

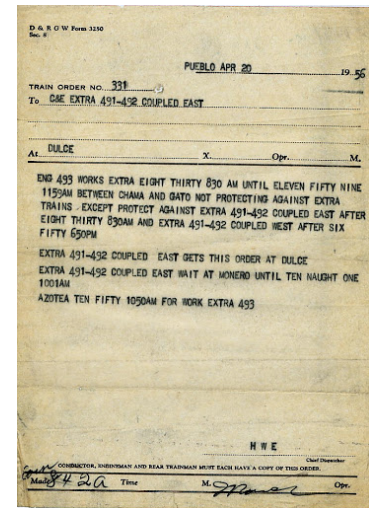


THE FLIMSY

What is a 'flimsy'? Before the advent of radios and computers multiple copies of train orders were typed simultaneously on a typewriter using carbon paper. The paper they were typed on was closer to tissue paper than the paper we are all used to, hence 'flimsy'. The train order at left comes from the D&RGW in 1956.

TIP-OF-THE-MITT DIVISION 2 NORTH CENTRAL REGION NMRA

FEBRUARY 2021



Super Sez...

Happy New Year Division 2! Ok, it's February but just pretend this newsletter hit your inbox in January! ;-) The slow rollout of Covid vaccines means we are still going to be zooming for the foreseeable future. This month (next Saturday February 20) we are going to have a presentation on water effects by Division 2 member Dr. John Campbell. John is building a layout modelling the Ann Arbor Railroad in the 1920's. One of the areas he is modelling is the Ann Arbor car ferry service in Elberta (Frankfort) Michigan. John has done an excellent job of modelling the shoreline and shallow waters and will show us how he does it. This will be John's first clinic for Division 2, and I look forward to many more as his modelling is superb.

We are still discussing a subject for March, perhaps Bill Neale with a clinic on weathering steam era cars and locomotives, or? Let us know if there is a subject you would like to see us present as a clinic.

In April, we are looking forward to an LED lighting clinic from Division 2 Paymaster David Zolnierek. David has been scratch-building narrow gauge cars and is amazingly creative using tiny LED's to simulate kerosene lamps (see 'Show and Tell' this issue).

I hope to see you next Saturday at 10:00 AM via zoom.

Scott

Topic: **NMRA NCR Division 2 Meeting**

Time: February 20, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282726065?pwd=eEhxR2tvMis0dIRMaGYvbDhXM09LUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 3341 1392

Passcode: 170182

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdRWZcTlwn>

Future Meetings:

Saturday March 20th, 10:00 AM

Clinic: Steam Era Weathering

Saturday April 17th, 10:00 AM

Clinic: Lighting with LEDs

Saturday May 15th, 10:00 AM

Clinic tbd.

DIVISION 2 SHOW AND TELL

Bill Horning sent these photos from his Rio Grande Midland layout which he describes as follows: The Palisades are between the two tunnels East of Red Cliff on my railroad but the real thing was on the Denver South Park and Pacific about a mile west of the Alpine Tunnel between Buena Vista and Gunnison, Colorado.

The outside wall of Royal Gorge is foam and has been removed to facilitate working on the river and roadbed but in the final installation the entire canyon will be two sided with only one cleft through which to view the interior as well as the entry and exit to Royal Gorge.



DIVISION 2 SHOW AND TELL



John Campbell is making progress on Elberta



Al Johnson is expanding his empire!



DIVISION 2 SHOW AND TELL



David Zolnierok provided these views of scratch building projects on his workbench.

Pay particular attention to the car at left, in April David will show us how he lights those kerosene lamps with SMD LEDs.



DIVISION 2 SHOW AND TELL



Mike Burgess added a new coal train to his layout. Mike is an N scaler and while small his layout has beautifully scenery.



Pete Magoun provided these in progress pictures of his Banganoggin bridge.



DIVISION 2 SHOW AND TELL



Jens Hensel is making great progress on his Louisville New Albany and Corydon switching layout.



ONE MAN'S APPROACH...



Ernie Barry (who presented an excellent clinic on weathering at our September meeting) continues to weather his fleet. Currently he is focusing on tank cars and he sent us the following:

Beginning "kit"! Model Master and Polly Scale acrylics, Testors Dull Coat, denatured alcohol, lacquer thinner, a dual action Badger airbrush, chalk and Pan Pastels.

Process: remove trucks and weather with acrylic washes. Wash car with TSP/90, a phosphate free cleaner. Rinse with clean water. Air dry and cover until spraying.

Tape off couplers, mount car body to simple wood and toothpick fixture for access to entire body when spraying.

Spray entire car with dull coat.(optional)



ONE MAN'S APPROACH...



Begin by fading original car color.

Mix a gray color 50/50 with proper thinner. The gray color value will determine the amount of fading along with the amount of applications. I used alcohol with Polly Scale and Model Master paint. The alcohol allows a light dry flat finish. Apply this more heavily on upper surfaces and car ends.

Next ... light applications of a rust color. I mixed zinc chromium primer with roof brown in various degrees for light to heavy rust effects. Apply this on upper surfaces and in some cases light vertical strokes to car sides.

Some light vertical streaks of the gray can be effective as well. A final control coat of grimy black or a very dark gray, thinned 30% paint 70% thinner will blend and tone down any strong contrasts.



ONE MAN'S APPROACH...



Finally if appropriate, a spray of oil black can be added to the tank dome and hatch, spilling vertically down the sides.

For an extremely dirty car, a small amount of gloss black was added on some cars.

At this point after assembling the car some chalk application was experimented with for blending the vertical streaking effects.



FROM THE WORKBENCH



What's new in DCC Decoders?

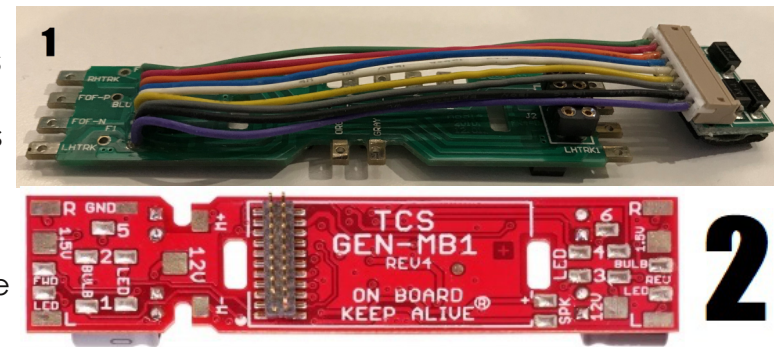
How manufacturers wire locomotives has been a constantly changing subject over the last 10 plus years. From Athearn 'Blue Box' solid metal bus to direct wiring and now with 'motherboards'. What's a motherboard you ask? Well, a motherboard is a single board that all wire connections are brought to and then the decoder is plugged in to the board.

Meanwhile manufacturers have moved lighting from 12-volt bulbs to 1.5-volt bulbs to LED's. There have been numerous dead-end steps along the way, but there seems to be some consensus lately on LED's and 21-pin decoder connectors.

This has allowed the growth of aftermarket motherboards from at least three manufactures that make DCC installs much easier. I have been particularly interested in TCS motherboards because they have multiple models specific to the major manufacturers (Athearn (RTR and Genesis), Atlas, Bowser, and Intermountain) AND they provide Keep-Alive capacitors, frequently already on the motherboard.

I recently bought several to install in 'DCC Ready' models that have been sitting on the shelf waiting a decoder. Today I am going to look at two Athearn Genesis GP9's, in the future I will cover Atlas (at least three install variations), Athearn RTR, Bowser, and original Proto 2000 ('Brown Box').

Both GP-9's had a board that looks like this (1). In both cases I just disconnected all wires and removed the existing board. The TCS GEN-MB1 is a 'drop in' replacement. (2) I put drop-in in quotes because as it turns out the spacing of the hole in the board for the tabs wasn't quite right and I ended up using a piece of a toothpick on both sides to ensure a solid connection. One of the nice things about these motherboards is that they have solder pads that you can tin a wire and solder directly to (much better than the pinch connectors originally supplied). So, I routed / rerouted the four truck pickup wires and the two motor wires and soldered them to the appropriate pads on each board. This included removing the weight where the speaker enclosure will be installed.



3 For this install I used the TCS GEN-SH2 (3) which is a 3D printed enclosure and speaker made specifically for this install.

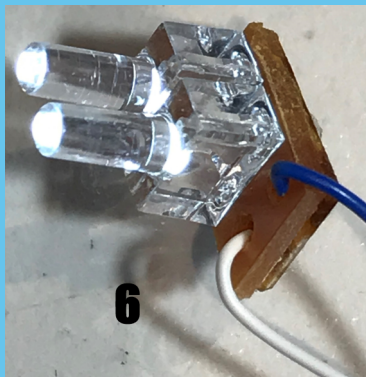
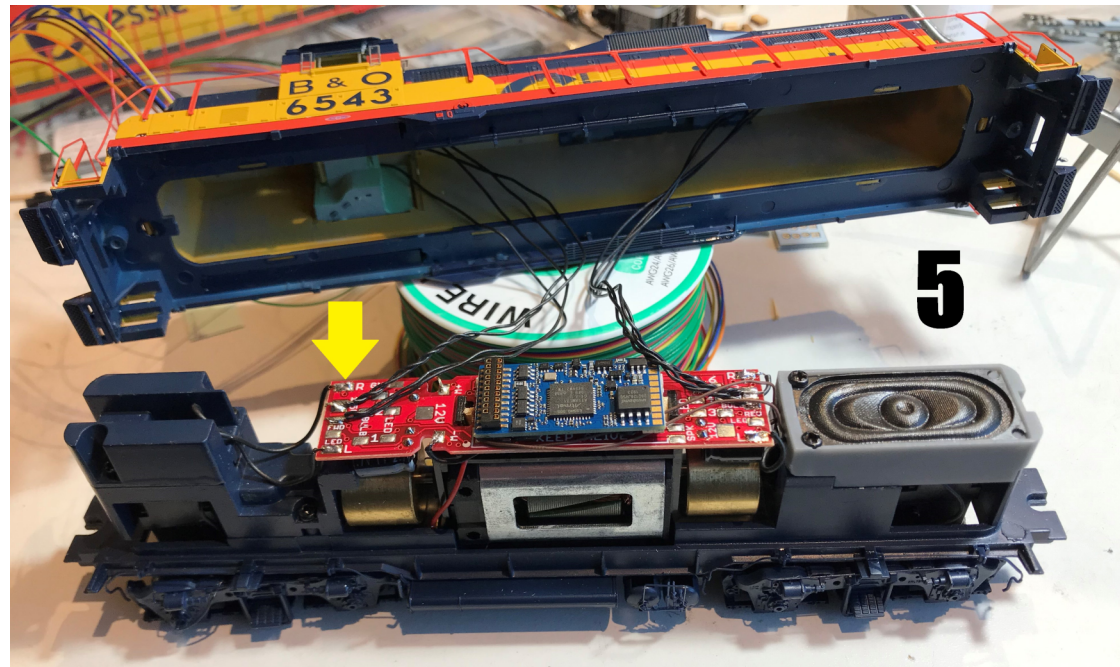
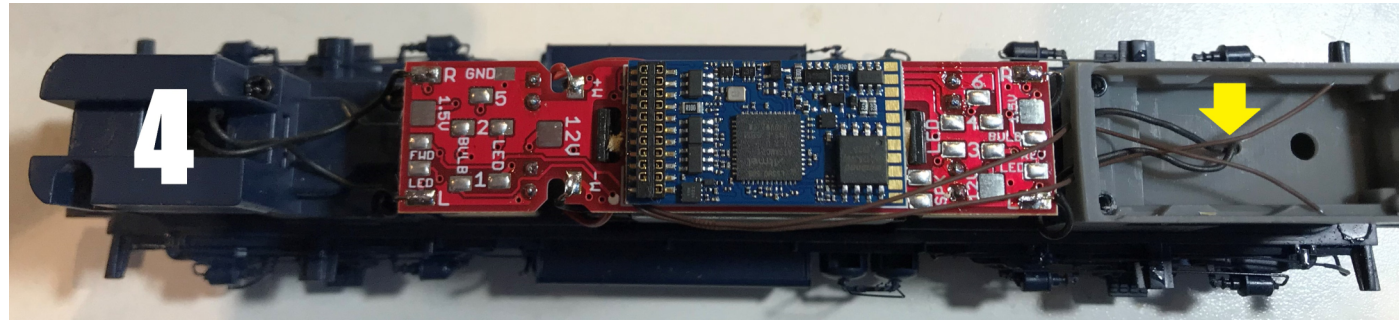
FROM THE WORKBENCH...

The only modification I made was to drill a small hole in the bottom to allow the power pickup wires from (long hood end) trucks to come up, through the enclosure and out the same hole as the speaker wire (4). For the Chessie GP9 I reused the existing 1.5-volt grain-of-rice bulbs (generally during a decoder install I replace any bulbs (or weird yellow LEDs) with white or golden white LED's). Note that the TCS motherboard has pads for 1.5-volt, LED (3-volt), and 12-volts, so pick your poison. I then plugged in the ESU LokSound 5 decoder and the locomotive was ready to be closed (5).

The blue B&O GP9 install was the same except I chose to replace the 1.5-volt bulbs with LEDs. In this case I wanted to try a pair of 2 mm white LEDs side by side. I soldered two of the LEDs to a perf board, and then wired to the joined LEDs (6) (I ended up removing the 3rd perf hole and soldered directly to the back of the board because it was too tall to fit).

I had to enlarge the holes for the headlights on each end to 2mm and then press fit the LED assembly into each end (7). This configuration works (8) but at least for Genesis locomotives I will use another method in the future. The 2mm LEDs should work well for 'Blue Box' locomotive installs, however.

Scott



AP CORNER - PETE MAGOUN, MMR

The Year is New!
So Don't be Blue!
Start a project!
Get out the glue!



Or paint a backdrop,
Build a Car!
You know where your
projects are!

Just pause a bit to work the forms
Your AP Project meets the norms!
Your honors wait, so don't be late
You have to leave the Starting Gate!

We're here to help, so ask ahead.
Finish up before the year is dead!
An MMR upon your wall
Will surely have you standing tall!

You'll learn a lot! That's very true,
And fun you'll have and that's true too!

But work you must lest dreams be dust
And Big Ideas become a bust.
So, start the project! Get the Glue!
Let this be the year that's all about you!

The way is clear to start the year
With projects done and in the Clear.
And forms filled out, so they are seen.
The Signal's clear...it shows High Green!
01/01/21

DIVISION 2 LEADERSHIP

Superintendent and Newsletter

Scott Pandorf superintendent.nmra.ncr.div2@gmail.com

Assistant Superintendent

Mike Cipko mcipko@charter.net

Chief Clerk

Bob Crocker rc6sb@charter.net

Paymaster

David Zolnierek davidzolnierek@charter.net

Yardmaster – Northern

Mike McDougall michaelcoguy@sbcglobal.net

Yardmaster – Traverse City

Jens Hensel jens.hensel50@gmail.com

Trainmaster

Position Open

PIKE ADS



MHT

MOUNT HEALTHY TRACTION CO.
SUB OF SWEETWATER RAILROAD
WALT & CAROLYN WYATT
HOPE MI

Ohio and Mississippi Railroad



Lake Leelanau, Mi