

DCC/ Railroading Terms Used in our DCC Sections

Accessory Functions: Additional functions, other than loco control, are built into decoders and can go from Function 0 [F0] to Function 28 [F28]. These can include functions such as lighting, Horn, Bell, and more.

Fast Clock With Adjustable Ratios: A clock that moves at a faster time rate to scale time for model railroad use. A fast clock has adjustable time ratios to set the scale time you want.

Advanced Consisting: Running multiple locos in a train as if it were a single unit. This is accomplished by storing instructions to set up consists in CV # 19 in the decoders. (CV= Configuration Variable)

Back EMF: Back Electro-Magnetic Force is feedback from the electric motor inside a model locomotive. The decoder reads this feedback to adjust the actual speed for existing conditions

Backlit Display: A display that has subdued lighting to make it easier to read

Block Switches: Toggle switches used to control different power sources in different track sections of a model train layout.

Block Wiring: Wiring needed to go from the block switches to the different track sections on a model railroad layout. Block wiring divides a layout into sections in which trains can be independently controlled.

Cab Control Panel: A panel that you construct that has a layout diagram displayed on it. Block switches are mounted to it so you can route the power from block to block

Cab Jacks/Extension Plates: Remote locations around a model railroad layout where you can plug in extra handheld throttles

Data Packets: Packets of information, in the form of computer code [0's and 1's] that deliver commands to decoders in locomotives telling the locos what to do.

Drop-in Decoder/Universal Decoder: These are mobile decoders that are mounted in your locomotives. A universal type has a plug to make installations easier. A drop-in usually involves removing the existing circuit board in a model locomotive and replacing it with this type of decoder

Duplex Wireless: Two way wireless communication where as a DCC command base station can talk back and forth with a wireless DCC handheld

Dynamic Braking: A type of locomotive braking that uses the back EMF of the traction motors to slow the train. The heat generated by this type of braking is dissipated through an on-board resistor grid and cooling fans

Prime Mover: An on-board diesel motor that provides power to the locomotive

GenSet Loco: A modern diesel/electric locomotive with 2 or 3 sets of smaller prime movers. It uses less fuel because each prime mover is started only when more power is needed

Repeaters: Boosters to strengthen a radio signal over longer distances.

Rule 17: A type of locomotive lighting rule used by certain railroads that stipulates locos dim their lights in certain areas.

16-Bit Sound: Better sound quality as opposed to older decoders with only 8-bit sound

Routing: Setting up accessory decoders to turn on a group of connected accessories, or setting a group of turnouts to a specific route.

Sound Decoder: An onboard decoder that features sounds of a real locomotive. Can be a “sound only” decoder which is used in conjunction with a “power only” decoder, or can combine both sound and power in the same decoder

Synchronized Sound: Sound that is synchronized with the movements and/or operation of the sound decoder equipped locomotive

Turnout: A specialized section of track with movable point rails to move a train from one section of track to another