

Disney Monorail

The Disneyland Monorail System opened on June 14, 1959, as a sightseeing attraction in Tomorrowland. The Mark I trains (Red and Blue) consisted of 3 cars each. With the debut of the 4-car Mark II in 1961 (and the new Yellow train), the track was lengthened to leave the park and stop at a station at the Disneyland Hotel. The monorail trains reached their current length of 5 cars in 1968 with the arrival of the Mark III (green). Walt Disney originally envisioned the monorail as a practical form of public transport for the future, but monorails in the U.S. came to be associated only with Disney's theme parks.

In 1985, the trains were rebuilt as Mark V trains. The new trains sported closed passenger compartments and pneumatic doors. Following the 1985 Disney World monorail fire, a safety handrail was added along with emergency fire exit hatches. In 1999, the monorail began lengthy periods of closures due to construction of Disney's California Adventure theme park, which the Monorail beamway passed through. Additionally, the Disneyland Hotel station was completely demolished and a new station built in the same location. In 2001, the monorail resumed full capacity operations, passing through the new park, as well as the hotel within the park.

The monorail was closed from August 21 through late December 2006 to prepare for the opening of Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage in 2007. The refurbishment was done one train at a time. The first Mark VII train, Monorail Red, arrived at Disneyland on December 20, 2007. It was originally expected to be in service by the end of February 2008, but due to design change issues, it did not begin servicing park guests until July 3, 2008. Mark VII Blue arrived on-site on April 10, 2008, began daytime riderless testing on August 1, 2008, and began guest service on September 16, 2008. Monorail Mark VII Orange arrived on-site on August 14, 2008 and is not anticipated to be in service anytime in the near future.

The Mark VII monorails were experiencing difficulties with airflow, due to a window design change from slide-down windows to pop-out windows. This problem has been corrected and the Mark VII can now run in 80+ degree temperatures. The current fleet consist of Mark VII Monorail Red and Mark VII Monorail Blue. As of now, the last Mark V, Monorail Purple, has been officially retired. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disneyland_Monorail_System]

I have 12 Disney covers showing the monorail, all 30s from the Disneyland Hotel. Five are 'Rama, or 'Rama-like. There may be a 40-strike, but I don't have the full set of 40s, so I can't say for certain.

