

Electronics for Model Railways



Appendix

The Model Electronic Railway Group

By Davy Dick

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In memory of Margaret



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The Model Electronic Railway Group

This book is not a MERG production; as the author I retain control of its contents. Nevertheless, as an active member of this group, I know that MERG can make a valuable contribution to both club layouts and home layouts. I am very happy to introduce you to what the group has to offer.

**Model railway electronics for all gauges
and modellers at all stages**



**MERG is the leading international forum for all railway modellers
interested in applying electronics to the hobby**

The Group enables members to exchange ideas and information, and provides kits covering a number of interests including DC operations, DCC, Radio Frequency Identification, computer control and CBUS.

Members have a wide range of knowledge and capability, from beginners to those who work in the electronics and railway industries. MERG caters for all-comers:- beginners (which is where we all started from), semi-experienced, and professionals.

Have a look at the public area of the website:

www.merg.org.uk

MERG (Model Electronic Railway Group) is an international, UK based group promoting interest in the application of electronics & computers to all aspects of railway modelling.

Founded in 1967, the Group's aim is to actively promote and advance the use of electronic and computer technology for model railway operation, which is ideally suited to take advantage of these technologies, and the application of electronics and computers can be used to good effect to add enhanced features and realism to model railway operation. [Read more here](#)

ATC - Auto Shuttle

'ATC' is intended to denote 'Automatic Train Controller' - it offers basic shuttle functionality, but has built-in flexibility that allows it to be used for other purposes.

[Click here to read more about ATC](#)

Latest CBUS information:

CBUS is a comprehensive layout control system developed by MERG Members, using a CAN based layout control bus. Below are the latest documents relating to CBUS.

[Developers Guide](#)

[Module Guide](#)

[Click here to read more about CBUS](#)

MERG DCC System

[Read more about MERG's DCC system](#)

DCC Command Station *Hand control*



MERG is a friendly and informal '*first names*' group and new members are encouraged to present their ideas, as well as share those already available .

Benefits include :

Website

The members' area provides access to a large range of resources. There is a huge amount of material on the website, that you could spend many interesting hours looking through. The material covers all the subjects that you would come across when working with your layout's electrics and electronics.

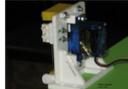
A regular Journal

This is posted out at least four times a year to all members, containing new ideas and reports on developments. Its contents reflect the range of abilities of its members, including simple but useful circuits, reports on what members are working on and suggestions for new devices.

Kits

MERG has a great reputation for developing and making a comprehensive range of low cost, self assembly kits available to members.



Kitlocker Kitlocker Home Product Search Your Orders QUICK ORDER CBUS Kits DCC Kits General Kits SMD Starter Kits Pocket Money Projects SuperBloc Kits PTP-Lite RFID Kits RFID Components Multipacks Tools Accessories CBUS PCBs DCC PCBs General PCBs Clothing Offers Power Supplies Components Transistors Diodes PICs ICs Capacitors	CBUS Kits  MERG's layout control bus system, for layout control and supervision	DCC Kits  MERG DCC Equipment, including handsets, accessory decoders and the new CBUS-DCC system	General Kits  General MERG kits
	SMD Starter Kits  Kits you can practice on without breaking the bank	Pocket Money Projects  A selection of starter kits as featured in the Journal	SuperBloc Kits  Analogue DC Modular Automation System
	PTP-Lite  A new range of Layout Control System Modules. COMING SOON!	RFID Kits  RFID based detection equipment kits	RFID Components  Components for use with RFID Kits
	Multipacks  Multiple kit packs	Tools 	Accessories  Servos, brackets and CAB holders

This includes kits for signal operations, operating points, train detection, etc. Its range of DCC kits includes a command station, a district cutout, accessory decoders, etc. These kits, and the range of Pocket Money Project kits described in chapter 27, can be ordered directly from the website.

Assistance

MERG is renowned for the help that it gives to its members. Its has members throughout the world and they are all able to access help and advice through the MERG internet Forum, its Twitter pages and its Facebook pages.

TOPICS	REPLIES	VEWS	LAST POST
URBEAD SPRING 2014 MERG East Midlands area group meeting by PeteB » Mon Feb 10, 2014 11:53 pm in East Midlands	12	272	by PeteB LAST POST Sat Mar 08, 2014 9:12 am
URBEAD Length of the I2C bus ? by adrian6129 » Sun Feb 09, 2014 2:33 am in PICAXE	36	587	by adrian6129 LAST POST Sat Mar 08, 2014 2:25 am
Pmp7 - track occupancy detector example (hacked) 0 by grog_polymer » Sun Mar 02, 2014 5:01 am in Kits 801 etc Pocket money Projects	14	253	by Maitland LAST POST Sat Mar 08, 2014 1:07 am
URBEAD Calculating Appropriate Resistance 0 by DaveT » Sat Oct 19, 2013 8:24 pm in Layout Wiring	14	308	by DaveT LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 9:41 pm
URBEAD CAN_ETHER 0 by IanH » Sun Mar 31, 2013 11:21 pm in CBUS Development	104	2810	by IanH LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 9:13 pm
URBEAD End of support Microsoft XP 0 by stevjek » Sun Jan 05, 2014 1:15 pm in Members' Lounge	28	570	by MikeBolton LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 8:28 pm
URBEAD CANCOND8C a new CBUS module 0 by sigmanroger » Sun Aug 25, 2013 1:48 pm in CBUS Development	63	1356	by Neale LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 2:25 pm
LED strips 0 by SteveCarr » Wed Feb 19, 2014 12:28 pm in Members' Lounge	23	651	by fdonmedway LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 1:20 pm
RFID device driver Linux support hidraw 0 by Glasairman » Tue Mar 04, 2014 6:28 pm in RFID Software Documentation	7	175	by pault LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 8:52 am
18 March meeting by bigbear333uk » Fri Mar 07, 2014 12:31 am in Three Counties	0	42	by bigbear333uk LAST POST Fri Mar 07, 2014 12:31 am
Dapol Easi Shunt magnetic couplings --Magnets by flyifer » Wed Mar 05, 2014 8:19 pm in Homeless topics	3	140	by NigelCliffe LAST POST Thu Mar 06, 2014 7:55 pm
Remove slim modules by Hutch » Thu Mar 06, 2014 12:29 pm in FCU (FLIM Config Utility)	1	81	by sigmanroger LAST POST Thu Mar 06, 2014 7:42 pm
Animating a signal box diagram 0 by raywhughes » Mon Mar 03, 2014 10:42 am in Members' Lounge	24	386	by fdonmedway LAST POST Thu Mar 06, 2014 8:43 am
MERG Group for Australia by Tim Morrow » Thu Jan 23, 2014 4:27 am in Area Groups	5	344	by trainut LAST POST Wed Mar 05, 2014 10:22 pm
Stepper Motor Turntable Rev. A Board, Ver 12 software 0 by windy46 » Sun Feb 23, 2014 8:55 pm in Turntables	28	667	by b.jt LAST POST Wed Mar 05, 2014 9:53 pm
Looking for switches by Ed_Rains » Wed Mar 05, 2014 3:35 pm in Kit Locker Announcements	2	91	by Ed_Rains LAST POST Wed Mar 05, 2014 8:48 pm

These are used extensively by members to get help while building kits, recommendations for components and equipment, advice on wiring, and much more.

Meetings and Local Area Groups

There are national meetings of MERG members at least four times a year in London. In addition, there is an increasing number of local groups being set up to bring members together in regional areas.

Currently, there are Local Area Groups in;

Aberdeen, ACT (Australian Capital Territory), Bristol, Cardiff, Cornwall, East Anglia, East Midlands, East of Scotland, Essex, Exeter, Highlands, Highlands, Kent, London, North East, North West, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scottish Borders, Shanghai, Somerset, South East Queensland, South Hants, Tayside, Thames Valley, Three Counties, Warwickshire/North Oxfordshire, West Midlands, West of Scotland, Victoria and Yorkshire.

There is also a regular Virtual Area Group where members from around the world meet and discuss via Zoom.

Training

Apart from bringing members together, Local Area Groups play an important role in training and educating members. Members get a chance to find out how things work, see modules in action and pick up new skills such as soldering.

MERG also provides tutors for the weekend courses run at Missenden Abbey, Bucks.

Technical Bulletins

The MERG website provides access to over 250 Technical Bulletins. These documents provide background reading on a large range of subjects, as shown.

Technical Bulletins	
<input type="text" value="TB Home"/>	
<input type="text" value="Search"/>	
Jump to section:	
<input type="text" value="Ancillary"/>	
<input type="text" value="Automatic Train Control"/>	
<input type="text" value="Components"/>	
<input type="text" value="Comp./Command Control"/>	
<input type="text" value="DCC"/>	
<input type="text" value="General"/>	
<input type="text" value="Layout Cabling"/>	
<input type="text" value="Practical"/>	
<input type="text" value="References"/>	
<input type="text" value="Signalling"/>	
<input type="text" value="Traction"/>	

How MERG operates

MERG is entirely run by volunteers - no member receives any financial remuneration for the time and expertise that they contribute. This applies to those who provide the administrative support, those who design and assemble the kits and those who write Technical Bulletins and provide advice on the Forum.

How to join

There is a variety of ways to join and get involved with MERG.

Exhibitions

MERG has a stand at several major shows each year, as well as a number of local shows ones, usually attended by members from the Local Area Groups.

Online

The home page of the MEG website has a link to join MERG, payment being made by credit/debit card, or through your PayPal account.

By mail

You can also complete an application form and post it off with a cheque.

You can download the application forms at

https://www.merg.org.uk/merg_downloads/2023ApplicationFormForOver17s.pdf

or

https://www.merg.org.uk/merg_downloads/2023ApplicationFormForUnder18s.pdf
for Young MERG applicants.

About MERG
Downloads & links
Membership benefits
Members Links
Meetings & Shows
Resources & Information
Area Groups
Contact Us
Apply to join online

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the membership secretary at memsec@merg.info for details before sending in the form.