmitting and the TV display should show the camera view.



When driving the camera car around the circuit, it should be noted that you may get a flickering display. This is normal.

To turn off the device please move the camera car onto a siding, turn the power off (lights will dim and go out eventually), then turn off the power switch to the receiver and TV.

To set up the **Daylight Camera Car**:

Plug in the connection of the receiver(near the TV) and North corner TV into the power outlet. Both devices feed into an orange power lead which plugs into an extension cord on top of the cabinets by the north door. Once plugged in, check that the red lights come on the receiver unit and that the TV comes on (the TV may need to have its power button pressed on). At this point the TV should display “no signal” which means its tuned to the receiver but not getting anything.

Now go to the camera car – it’s the SP Daylight F A unit.



Turn on the track power for the siding that the car is on. The front light should go on. This is normal brightness that one would expect on a normal loco. The camera should now be transmitting and the TV display should show the camera view.

When driving the camera car around the circuit, it should be noted that you may get a flickering display. This is normal.

To turn off the device please move the camera car onto a siding, turn the track power off (lights will dim and go out), then turn off the extension cord switch to remove power to the TV and receiver.