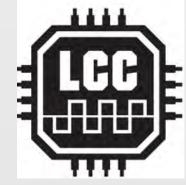


What Is It?

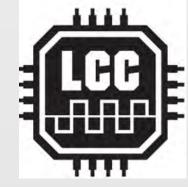
Legal Statement, requested by the NMRA General Counsel



Use, in this clinic, of the LCC logo and LCC information does not mean that the NMRA has reviewed this clinic or approved it in any way. While there may be information in this clinic that appears in the NMRA standards and recommended practices, I have not obtained any of this clinic from that source material.

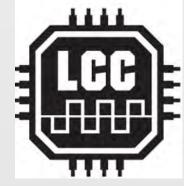
The LCC logo is a registered trademark belonging to the NMRA.
Its use without permission from the General Counsel is improper.
I have received permission for use in this clinic.

LCC is an NMRA-Proposed Solution



The NMRA decided a decade ago to call for the creation of an open (license free) method to interface to your <u>layout</u>.

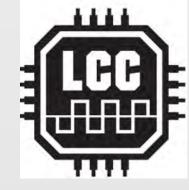
LCC is an NMRA-Proposed Solution



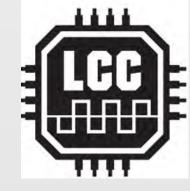
The intent was, like the NMRA DCC standards, that many manufacturers would be able to build layout accessory products that will interchange as freely as is now true for DCC mobile decoders.

• The bus must use <u>license free commercial standards</u>

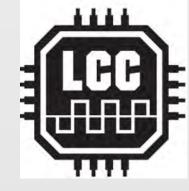
for its communications as much as is possible.



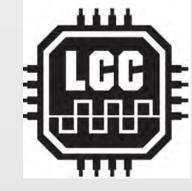
- The bus must use <u>license free commercial standards</u> for its communications as much as is possible.
- It should be <u>robust and viable</u> into the next generation of electronic products.

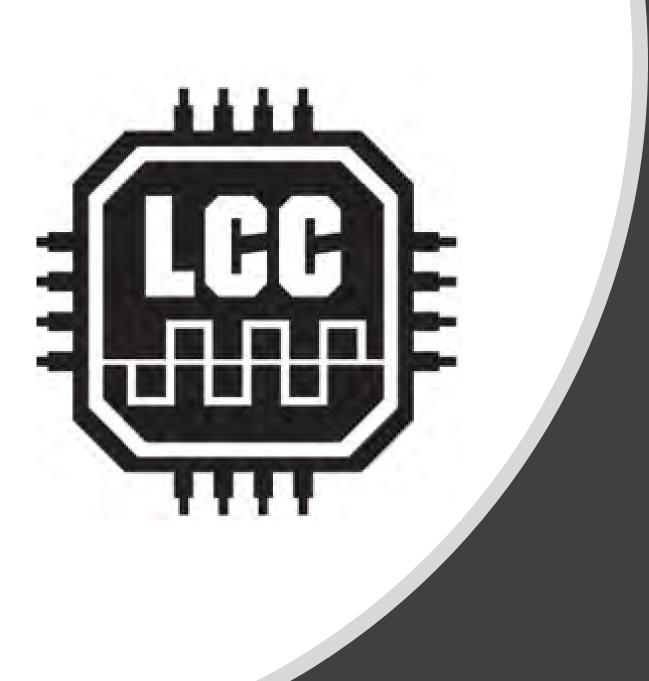


- The bus must use <u>license free commercial standards</u> for its communications as much as is possible.
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- It should be a <u>peer-peer</u> design with no requirements for any central control.



- The bus must use <u>license free commercial standards</u> for its communications as much as is possible.
- It should be <u>robust and viable</u> into the next generation of electronic products.
- It should be a <u>peer-peer</u> design with no requirements for any central control.
- Any two <u>devices from any manufacturers</u> must be able to exchange data.

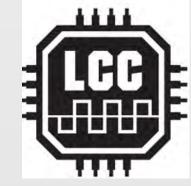




What Is It?



LCC is an Information Superhighway for Accessories and Their Controls on Model Railroad Layouts



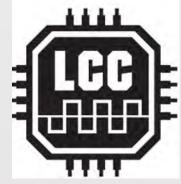
LCC provides a common language for <u>Accessories</u> to talk to each other

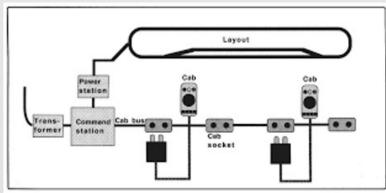
LCC is Designed for Layout Functions:

Turnout Motors Block Detection Signals Road Crossings Building Lights Ambient Lights Arduinos



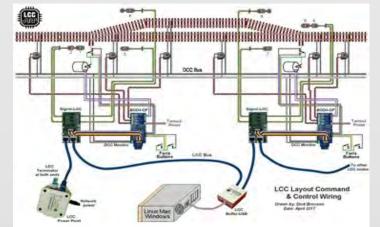






DCC Operates the Train

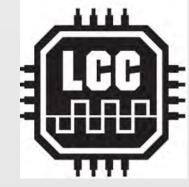
- Powers the track
- One-way signal to decoders
- Each decoder is independent



LCC Operates the Layout

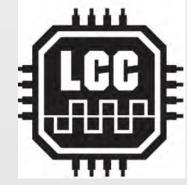
- No connection to track
- **Two-way communication**
- All "nodes" have all information





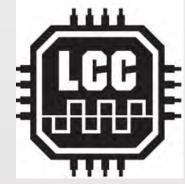
• On the Track - DCC





- On the Track DCC
- Beside the Track LCC

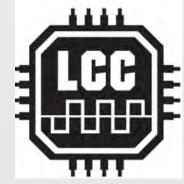




- On the Track DCC
- Beside the Track LCC
- Crossovers between On and Beside the Track
- LocoNet, CMRI, XpressNet, MERG,

plus others are **Proprietary Systems**





- On the Track DCC
- Beside the Track LCC

Crossovers between On and Beside the Track

• LocoNet, CMRI, XpressNet, MERG,

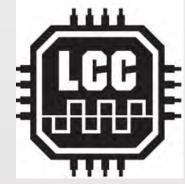
plus others are Proprietary Systems

• DCC is a Master-Slave system with

Fixed Address Space



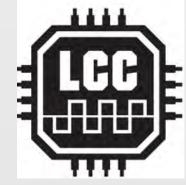
DCC Is Designed for <u>Operating Trains</u>



• DCC provides digital information with the power in the rails



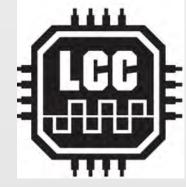
DCC Is Designed for <u>Operating Trains</u>



- DCC provides digital information with the power in the rails
- Command Station communicates with each throttle (or other input device via a proprietary networks)



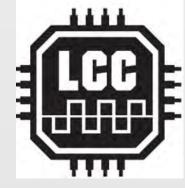
DCC Is Designed for **Operating Trains**



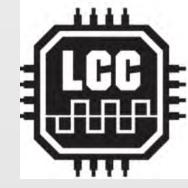
- DCC provides digital information with the power in the rails
- Command Station communicates with each throttle (or other input device via a proprietary Network)
- Command Station then sends signal to engines (or other DCC Decoder equipment using NMRA standard DCC)
 - Each decoder receives all signals and reacts only to those sent to it's address
 - **Does not provide digital feedback** that it has done anything



DCC Is Designed for **Operating Trains**



- DCC provides digital information with the power in the rails
- Command Station communicates with each throttle (or other input device via a proprietary Network)
- Command Station then sends signal to engines (or other DCC Decoder equipment using NMRA standard DCC)
 - Each decoder receives all signals and reacts only to those sent to it's address
 - Does not provide feedback that it has done anything
- Sound equipped engines use more data communications
- As more trains (or stationary decoders) are added, the response rate to new commands (think horn/whistle) slows



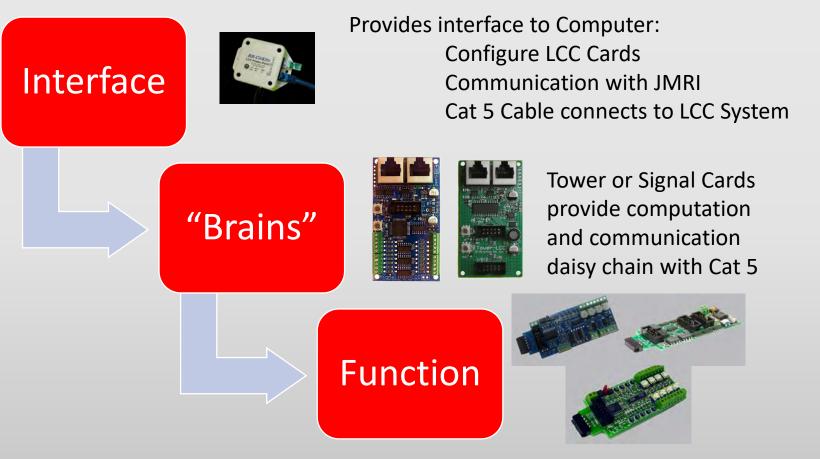
LCC Can Run on Layouts Controlled By:

- •AC
- DCC
- •DCS
- •TMCC
- RailPro
- Battery power
 - •etc



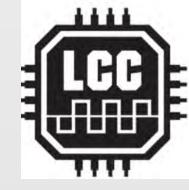
Building LCC Is Like Building with LEGO's

There are three basic building "blocks"



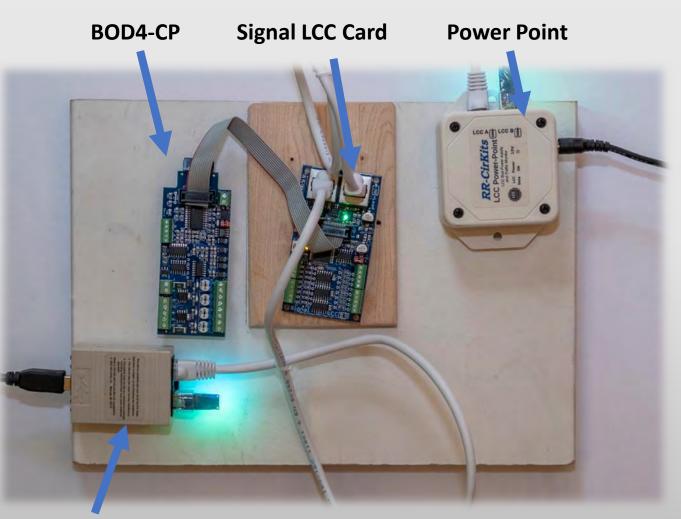
Functions are "Daughter Boards" to Tower or Signal Cards Operate Turnouts, Detect Occupancy, or Auxiliary Equipment

Connect with 10 wire flat cable to Tower or Signal Card





The World's Simplest LCC System



LCC Buffer Computer Interface



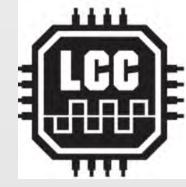
The "Brains" of LCC are in Two Cards



- Tower LCC
- Use this card for most applications
- 16 Line Input/output node for NMRA CAN bus LCC
 - Communicates on LCC Buss via daisy Chain Cat5 Cables
 - It will support two "daughter boards"



- Signal LCC
- Use this card if you want Signals
- 16 Led drivers plus 8 line Input/Output node for NMRA CAN bus LCC[®]
 - Provides LED control to up to Four Signal Masts
 - It will support one "daughter board"





Functions Happen on "Daughter" Boards

BOD8

Block Occupancy Detector

- This board operates as a DCC occupancy detector for 8 blocks using remote CT coils.
- It outputs logic levels, and has a RR-CirKits standard ribbon connector interface.
- The "Power-Lok" feature monitors the DCC bus power. A power failure latches the detection status of each block until power is restored and re-stabilized.

SMD8

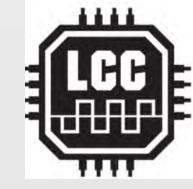
Stall Motor Driver

- This 8 output, optically isolated, low current "H" bridge driver is designed for control of 8 stall motor switch machines. (E.g. Tortoises[®])
- It can drive up to 100ma. per line, speed regulated output 4 to 12VDC.
- (PTC fuse limited to 200ma total per board for safety

BOD4CP

Block Occupancy Detector-4

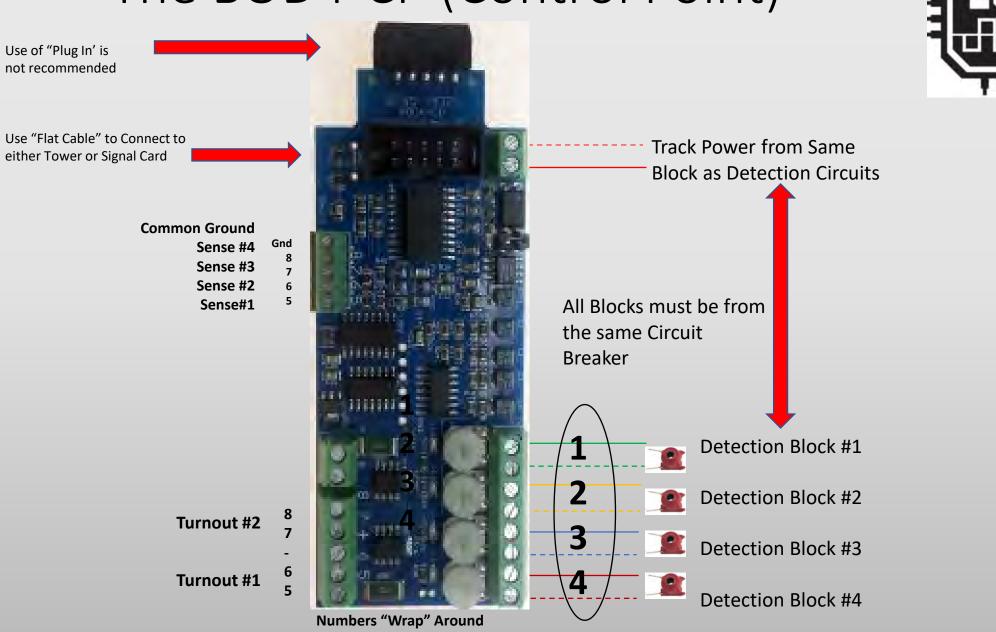
- This board operates as a DCC occupancy detector for 4 blocks using remote CT coils.
- It outputs logic levels, and has a RR-CirKits standard ribbon connector interface.
- The "Power-Lok" feature optionally monitors the DCC bus power. A power failure latches the detection status of each block until power is restored and re-stabilized.
- The CP version also includes dual turnout drivers.
- When used with the Tower LCC or Signal LCC boards there are also 4 general purpose I/O connections.





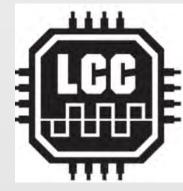


The BOD4-CP (Control Point)

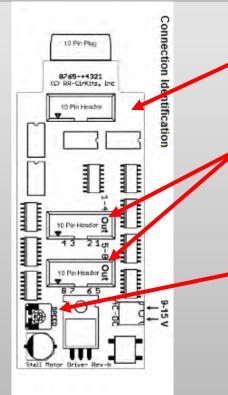




SMD8 Card Can be Used for Turnouts or Other Functions





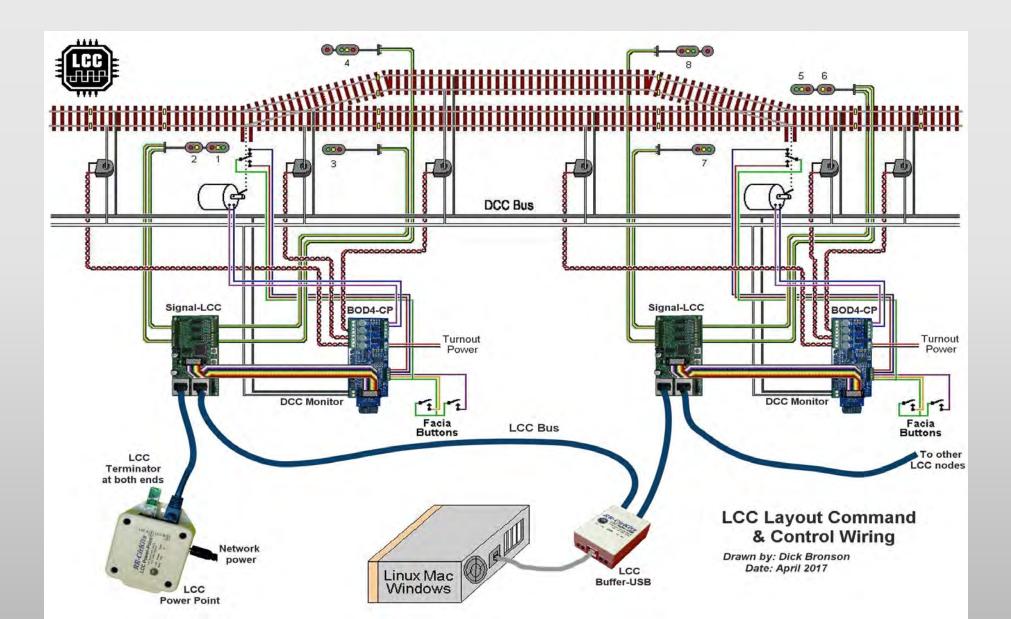


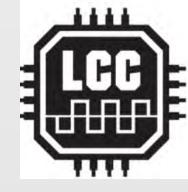
Input – 10 Wire Flat Cable from Tower or Signal Card

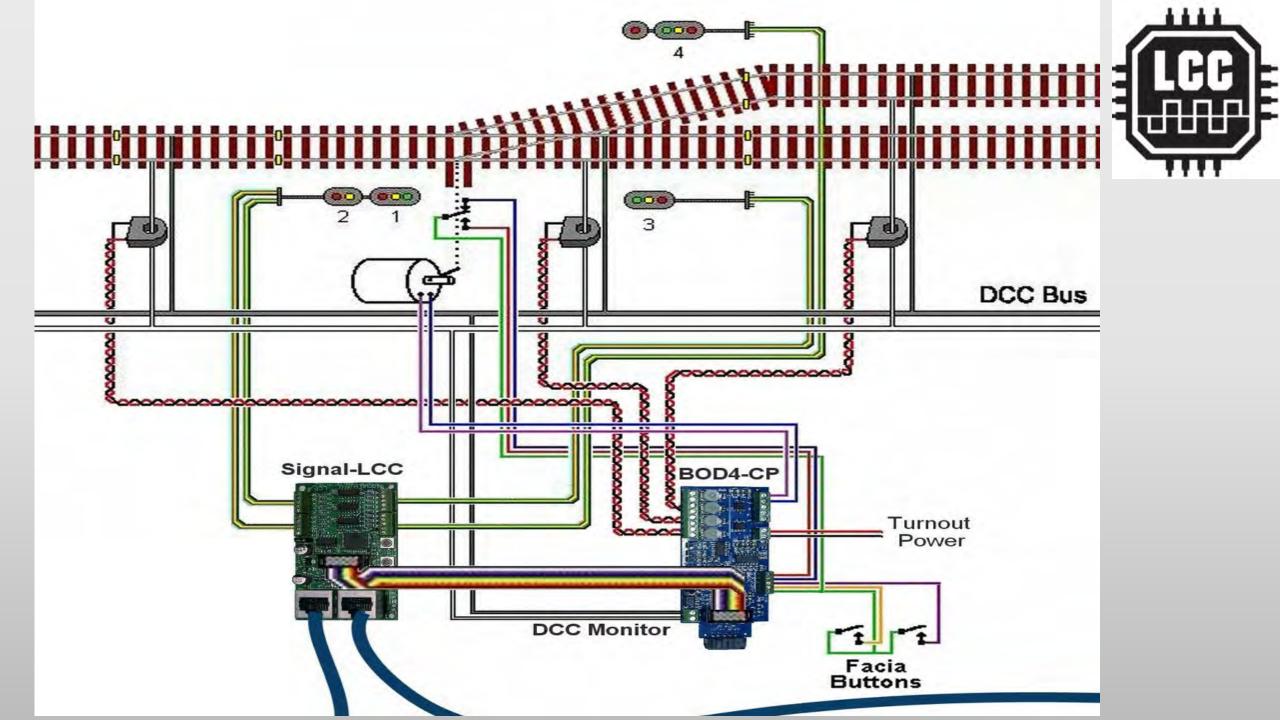
Output –2 X 10 Wire Flat Cables

- Up to 100 mA per channel
- Max of 200 mA per board
- Optimized for Tortoise Motors
- Can be used to control other functions—such as LEDs!
- Speed Control
 - Sets voltage between 4 and 12 Volts
 - Sets Tortoise rate, or
 - Input voltage to LEDs (or other auxiliary)

How It Works at a Single Location!









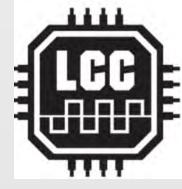
The LCC Bus Structure Provides All Information to All Locations^{• DCC sends a message to an individual location}

- This is analogous to texting an individual in a crowded room
- An example is "Engine 4567 turn on your headlight"

LCC announces to the "world

- This is analogous to a loudspeaker in an auditorium
- An example is --A train enters Block 123 which sends a message "I am occupied"
 - <u>All</u> locations hear this message, and several react:
 - JMRI Panel Pro will change the color of the rail on the dispatcher panel to indicate occupancy
 - The signals in this block will change state to a "Red" aspect
 - Previous block signals will also change
 - Perhaps a turnout or other device will also activate if so directed. And the turnout will report its actual position.

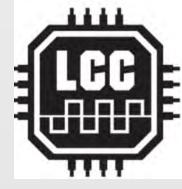




•LCC Basic Concepts include: Peer-peer

A peer-peer network does not require a controlling computer.

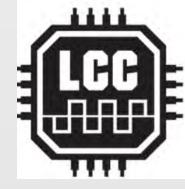
(A computer is required to setup and get the system configured)



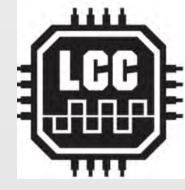
•LCC Basic Concepts include: Globally unique

Each node has a globally unique, identifier, one of 281 trillion.

Each NMRA member has 256 node IDs Each node can create 65,536 Events

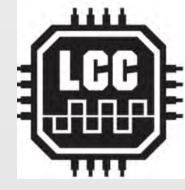


- •LCC Basic Concepts include: Self-describing
 - LCC will provide a complete list of all hardware connected to the Layout



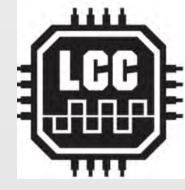
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- With LCC you don't tell the system what hardware you have added, the system will tell you.



•LCC Basic Concepts include: Self-describing

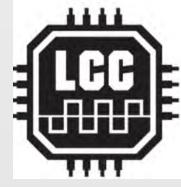
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- You decide what accessories are named.



•LCC Basic Concepts include: Self-describing

- LCC will provide a complete list of all hardware connected to the Layout
- With LCC you don't tell the system what hardware you have added, the system will tell you.
- You decide what accessories are named.
- The system explains the capabilities elements have.

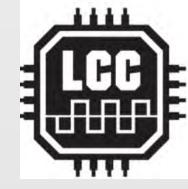
LCC is Event Driven in a *Producer-Consumer* Environment



• An LCC Event has no predefined meaning You define Events during configuration

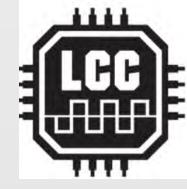
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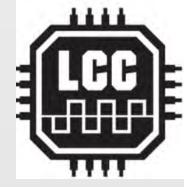
- An LCC Event simply says;
 - 'something has happened'
 - 'something should happen'



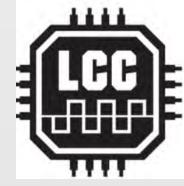
• An LCC Event has no predefined meaning You define Events during configuration

- An LCC Event simply says;
 - 'something has happened'
 - 'something should happen'
- Example is "Turnout (your naming) is Set Normal"



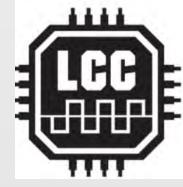


• A *Producer* is some device can create (produce) an Event Some examples might be a push button or block detector (Current Transformer (CT)).



- A *Producer* is some device can create (produce) an Event Some examples might be a push button or block detector (Current Transformer (CT)).
- A *Consumer* is some device can respond to (consume) an Event

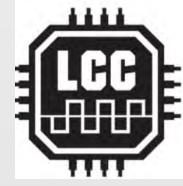
It could be a lamp, a turnout driver, or anything you can control.



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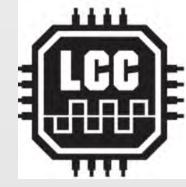
• An Event can have from 1 to many Producers



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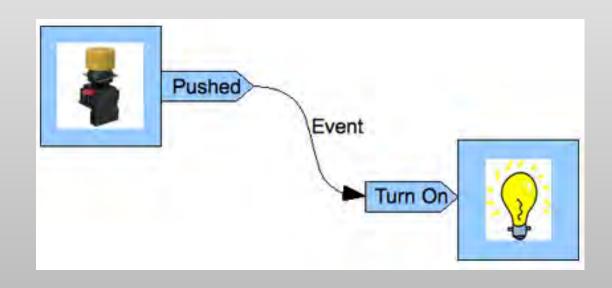
- An Event can have from 1 to many Producers
- An Event can have from 0 to many Consumers

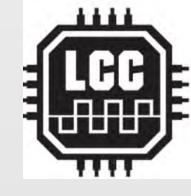


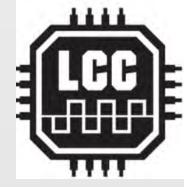
• For an event to happen something must have occurred.



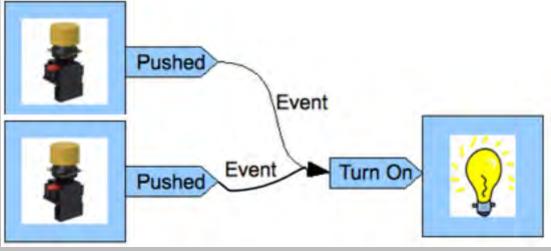
- For an event to happen something must have occurred.
- Therefore, there must be at least one *Producer*.

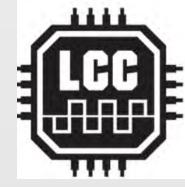




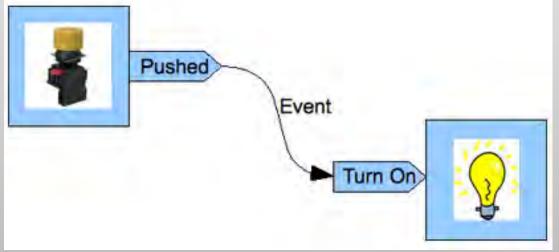


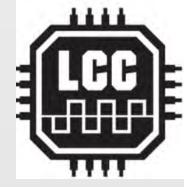
- For an event to happen something must have occurred.
- Therefore, there must be at least one *Producer*.
- In the LCC world it is possible for many different *Producers* to create the same event.
- For example you might want to have turnout control buttons track side and on a remote panel.



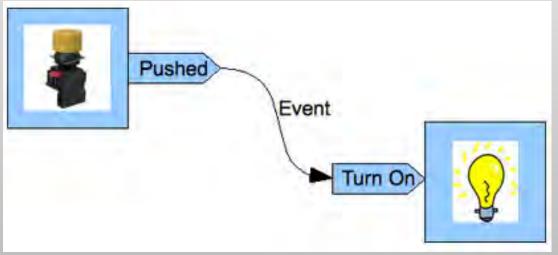


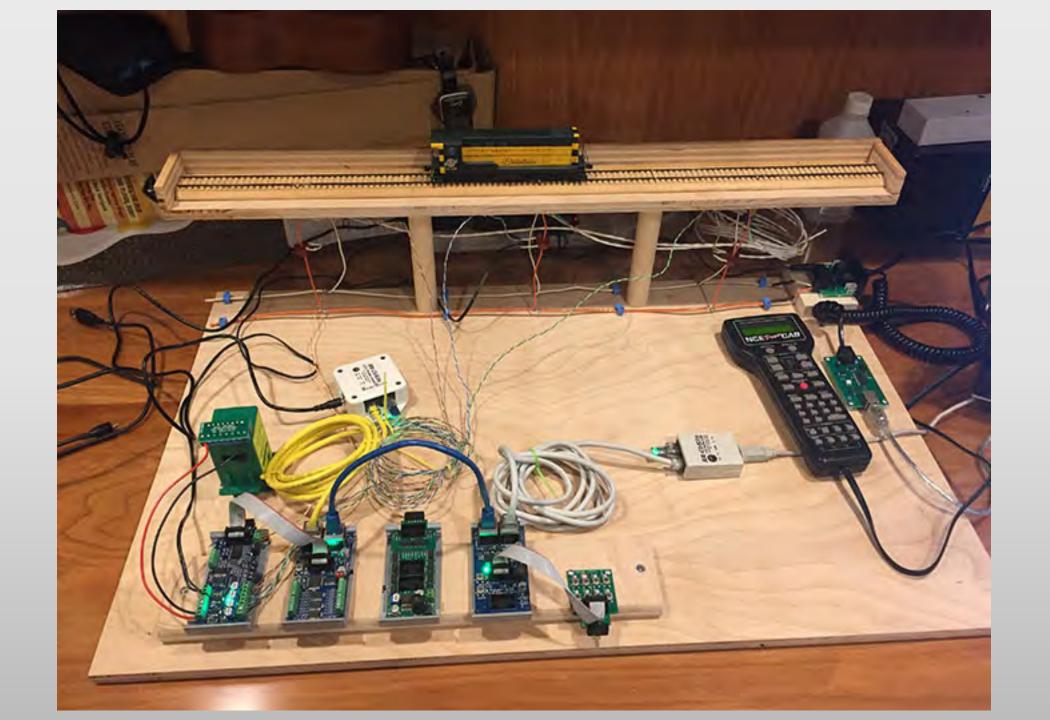
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- Producers create Events





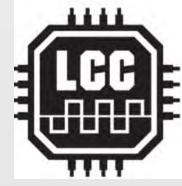
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- Therefore, there must be at least one Producer.
- In the LCC world it is possible for many different *Producers* to create the same event.
- For example you might want to have turnout control buttons track side and on a remote panel.
- Producers create Events
- Consumers act on Events







Coffee Break Before:



- Configuring Can be Tedious at First
- Lessons Learned on Planning
- LCC configuration and JMRI Panel Pro
- Experience with Layout Command Control, LCC At the Arizona Railroad Historical Society



Configuring Can be Tedious at First, But Then it Becomes Cut and Paste!

Most Texts begin by describing in detail "Nodes", "Producers", and "Consumers"

Both



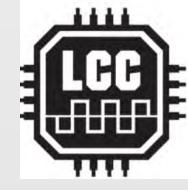


Tortoise DPDT Switch--Producer Motor--Consumer

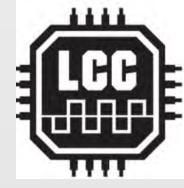


Consumers

- The Signal and Tower Cards are Configured—not Programmed!
 - The cards are preloaded with a default configuration which covers many cases
 - The cards contain all of the possible choices for operations which are selected from a dropdown menu
 - Once configured, the result can be copied to other cards as appropriate
 - The "daughter" boards are not configured, but work off the commands of the Signal or Tower Card

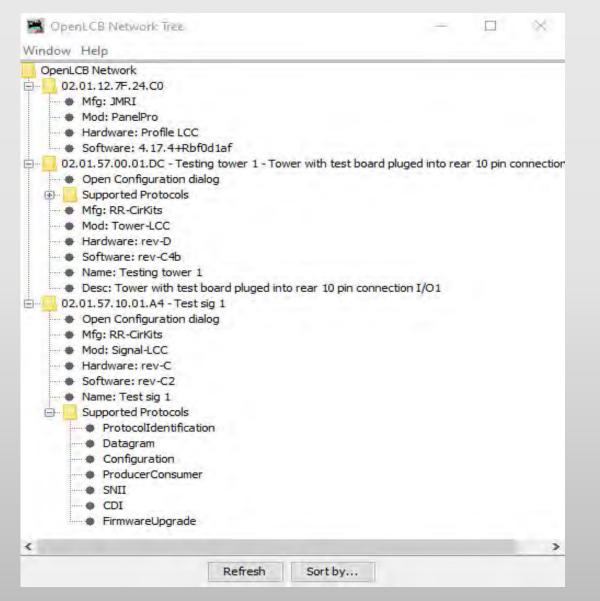


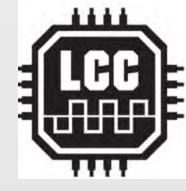
Configuration Tool Using JMRI Panel Pro



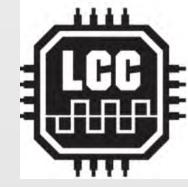
🛤 Par	elPro					-		\times
File Edi	t Tools	Roster P	anels O	penLCB2	Debug	Window	Help	-
		Pane	Panel http:/ Active Open	Pro 4.17.4 //jmri.org/l e Profile: L LCB2: usin version 1.1	PanelPro CC g CAN via	a LCC Buff		
			Help	Qu	it			

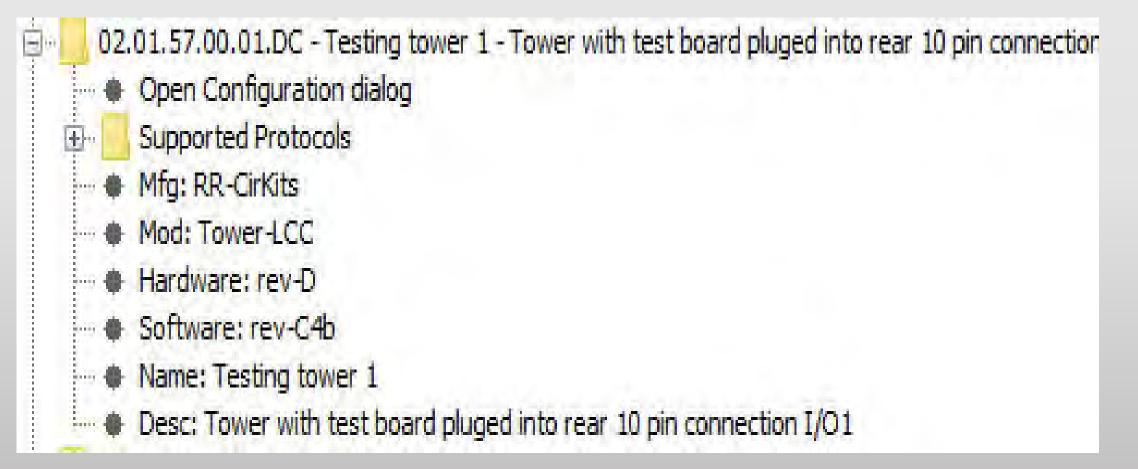
JMRI Configuration Network Tree





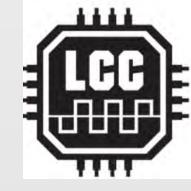
JMRI Configuration Network Tree





JMRI Configuration Testing Tower

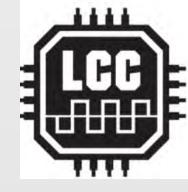
anufacturer: RR-Cirkits odel: Tower-LCC ardware Version: rev-D oftware Version: rev-C4b Segment: NODE ID Your name and description for this node Node Name Testing tower 1		
In Segment: NODE ID Your name and description for this node Node Name		
Node Name		
Testing tower 1		
	Refresh	Write
Node Description		
Tower with test board pluged into rear 10 pin connection I/O1	Refresh	Write
Segment: Port I/O		
Select Input/Output line.		
Line 7 Line 8 Line 9 Line 10 Line 11 Line 1 (Button 1 pressed) Line 2 (LED 2 Lights on button 1 press)	Line 12 Line 3	Line 13 Line 4
I/O Line description		
Button 1 pressed Refresh Write		
Output Function		
No Function V Refresh Write		
Active Lo Refresh Write Delay Delay time values for blinks, pulses, debounce.		
Interval 1 Interval 2		
Delay Time (1-60000).		
0 Refresh Write		
Milliseconds ~ Refresh Write		
Retrigger No V Refresh Write		
Commands Consumer commands.		
Event 1 Event 2 Event 3 Event 4 Event 5 Event 6		
EventID		
(C) When this event occurs,		
02.01.57.00.01.DC.00.00 Refresh Write Copy Paste Search		
Other uses of this Event ID: Testing tower 1.Port I/O.Select Input/Output line.(1,Button 1 pressed).I/O.Commands(1)		
the line state will be changed to.		
None v Refresh Write		
		>



JMRI Configuration Testing Tower

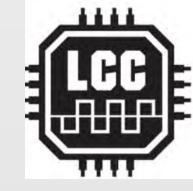
Configure Testing tower 1 - Tower with test board pluged into rear 10 pin connection I/O1 (02.01.57.00.01.DC)

Node Name				
Testing tower 1			Refresh	Write
Node Description				
Tower with test board pluged into rear 10 pin connectio	n I/01		Refresh	Write
Segment: Port I/O				
≫ Select Input/Output line.				
Line 6 (Liaht LED 6 on button 8) Line 1 (Button 1 pressed)	Line 7 Line Line 2 (LED 2 Ligh	8 Line 9 ts on button 1 press)	Line 10	Line 11 Line 3
I/O Line description				
Button 1 pressed	Refresh Write			
Output Function				
No Function V Refresh W	rite			
Input Function				
Active Lo 🗸 Refresh Write				
Delay Delay time values for blinks, pulses, debounce. Interval 1 Interval 2				
Delay Time (1-60000).				
0 Refresh	Write			
Milliseconds ~ Refresh Write				
Retrigger No v Refresh Write				

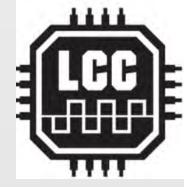


JMRI Configuration Testing Tower Line 1

Line 1 (Button 1 pressed) ine description utton 1 pressed Output Function		Refresh	(LED 2 Lights
ine description utton 1 pressed Output Function		Refresh	1
output Function		Refresh	1
			Write
Io Function 🗸 Refresh	Wri	te	
nput Function			
ctive Lo 🗸 Refresh Write			
elay			
elay time values for blinks, pulses, debound	e.		
Interval 1 Interval 2			
Delay Time (1-60000).			
0	Refresh	Write	
Milliseconds 🗸 Refresh Write			
Retrigger			



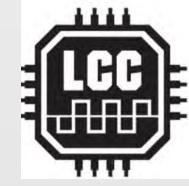
JMRI Configuration Testing Tower Line 1 Producer of Event 1 (02.01.57.00.01.DC.00.06)



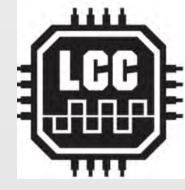
ivent 1 Event 2 Event 3	Event 4 Even	t 5 Event 6			
Upon this action					
Input On	✓ Refresh	Write			
(P) this event will be sent.			1		1.200
02.01.57.00.01.DC.00.06	Refresh	Write	Copy	Paste	Search

JMRI Configuration Testing Tower Line 2

Line 6 (Light LED 6 on button 8 Line 1 (Button 1 pressed)	8) Line 7 Line 8 Line 9 Line 10 Line 2 (LED 2 Lights on button 1 press)
/O Line description	
LED 2 Lights on button 1 press	Refresh Write
Output Function	
Blink A Active Hi 🛛 🗸 Refre	esh Write
Input Function Disabled v Refresh Write	
Delay Delay time values for blinks, pulses, debou	unce.
Interval 1 Interval 2	
A LOW AT A REAL PROPERTY OF A RE	
Delay Time (1-60000).	



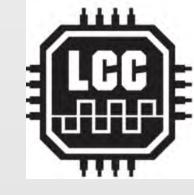
JMRI Configuration Testing Tower Line 2 Consumer Event 2 (02.01.57.00.01.DC.00.06)



Consumer command						
Event 1 Event 2	Event 3 E	vent 4 Even	t 5 Event 6			
EventID (C) When this eve	nt occurs,					
02.01.57.00.01.D	C.00.06	Refresh	Write	Сору	Paste	Search
Other uses of this Testing tower 1.Po Testing tower 1.Po	rt I/O.Select		and the second			1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
the line state will b	e changed t	u .				

JMRI Configuration Testing Tower

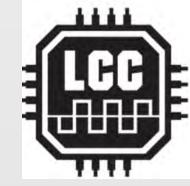
ent i Event 2 Event 3	Event 4 E	vent 5 Event 6		
Upon this action				
Input On 🗸 Re		sh Write		
(P) this event will be sent.				
() and evene will be dente		and the second s		



ommands onsumer commands.					
Event 1 Event 2 Event 3	Event 4 Even	t 5 Event 6			
EventID (C) When this event occurs,					
02.01.57.00.01.DC.00.06	Refresh	Write	Сору	Paste	Search
Other uses of this Event ID: Testing tower 1.Port I/O.Sel Testing tower 1.Port I/O.Sel			A COMPANY COMPANY OF SHEET		
the line state will be change	d to.				



Experience with Layout Command Control, LCC At the Arizona Railroad Historical Society

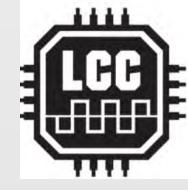




Arizona Railroad



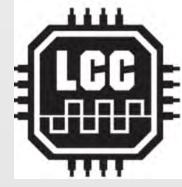
Arizona Railroad Historical Society, ARHS, Display at The Arizona Capitol Museum







Lessons Learned: LCC configuration and JMRI Panel Pro



• Yes, there is a Learning Curve: Take it Step by Step

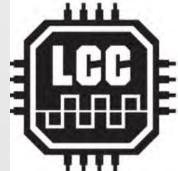
• Creating a test bed to learn the basic building blocks was essential

• Limited documentation to guide the beginner

- An Intro to Layout Command Control by Dana Zimmerli, PhD
- LCC and JMRI user forums at Groups.io, JMRI.org
- ARHS has gotten lots of help from manufacturers (RRCirkits) and JMRI developers
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Take it slow, once you learn the configuration process, it is repetitive for each card/node.
- Recommend creating all LCC-JMRI elements on the computer that will run the railroad.
 - ARHS had different members working on separate computers and then attempting to integrate them on the main computer. This has created challenges—especially with integrating JMRI.



Lessons Learned on Planning



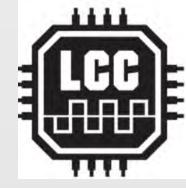
• Up Front Planning is Important since this loads into all LCC Cards

- Pre-plan the names and numbers for all Block Locations, Turnouts and Signals
- This seems like a big waste of time until the configuring begins, and then this becomes the most important investment of time!

- Positioning of the Cards on the layout must be done in advance
 - It is important to get the cards near where the "node" located which means "scattering them around the layout—but they must be closer together to lower voltage drop.
 - Bus must be "daisy chained"
 - Need to be close to function
 - Must inject power within 10 feet



Lessons Learned About System Design



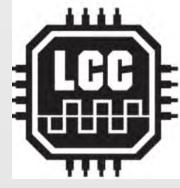
- The "Rule of Twos" in LCC Design
 - All cards support 2, 4 or 8 components—having an odd number of tracks/functions makes the design logic more difficult. (A four or six track yard is easier to layout than a 3 or 5 track yard.)
- Current Transformers can be located either on a panel or near the point of "use" or anywhere in between
- Blocks must be completely isolated before the Current Transformers work properly.
- A separate "sub-block" can be used for auto-throw of a turnout or activating a crossing signal etc.
- Future applications boggle the mind
 - Arduinos
 - Lighting
 - Special Effects....



Arizona Railroad



The System Works Great!!



- ARHS has installed 66 Signal and 55 BOD4-CP Cards without letting the "Magic Smoke" out of any of them! *
 - Over 100 Turnouts are operational
 - Occupancy Detectors are sensitive and reliable
 - Starting to experiment with Signals



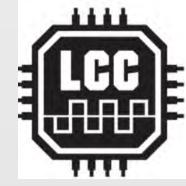
Would we recommend this system?—Absolutely!

- The National Convention in Salt Lake City convinced us that LCC was the right decision—All of the system developers were present, they were taking feedback and all suggestions for improvements very seriously
 - "Debugging" quirks in the LCC cards—such as a power up issue
 - Working the interface to JMRI—assuring JMRI and LCC talk which is a challenge
 - Taking suggestions to improve user interface—No Push-back!!
- LCC is good today—and is getting better.....

Remember when DCC was new and people asked "Why would I ever convert?" That is where LCC is today!!



Special Thanks



The Arizona Railroad Historical Society Jess Poole, Founding President And

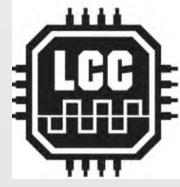
Dick and Karen Bronson of



Specializing in Affordable Electronics for Model Railroads



Additional Information



Users Group
 <u>openIcb@ groups.io</u>
 <u>LayoutCommandControl@groups.io</u>

• Useful Links

http://openIcb.org http://openIcb.com http://nmra.org www.rr-cirkits.com/clinics

The Basic Signal Logic Overview Next Time

