Jargon Buster

This page is based on the original MERG glossary.
Before adding entries, please read **guide to adding entries** a how to do it for MERG Members.

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z **

A

AC - Alternating Current
Accessory decoders
Accessory encoder
Address
AFAIK - As far as I know
Agile
Amplifier
AM - Amplitude Modulation
Amps or Ampere - The measure of electrical current flow
Analogue
AND
AG - Area Group
AGM - Annual General Meeting
API - Application Program Interface
Arduino
ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange
ASCII Hex - Hexadecimal
Aspect
At-Bus - (Layout) Control Bus
ATC - Automatic Train Control
Auto Reverse Module
AVR - Microcontroller family
AWD - Audible Warning Device
AWG - American Wire Gauge

B

Back EMF - Back Electromotive Force
Baud
BC3
Bell signals
BGA - Ball Grid Array
Bipolar
Bistable
Bit
Bite

BJT - Bipolar Junction Transistor
Block Control
Block occupancy
BloNg - Block oriented N-Gauge
Boolean
Booster
BootLoader
Bps - Bits per second
Bridge rectifier
Buffer
Bus
Byte

C

C/MRI - Computer/Model Railroad Interface
Cab Control
Cabling
CAN or CAN bus - Controller Area Network
CAN related projects from MERG - CBUS Modules
Capacitor
CARLOS - Computer Aided Railway Layout Operating System
CBUS - (Layout) Control Bus
CDC - Communications Device Class
CDU - Capacitor Discharge Unit
CE Mark - Conformité Européenne
Ceramic
Channel
Charlieplexing
Circuit
Circular Buffer - FiFo
Clearing Point
Clock
Closed loop
CMOS - Complementary Metal–Oxide–Semiconductor
COB - Chip-on-Board
Coil
Colour Light
COM Port - Communication Port
Command Station
Common
Common Return Wiring
Computer Control Software
Conductor
Consist
Control Systems
CPC - Circuit Protective Conductor
Crystal
Current

Current Shunt
CV - Configuration Variable

D

D Type Connector
DC - Direct Current
DC Control
DCC - Digital Command Control
DCC-EX
DCO - District Cut-Out
DCT - see DTC
Debounce
DecoderPro
Decoupling Capacitor
Digital
Digitrax
DIL Socket - Dual In-Line socket
Diode
Dirty PSU - Dirty Power Supply Unit
DPCO - Double Pole Change Over
DPDT - Double Pole Double Throw
DPR - Double Pole Relay
DPST - Double Pole Single Throw
Driver
DTC - DCC Track Circuit

E

EDG - Event Data Grid
EDL - Edit decision list (relates to MERG YouTube videos)
EEPROM - Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
Electro Frog
Electromagnet
ELV - Extra Low Voltage
EMF - Electromotive Force
Engine Driver - Android Throttle Application
EPROM - Erasable Programmable Read-Only
ESD - Electo Static Discharge
ESR - Equivalent Series Resistance
EV - Event Variable
Event
EzyBus - A Model railway control bus created by Davy Dick

F

Faller
FallerCarSystem
FAOB - For and on behalf of
Fast clock
FCU - Full layout implementation model Configuration Utility
FDM - Fused Deposition Modeling (3D Printing)
Feathers
FET- Field Effect Transistor
FIFO - First In First Out
Firmware
Flag
Flash Memory
FLiM - Full Layout implementation Model
Flip flop
FM - Frequency Modulation
Frequency
FSM - Finite State Machine
FTDI - Future Technology Development International (connection devices)
Fuse

G

Gerber image
GIT repository
GPP software
GPIO - General Purpose Input and Output
Ground

H

Hall effect
Handset
Handshaking
Happening
HASL - Hot Air Solder Leveling
Header plug or socket
Heat sink
Hector
Hexadecimal or Hex
High
HO Scale
HTH - Hope that helps
HYPOTRAC
Hysteresis

Hysteresis loop

I

ICs - Integrated Circuits
ICSP - In Circuit Serial Programming
Incandescent lamps
Include Guard - also pragma once
Inductor
Infrared emitter
Infrared receiver/detector
Insulfrog
Interlocking
ISR - Interrupt Service Routine
ISTR - I seem to recall/remember

J

JAL - Just Another Language
Java
JMRI - Java Model Railroad Interface
JSON - JavaScript Object Notation

K

KISnet - a layout control bus created by John Purbrick
Kits
KnowledgeBase
KSM Kit Sales Manager - email on the Kitlocker page

L

Latching - the new state is held until it is changed
LCB - Layout Control Bus
LCC - NMRA's Layout Command Control (equiv. to OpenLCB)
LDR - Light Dependent Resistor
Lead free - usually refers to a type of solder
LED - Light Emitting Diode
Lenz - European manufacturer of DCC equipment
LiFo - Last in First out
Lighting decoder
Logic - refers to circuits ot calculations on binary information
Long Event - 32-bit eventid

M

Magnet
Matrix
MCB - Miniature Circuit Breaker
Memory Wire
Microprocessor
MMC - MERG Management Committee.
MMC - Module Management Console for the configuration and management of CBUS and VLCB modules.
Mobile decoder
Modulation
MOMS - MERG Online Membership System
Monostable
MOOO - Modular OO Open
MOSFET - Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor
MRC - Model Railway Club
MSAG - MERG Somerset Area Group
Multiplexor

N

NAND - Not AND
Negative
NMRA - National Model Railroad Association
NMRAnet - Early Layout Command Control
NOR - Not OR
NPN - Type of transistor
NV - Node Variable

O

Octal Darlington Arrays
Ohms - a measurement of electrical resistance
OP - Original Post(er)
Op amp - operational amplifier, often refers to an electronic chip
Open collector - a circuit with a transistor that not connected
OpenLCB - Open Layout Control Bus (equiv to LCC)
Optical detector
Opto-isolator
OR - a logical operation similar to arithmetic addition
Oscillation
Oscilloscope - an electronics instrument that displays waveforms

P

PAT - Portable Appliance Testing
Parallel
PCB - Printed Circuit Board
PCB software
Peco motor
PEI - Polyetherimide
Phase
PIC - Peripheral Interface Controller
PICKit
PiSo - Parallel in Serial out
PLA - Polylactid Acid or Programmable Logic Array
Plank - A small test layout, usually having no scenery or prototype
PM - Phase Modulation or Pulse Modulation
PMD1
PMD2
PMP - Pocket Money Project
PMR1
PNP - Type of Transistor
Point Motors
Points
Polarity
Positive
POR - Power On Reset
Pot - Potentiometer
Potentiometer
Power district
Power pack
Programming
Progressive cab control
PSU - Power Supply Unit
PTP - Point to Point
PTP-Lite
Pulse
PWM - Pulse Width Modulation
Pulsed output

Q

QFN - Quad Flat No Leads - a surface mount IC package
QFP - Quad Flat Pack - a surface mount IC package
QTU - Quad Throttle Unit

R

RailCom
RailCommunity
Raspberry Pi
RC filter - Resistance and Capacitor Filter
Rectification
Reed Switch
Regulated power supply
Relays
Resistor
Resistor network
Resonator
Reverse polarity
RFC - Request For Comment
RFID - Radio Frequency IDentification
Ring Buffer
Risk assessment
RLSC - Reversed Linked Section Control
RMS - Root Mean Square
Road Vehicle Control
Route setting
RPC - Remote Panel Control
RPI - Remote Panel Interface
RS232
RS485
RSA - a MERG RS232 to RS485 converter
RSE - Remote Stack Extension
RTC
RTFM - Read The Flipping Manual
RTOS - Real-Time Operating System

S

SABLE - Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy
Schottky Diode
SD4 - Remote Panel Control module
Seep motor
Semaphore
Series
Servo
Shift register
Short Event
SIG - Special Interest Group
Signalling
SiPo - Serial in Parallel out
SLiM - Simple/Small Layout implementation Model
Smoothing

SMPS - Switch Mode Power Suppply
SoC - System on Chip
SoD - Start of Day
Solid conductor
Sound decoder
Soundtrax
SPAD - Signal Passed At Danger
SPDT- Single Pole Double Throw
SPI - Serial Peripheral Interface
Sprog
SPST - Single Pole Single Throw
SRI4 - Remote Panel Control module
SRO4 - Remote Panel Control module
SSI
Star network
Stationary decoder
Stay Alive
Steady state
SToC - Searchable Table of Contents
Stranded conductor
SuperBloc
SWG - Standard Wire Gauge
Switch
Switch machine
Switch mode

T

Tag strip
TB - Technical Bulletin
TBH - To be honest
TCC - Train Control Centre/Center
Technical Data
Thou - 1/1000th of an inch
Throttle/handset
Timers
TLA - A three-letter acronym
Toggle
TORR - Train Operated Route Release
Tortoise motor
ToTI - Train-on-Track Indicator
TOU - Turnout Operating Unit
Track circuit
Track cleaner
Train detection
Transducer
Transformer
Transistor
Tri-State - Three State output pin

Ts&Cs - Terms and Conditions
Turnout actuator
TVS - Transient Voltage Suppressor
Twinkling

U

UART or USART - Universal Synchronous and/or Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter
Unregulated power supply
USB - Universal Serial Bus
USI - Universal Serial Interface

V

Via
VCP - Virtual Communications Port
VLCB - Versatile Layout Control Bus
Volatile memory - Memory that looses data without power
Volt The measure of electrical potential difference
Voltage regulator

W

Watt
Welding simulator
Wiki
w.r.t. - with respect to

X

XLR Connector
XOR Gate - Exclusive OR Gate

Y

YMMV - Your Mileage May Vary

Z

Zener diode

Zero 1
ZIF socket - Zero Insertion Force socket
ZIMO - Austrian DCC supplier
ZTC - British DCC supplier

From:
https://merg.org.uk/merg_wiki/ - **Knowledgebase**

Permanent link:
https://merg.org.uk/merg_wiki/doku.php?id=glossary:start&rev=1777818233

Last update: **2026/05/03 15:23**