

10. Ernie Little's Norfolk & Western J-Class 4-8-4



Of all of the locomotives I have, my HO scale Norfolk and Western J-Class locomotive number 611 is my favorite. Made by Broadway Limited Imports, the locomotive is a highly detailed model of N&W 611, the last and sole survivor of fourteen J-class prototype steam locomotives. These locomotives were constructed between 1941 and 1950 at their Roanoke, Virginia shops. N&W 611 was completed at the shops May 29, 1950.

It is DCC equipped, has QSI sound, and runs very smoothly. As with the prototype, the locomotive is painted black with Tuscan red and gold stripes and lettering. My layout, the Norfolk Southern Connector, is based in the Shenandoah Valley where the N&W J-series locomotives may have been seen pulling the Powhatan Arrow, the Pocahontas, or the Cavalier 15-car passenger trains on runs between Norfolk, Virginia and Cincinnati, Ohio. The prototype locomotive has been restored and has been displayed at the Strasburg Railroad in Pennsylvania where it is undergoing an inspection and maintenance. It is then scheduled to be moved back to the Virginia Transportation Museum in 2022. The locomotive was given the name *Spirit of Roanoke* by the Roanoke, Virginia City Council in 2011. **Ernie Little, MMR**