



The Switch Tower

Vol. 26 No 2

April 2019

Seacoast Division NMRA www.seacoastnmra.org



Seacoast Division NMRA Spring Event

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Newington Old Town Hall

336 Nimble Hill RD, Newington N.H.

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Bangor RD Tower from a discontinued Monster Modelworks Kit . Modeling and photo by Geoff Anthony

Enjoy a trip through the [Seacoast Division's Web Site](http://www.seacoastnmra.org).

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

Hello modelers! My huge piles of snow are melting, the layer of ice on my driveway is gone, and we have had almost 2 weeks of daytime temperatures above freezing. It appears that Spring is on the way, finally. I hope that each of you has used your winter indoor time wisely and have made progress on your layout or favorite modeling project.

With that in mind, our 2019 Spring Event is coming up on Saturday, April 6th. The Spring Event will take place at the Newington, NH Old Town Hall and will begin at 10:00 AM. If you would like to share your efforts with us during the "Show & Tell & Ask" portion of our Event, we would love to see what you have been working on. Please contact Rick Mills or Glenn Mitchell and they will see that you are put on the schedule.

Additionally, the Spring Event will feature presentations by Tom Oxnard MMR, Tom Nelson, and Mike Pedersen. All of the details of the Event are listed in the Spring Event notice which has been previously emailed out to you. We will have a terrific meeting and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Yesterday, I spent the day at the Augusta Elks Club, manning our Seacoast Division table at the Maine 3 Railers Annual Train Show. It's always nice to meet and greet other people that are interested in our hobby. It gives you a chance to hear about what's important to them and why they are interested in model trains. It also gives us a chance to spread the word about our Division, the NMRA, and the benefits of being a part of our organization.

Throughout Maine and New Hampshire, there are many train shows held at different locations throughout the year. I would like to encourage each of you to take some time and visit these shows in order to support the organizations that sponsor them. In many cases there are operating train layouts and numerous vendors selling modeling items and railroad related items. You may find a bargain you never realized that you desperately needed for your own layout.

If you would like to help us man our display table at some of these Train Shows, please let Glenn Mitchell know, and we will see about scheduling you for a time period. We intend to be a little more pro-active in the future about letting our members know what Trains Shows we are supporting and how you can help by manning our display table.

Regarding vacancies in Seacoast Division leadership/management, we are still in need of a Division Secretary and a Maine Activities Coordinator. We know that you all have personal lives and that you are all busy every day. But these positions do need to be filled. They do require some time to perform, but it is not overwhelming. Please consider taking on one of these positions. Thank you!

Lastly, it is my pleasure to report that Chip Faulter underwent successful surgery on March 13th, to remove a tumor from his pancreas. The surgeon reported that the tumor was removed cleanly and there was no evidence that the cancer had spread. After spending almost a week in the hospital, Chip has been home since then recuperating and getting stronger. He is extremely grateful for all the well wishes and support that he has received from our members. We hope to be seeing Chip in person at many of the Division Events for a good long time!

My best regards to you all, Tage

Seacoast Division Spring Event by Glenn Mitchell

All NMRA members and people interested in becoming NMRA members are invited to the Spring Event of the Seacoast Division NMRA.

New Venue for the Spring Event

The Old Town Hall is located at 336 Nimble Hill Road and is not part of the current Newington Town Hall location. The entrance for the Old Town Hall is at the left side toward the rear of the building. The meeting hall is on the second floor which is accessible by stairs or elevator.

Presentations:

How to Scratch Build a Locomotive by Tom Oxnard, MMR

Tom will talk about how to choose an engine to model, what parts the Motive Power AP allows you to use, what parts you need to need to buy, and what parts you need to scratch build. Then, Tom explains where to start and how to construct it. Finally, we will get to see the results of Tom's efforts. .

An Introduction to LCC by Tom Nelson

Tom provides a non-technical introduction and overview of Layout Command Control, covering the following topics:

- What it is, what it is NOT, and why it exists
- Its relationship to DCC
- LCC development history
- Its benefits relative to DCC and other existing systems for layout control
- Ability to incrementally adopt usage, protecting existing investment
- Ability to control signals, turnouts, and other accessories without an attached computer
- Robustness of technology with simplicity of installation
- Long-term benefits
- What products are currently available, both commercial and DIY
- Example of LCC usage on simple demo layout

“Uncle Bob’s Trains” by Mike Pedersen

Mike will present “Uncle Bob’s Trains: The Twilight of Steam in the Midwest and the East As Photographed by Robert L. Wilkinson.”

Show and Tell and Ask: Everyone loves to see the modeling of our members. If you have something that you would like to show us, please bring it to the meeting and we will give you a few minutes to describe your efforts. If you have any modeling questions for the group, please bring those, as well. We have plenty of experts in attendance and we can certainly get you some answers to your questions.

Seacoast Division Spring Event by Glenn Mitchell

For Sale! There will be a table set up for any members that wish to buy/sell any surplus modeling items they may have. If you have any model railroad related items (loco's, rolling stock, buildings, etc.) that you don't need and wish to sell, you are encouraged to bring them to the meeting. Please put a tag on each item with your name and the asking price. Maybe one of your fellow members might be interested!

Layout Tours - Please take time to visit these layouts on your way home from the Spring Event!

John Newick's Central Maine and Aroostook (N)

John's Central Maine and Aroostook models operations of the Maine Central and the Bangor & Aroostook in the 1960's/1970's. The layout is a large "around-the-room" multilevel layout which utilizes switch lists and verbal authority. The dispatcher monitors train movements and controls all turnouts through the computer. Local control panels operate via the computer as well. Track-work is complete and scenery is about 95% complete. The layout is accessed by a stairway to the second floor. The layout supports as many as 10 operators and uses Digitrax DCC.

Dick Fralick's New Haven and Connecticut Central (HO)

Dick's switching layout consists of 50' by 1' wide shelf layout that is fully scenic'd is connected via a wye to the two level 30' x 6' peninsula with a dual track helix. One end represents the New Haven 50'-60's the other end is operated by the Connecticut Central 1985-2000. The peninsula is under construction and has temporary track which allows for operations. Come and see the progress made and the planned expansion since it was last opened 3 or 4 years ago!! The layout is accessed by a stairway to basement from the garage. The layout uses Digitrax DCC.

There will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. Bring your lunch as there are no food establishments within close proximity to the meeting.

There will be a drawing for door prizes, too!

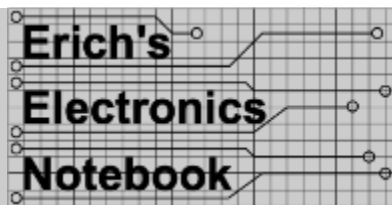
A Board of Directors Meeting will precede the program at 8:30 AM.

Come to the Spring Event and Share the Fun of Model Railroading!

Next Event: The Summer Event will take place on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 114 Mill Street, Auburn Maine. *Mark your calendar and save the date!!*

www.seacoastnmra.org

Erich Whitney



In this issue, we'll look at the assembly and testing of the power supply design I introduced in the previous issue. One of the great things about design (of almost anything) is with as little as a pencil and paper you can create wonderful things that realize your ideas. And with design tools such as a schematic editor or some other CAD tool you can make these ideas look really nice. But where the rubber meets the road is in the implementation and testing of these ideas. All too often, we can imagine things that just can't be built. You can sketch a wonderful track plan that meets all of your givens and druthers only to find out that your locomotives can't pull up a 25% grade or your room isn't big enough for that nice sweeping 60" curve you want for your premier passenger train. And this is how it goes with circuit design. Part of the reason I was able to write so confidently about the power supply design in the previous article is because I had already built and tested it before I completed that article. I make this point because every time I sit down to design a circuit no matter how seemingly easy it appears to be, there's always room for Murphy to enter the room and derail my great ideas. This actually happened with this design because I didn't pay enough attention to how the external current meter device was designed to connect into the circuit. I made a bad assumption that I caught when I built the first prototype. Fortunately, the fix was easy and I caught it in time to put the correct connection into the article. In my defense, the poorly translated documentation was incredibly ambiguous. Remember this simple rule, if it isn't tested, it doesn't work.

As I mentioned last time, my goals for this power supply design were to improve on the existing solutions and provide some convenient features that improve the robustness, flexibility, efficiency, and diagnostic capabilities of the accessory power supply for HUB modules. Anything that's modular and portable has its challenges and if we can be honest, our HUB modules can get pretty complex. And then we go to set up for a train show and all Hell breaks loose. So with this in mind I set out to make something purpose-built for this application although you can certainly extend this design to other hobby applications.

My least favorite part of building electronics projects is putting the darned thing in a box. I wanted to enclose this design in a box because I thought it would help with making it more robust and it would just look better. I also thought about how it would be mounted to a module and I thought it would be really cool if it could be attached to a hinge such that during module setup (before the skirts are put on), the display would be hanging down where you can see it without getting on your hands and knees. But when the layout is up, simply flip the box up and latch it under the module out of the way from curious fingers.

All of these ideas were swirling around in my head and I got the bright idea to design the case for this project in a CAD tool. You may be thinking, well he designed the circuit board in a CAD tool why would the case design be a problem? Would you be shocked to know that not all CAD tools are the same? I have spent my entire career designing circuits with various schematic and logic design tools but mechanical design is a completely different beast. And 3D CAD is a whole new world for me. We have the same challenges with layout design software. The track plan is analogous to a circuit schematic. Whereas the layout, either 2D or 3D, is very much a mechanical design. So I convinced myself that it would be useful to teach myself how to use a 3D CAD tool to design the case for this

project. I figured any skills I picked up along the way would be useful in the future as I try to tackle layout design.

I briefly considered 3D printing the case design but ended up picking out a commercial “blank” case and modifying it for my purposes. I also figured this would be easier for someone else to build as well. The box I chose is a Serpac Electronic Enclosures model #173-BK and I purchased it from Jameco Electronics, part number 675542 as show in Figure 1. The exterior dimensions for this case are 6.88”L x 4.88”W x 2.51”H.

[Figure 1](#) Serpac Elec-
-BK (photo from
[675542](#)



tronic Enclosure Model 173
[Jameco website part no.:](#)

With this case in mind, I decided to design a printed circuit board (PCB) to make the wiring and assembly of the circuit much more robust and easier build. This is a good place to take a moment to talk about PCB design. When I was a kid, the only way I could afford to make a printed circuit board was to use the chemical kit from Radio Shack and hand tape all of the traces. It worked but it was messy and time consuming. Once laser printers became affordable, there was the photo-etch process that meant you could “print” the circuit board pattern onto a sheet of paper and transfer it to a copper board and etch it with the chemicals. Thankfully today, we have a much more enjoyable solution. There are PC board services available on the internet that make professional looking circuit boards for not a lot of money and usually within about a week. And you can get the design software for free! I’m not going to go into all the choices but suffice it to say, I was able to make a printed circuit of my design with very little additional work. In this case, I used the free version of the Eagle CAD software (which comes from Autodesk.com). This software lets you work on both the schematic and the PCB layout in the same tool and the two designs are linked together so when you make a change in the schematic, it’s updated in the layout. For this design, I chose to make a double-sided circuit board because this is the cheapest option and it’s supported by the free version of the tool. The PC board vendor I chose for this project is www.oshpark.com. They charge a flat fee of \$5/square inch for double-sided boards and you can directly upload the Eagle CAD PCB file. They also provide the necessary Eagle CAD design rule file you need to use to verify that your design will work with their manufacturing process. I recently learned of another PC board design company from Larry Madson, www.silvercircuits.com. They are less expensive than OSH Park and will turn a design around in about a week.

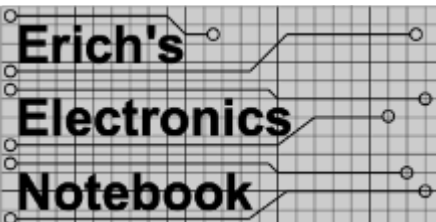
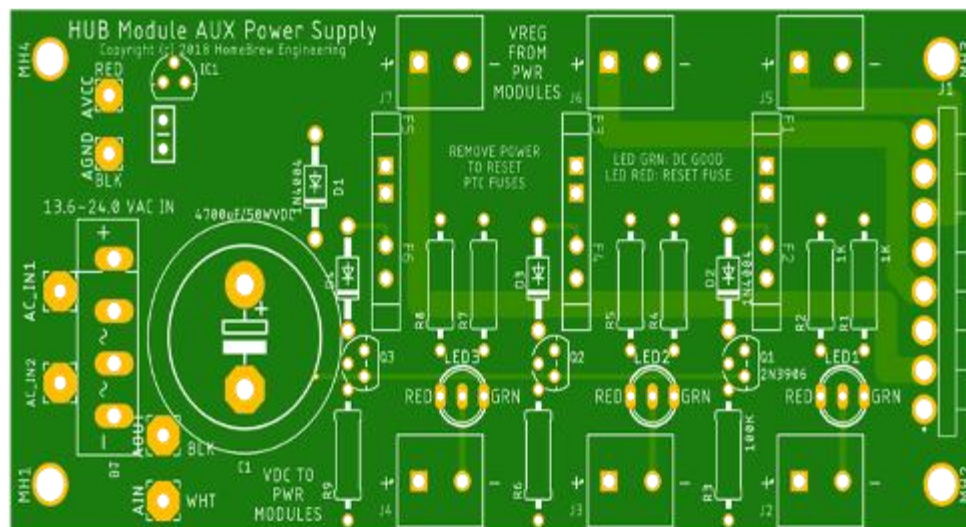


Figure 2 Printed Circuit Board Layout

The mounting holes are designed to fit the screw pattern built into the Serpac case. I used #4-40 threaded inserts set into the case and mounted the board using #4-40 x 0.25" screws. The screw terminal receptacle, J1, is designed to stick out of the side of the case which means there needs to be a



rectangular hole cut in the case. There's also need for a hold drilled for the power connector. And the top needs to have holes cut for the power module subassembly to stick out and for the digital ammeter display. A CAD rendering of the case design is shown in Figure 3

The green block shown on the side is where J1 sticks out, right above that is the hole for the input power connector, and the top is cut out for 3 power supply modules, the DC Ammeter, and the hole for the power switch is shown just to the right of the DC Ammeter. I used a piece of black 0.080" styrene to make a subassembly plate to hold the power supply modules so that they could be secured more easily. Figure 4 shows the plate layout, Figure 5 shows the assembled subassembly plate with the power supply modules mounted.

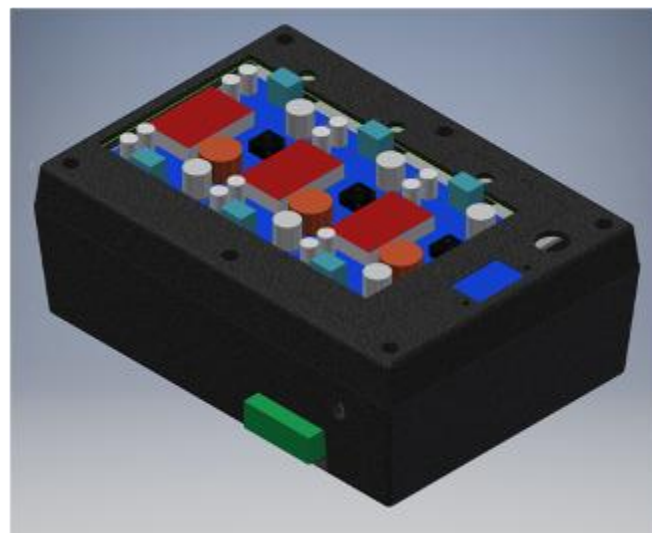


Figure 3 3D CAD Model of the finished case design

Erich Whitney

Erich's Electronics Notebook

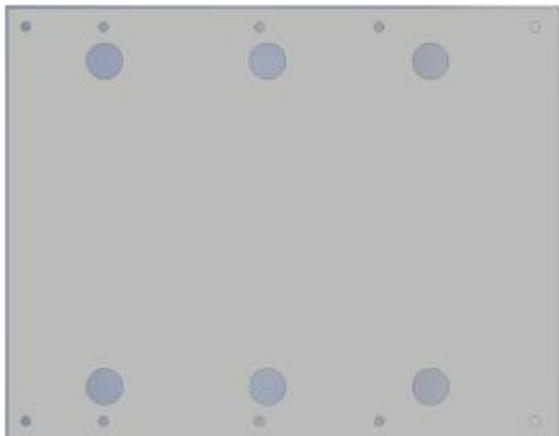


Figure 4 Power Supply Subassembly 0.080" Styrene Plate

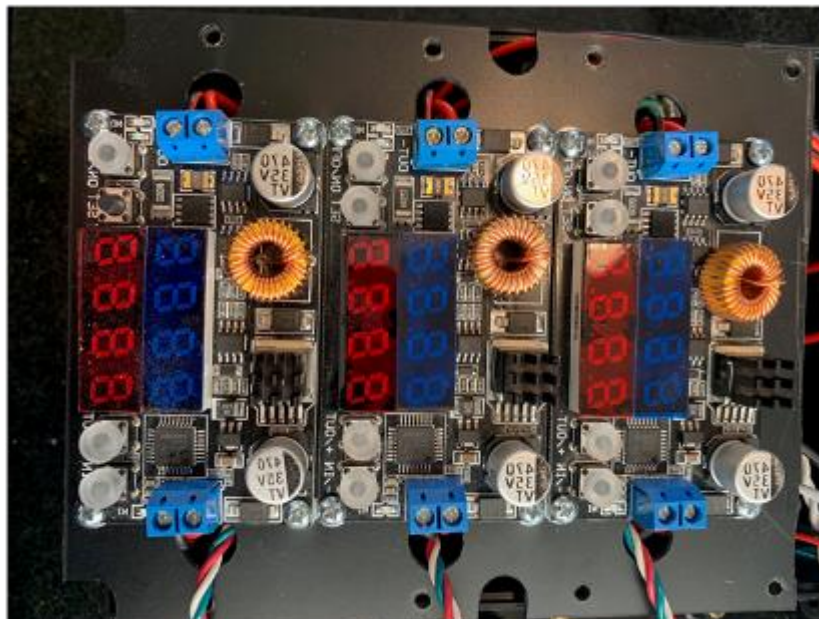
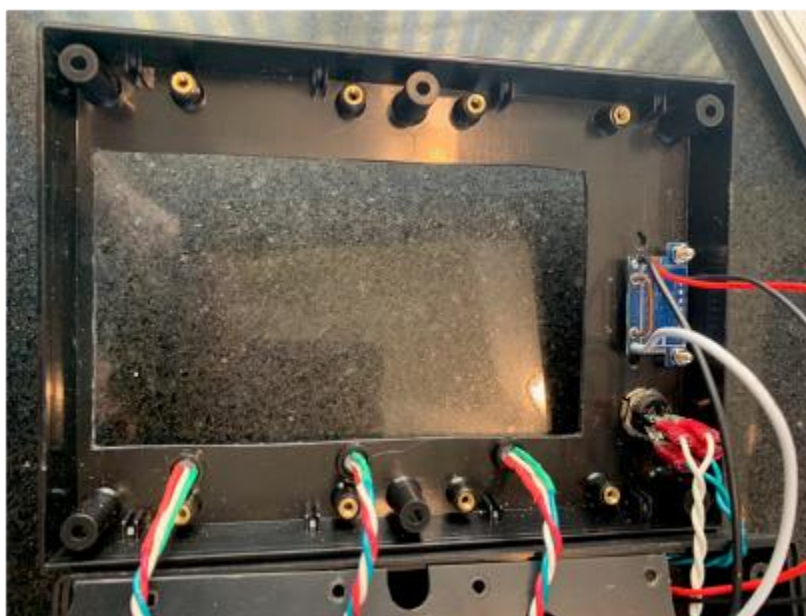


Figure 5 Power Supply Modules Mounted to Subassembly Plate

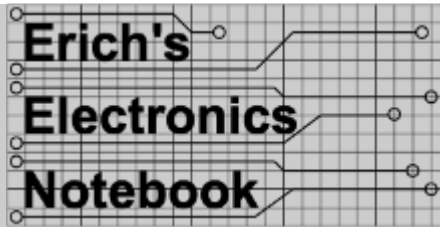
The red/white/green wires you see twisted together and coming out of the holes at the bottom of Figure 5 bring the bi-color LEDs out to the lid from the circuit board. Before this subassembly can be installed, eight #4-40 threaded inserts are installed in the lid's screw posts. These are part of the case design as shown in Figure 6. Here the LEDs are shown mounted to the lid using T1-3/4 LED Ring Clips—they're the black rings where the LED goes into the lid. These secure the LEDs and keep them from pulling out during installation. The DROK ammeter is installed on the lid using threaded standoffs. Finally, switch is installed in the the picture. I used crimp the power switch.

the power
lower right of
terminals on

Figure 6 Lid components installed prior to subassembly installation



Erich Whitney



With the lid prepared, the power supply subassembly can be installed as shown in Figure 7

The bottom part of the case just has the circuit board installed. I used #4-40 threaded inserts installed in the bottom's screw posts. You can see the unused posts in Figure 8.

The output power connector sticks out the side of the base and the input power jack is installed also. The photo shows this jack installed right above J1. I have since decided that it's more convenient to offset this jack from the output power connector so that when you go to grab the plug, the jack isn't in the way.

With the lid and base components installed, the lid can be screwed on using the six screws included with the case as shown in Figure 9. Also shown in this figure are the red and blue plastic lens material that I installed over the LED displays. This material is a transparent color correction lighting Gel filter that comes in 8-1/2" x 11" sheets with an adhesive backing. I find this greatly enhances the readability of the displays especially in bright light. Another modification I made to these DROK power modules is the installation of the optional heat sinks attached to the power regulator IC using a 3M thermal adhesive pad.

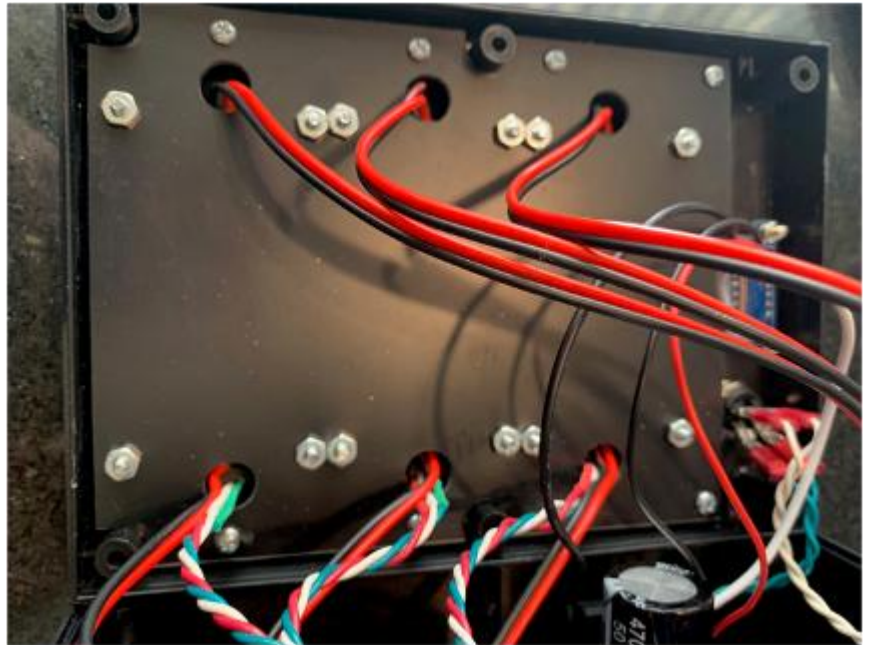


Figure 7 Power Supply Subassembly Installed in the lid



Figure 8 PC Board Installed in the Base

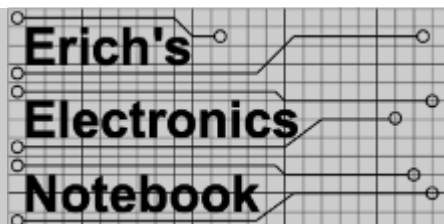


Figure 10 shows the view of the right side of the case with the power input and output connectors.

Figure 10 Side View of the Assembled Power Supply

As I was testing this first power supply, I was annoyed that each time I turned off the main power and turned it back on, all of the power supply modules had to be switched on again. After a little dig-

| State | Left LED | Display | Right LEDs | | Output | Comment |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|---|--------|--|
| | Indicates whether meters show input (red) or output (off) | State of the three leds indicate whether meters show input or output V & C | Turns blue if Output is on | Turns red if meters are indicating output voltage and current | | Press Button 4 to turn output on and off Press Button 1 to show input V & C (left led turns red) Press Button 2 to show output V & C |
| A | Red | Input V & C | Off | Off | Off | Press Button 4 to turn on output (State D) |
| B | Off | Output V & C | Off | Red | Off | Press Button 4 to turn on output (State D) |
| C | Off | Output V & C | Blue | Red | On | Press Button 1 to show Input Voltage, State D |
| D | Red | Input V & C | Blue | Off | On | Press Button 2 to show Output Voltage, State C |
| To set Voltage or Current, Press Button 3 alternatively, Then Press Button 1 to decrement, Button 2 to increment, Press Button 4 when done. The output voltage and current can be set whether the output is on or off. | | | | | | |
| Automatically Output When Power On Function When power off, press ON/OFF button, then supply power to the module. At this time, the monitor will display "-F1-,-ON-", which means the module will output automatically when power on. With the same operation, if the monitor display "-F1-,-OFF-", which means the function, automatically output when power on, is turned off and you need to press the ON/OFF button if you want an output when power on. | | | | | | |

ging around on the internet, I found some addition information about these power supply modules. They have an additional "Automatic Power On" function but this isn't enabled by default. I have .updated the instruction sheet that I included in Figure 6 of Part 1 in Figure 11 below

Once the power supply is assembled, it's important to test all of the modules. Apply AC power to the power input jack and make sure you have programmed each module for the output voltage required. Refer to Figure 11 to configure the power modules. Once the power supplies are properly configured, it's a good idea to test the resettable fuses to make sure they are going to cut out at the desired overload condition. I did this by wiring up a couple of 1 ohm, 50 Watt power resistors as a test

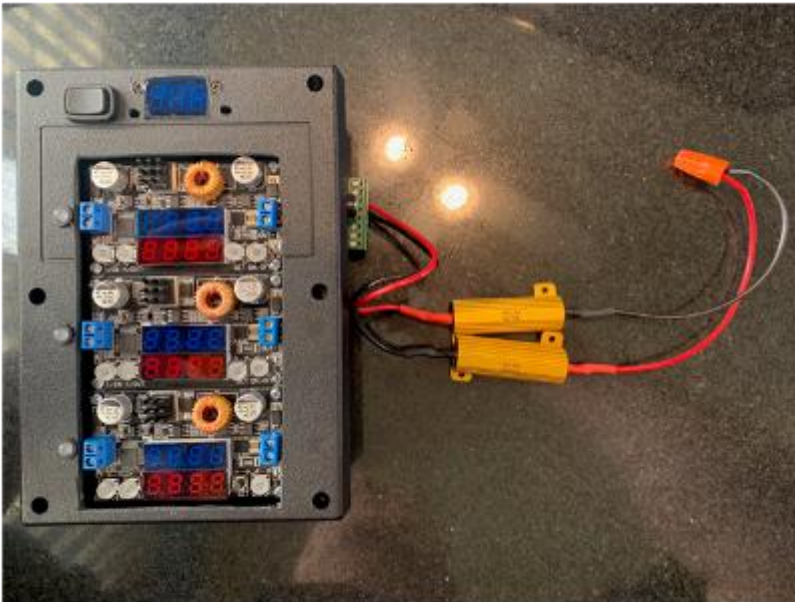


Figure 12 Power Test Configuration

This example shows a 2 ohm load on the top power module. Remember, the PTC fuses are on the input to the power module so they will trip if the input current exceeds their trip value. I used the 1.6 amp PTC fuses when I built this unit. You can adjust the voltage display to tell you what the input voltage is going into the power module. Multiply this voltage times 1.6 to give you the total input power at the trip point.

$$P_{trip} = V_{in} \times 1.6 \text{ amps}$$

Divide this power value by the output voltage and that will give you the output current that will cause the PTC to trip.

$$I_{out} = \frac{P_{trip}}{V_{out}}$$

Note that I'm ignoring the power supply efficiency in this calculation. Strictly speaking,

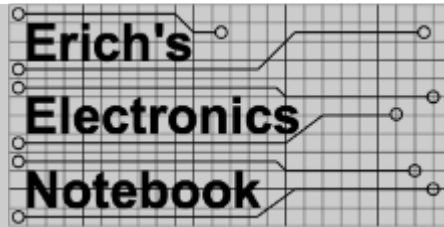
$$\frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} < 1$$

the output power will be slightly less than the input power due to the inefficiencies in the power regulator and the heat given off by the module. For the purpose of this discussion, the power module inefficiency isn't big enough to worry about but you can calculate it if you're curious.

The resistance you need for a test load must be less than the output voltage divided by the output current.

$$R_{load} = \frac{V_{out}}{I_{out}}$$

Erich Whitney



I found that for just testing the PTC fuses, I set the output load at 2 ohms, then increased the module's output voltage until the PTC tripped (as indicated by the tri-color LED turning red). I then used that voltage value from the display to calculate the input current. For reference, here's the Ohm's Law equations:

$$V = I \times R \text{ and } P = V \times I$$

Where V=volts, I=amps, R=ohms, and P=watts

With the testing complete, the new power supply is ready for service. If you are interested in building your own version of this project, please contact me and I can send you the design documents. If there's enough interest, it would be easy to have a run of PC boards made. The parts are readily available from online sources such as Jameco Electronics, Digikey, Amazon, McMASTER-CARR, and DROK. I'll have these installed on my new modules currently under construction. I hope you've found this project interesting and informative.

A Downtown Deco kit newly built and ready for final placement on the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Clubs Layout photo and model by Geoff Anthony



Reasons to Join the NMRA by Lou Champagne

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>NMRA BENEFITS</u> | |
| Camaraderie: <u>Fellowship & Assistance</u> from 18,000 members worldwide MRR, Jan.2019: "The hobby we know today wouldn't exist without the work of the NMRA." | |
| Industry Standards: For over 80 years, the NMRA has set the standards of the model railroad industry; easing new product development and compatibility from manufacturer to manufacturer. | Conventions: National & Regional Clinics, Contests, Prototype tours, Visits to & Operations on local model railroads, meet the experts in the hobby, manufacturer displays, etc. |
| NMRA Publications: <u>NMRA Magazine</u> : news, modeling articles, new product announcements <u>North Eastern Region newsletter: "The Coupler"</u> <u>Seacoast Division newsletter: "The Switch Tower"</u> <u>"NMRA Turntable"</u> : monthly round up of interesting model railroad websites, videos & blogs <u>"NMRA eBulletin"</u> : latest association news | Model Railroad Directory: Whether at home or traveling, allows you to connect with other NMRA members for layout visits, to talk trains or even join an operations session. Includes maps, descriptions, photos, videos & more. |
| Online Video Library: Hours of "how-to" videos produced by professional video companies, as well as over 100 videos of clinics presented at national conventions. | Pike Registry: Members can register their model railroad name in the Official Register of Model Railroads (ORMRR). |
| Kalmbach Memorial Library: One of the world's largest "railroads only" libraries. Contains prototype & modeling books and magazines + out of production kit instructions. | Partnership Program: Brand name manufacturers offer NMRA members generous discounts — some up to 45% ... from Micro-Mark to Rusty Stumps, see NMRA website for current list of partners. |
| Online Forums: The ability to interact with and discuss various model railroading topics with other NMRA members. | The Achievement Program: Arguably the best way to learn and hone modeling skills. Those who earn 7 of the 11 Achievement Certificates are awarded their Master Model Railroader Certificate (MMR) |
| NMRA Online Archives: Tens of thousands of archival quality photos, diagrams, plans, erection elevations, paint schemes, art and more ... all available for download at very affordable prices. | Annual Model Photo Calendar: Free to every US NMRA member, 12 of the year's best model railroad photos taken by our NMRA members. Includes dates for conventions & more. |
| Beginner's Guide: The "Beginner's Guide" pages on www.nmra.org offer those new to the hobby help in learning the basics. | Modeling with the Masters: Multi-day regimen of instruction by MMRs: hands-on experience in techniques + helpful tips and advice. |
| Member Aid Program: A place to seek answers to questions about any detail on modeling in this fantastic hobby. | Special Interest Groups (SIG): Take a deep dive into an area or topic of special interest with other like-minded members (operations, railroad industries, signaling, Ntrack, specific prototype, etc). |
| Collection Insurance: NMRA members group property insurance for collections, layouts, live steam, tools, slides & photos, books and more. | Data Sheets: General, scenery, trackwork, motive power, rolling stock, structures, electrical, operational, prototype information |
| Heritage and Living Legends Cars: The NMRA periodically issues special scale model cars lettered for famous model railroads, current and historical. Limited and available through the Company Store. | Club Liability Insurance: \$1 million in liability insurance is available free for NMRA-sanctioned meets and shows, and for \$50 per year to 100% NMRA clubs. |
| | Company Store: Many items, from apparel to mugs to gauges & turnout templates, for NMRA members only. |

Reasons to be active in the Seacoast Division of the NMRA

By Lou Champagne

Get More From Your NMRA Membership and Your Hobby By Being Active in the ...

SEACOAST DIVISION NMRA

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Members of the National Model Railroad Association who live in Maine and New Hampshire automatically become members of the Seacoast Division NMRA.</p> <p>The Seacoast Division NMRA was chartered by the NMRA in 1968. <i>Its mission:</i></p> <p><i>Seacoast Division NMRA's membership promotes model railroading throughout Maine and New Hampshire through education, promotion of model railroading activities, serving as local resources for individual model railroaders, and supporting local model railroad groups.</i></p> <p>There are almost 200 individual members in the Division as well as 6 Model RR Clubs, 3 each in Maine & New Hampshire. Our membership has widely varied experience and interests in the model railroading hobby, including interest across <u>All Scales</u>. Camaraderie, sharing & FUN allows all our members to expand their enjoyment of model railroading !!</p> | <p>BENEFITS of SEACOAST DIVISION MEMBERSHIP:</p> <p>Quarterly Events: These include how-to clinics, show-and-tell/ask, presentations, and special activities</p> <p>Switch Tower Newsletter: Our quarterly publication which contains model building ideas, information on Maine and New Hampshire model railroad clubs, vendors, and train shows.</p> <p>Fellowship with other modelers and their assistance: Make new friends and learn from modelers who have already accomplished what you are seeking to do.</p> <p>Layout operating sessions: Join fellow members operating on other members' layouts</p> <p>Modular Group: The Seacoast Division NMRA supports the Southern Maine Model Railroad Club (SMMRC). The SMMRC is a growing modular club that is looking for new members.</p> <p>Model Railroading Night in Derry, NH Second Friday of each month, from 7-9 pm, at Marion Gerrish Community Center. This event provides a variety of clinics and guest speakers.</p> | <p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p><u>January 4, 2020</u> 10 am – 2 pm Westbrook Community Center 426 Bridge Street Westbrook, ME, 04092</p> <p><u>April 6, 2019</u> 10 am – 2 pm Newington Old Town Hall 336 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH, 03801</p> <p><u>July 20, 2019</u> 10 am – 2pm Great Falls Model Railroad Club 144 Mill Street Auburn, ME 04210</p> <p><u>October 12, 2019</u> 10 am – 2 pm Stratham Fire House 4 Winnicutt Rd. Stratham, NH 03885</p> |
| <p>Important Websites:</p> <p>Seacoast Division www.seacoastnmra.org</p> <p>Northeastern Region nemnmra.org</p> <p>NMRA Home nmra.org</p> | <p>Leadership Team:</p> <p>President (Director) — Tage Erickson, etagee11@earthlink.net Vice-President (Dir.) — Glenn Mitchell, glenn.t.mitchell@comcast.net Treasurer (Director) — Dave Kotsonis, kot2b@comcast.net Secretary — Interim: Chip Faulter AP/NH (Director) — Tom Oxnard, tfoxnard@gmail.com AP/ME — Larry Cannon, larrycannon@roadrunner.com Director — Paul Lessard, plessard74@comcast.net Director — Erich Whitney, ecwhitney@icloud.com Director — Chip Faulter, faulter@comcast.net Director — Ralph Brown, rbrown51@maine.rr.com Director — Mike Pedersen, mpederse@maine.rr.com Membership Chair — Lou Champagne, lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com</p> | |

Membership Siding By Lou Champagne

Why NMRA Membership ?

If you enjoy our great hobby of model railroading and want to continue to see it grow and develop, being a member of the NMRA is one of the most important things you can do. There was a very interesting article in the January 2019 issue of *Model Railroader* entitled "20 Innovations That Changed the Hobby" (page 61). Item #2 is the NMRA standards gauge because it represents the *NMRA Standards and Recommended Practices*. Since 1935, the NMRA has led the way to standardization between manufacturers ... so even though you buy products from a multitude of manufacturers, they all work seamlessly together. The article specifically says "**The hobby we know today wouldn't exist without the work of the NMRA.**" ... imagine the alternative !! This has become increasingly important as we moved from DC to DCC, and to LCC and the myriad of new high tech products. Thanks to the NMRA, the future of model railroading is very bright ... be proud of your membership and encourage others to join.

Key Benefit Review: *Model RR Directory*

Are you going on a business trip or vacation soon and want to work in some model railroading time ? Then go to the NMRA website at www.nmra.org and click on *Member Log-in*. Once in the Members Only section, click on the *Model RR Directory* tab ... fill in where you'll be & how far you're willing to travel ... click search and you'll see a list of local model railroads whose owners are open to having visitors. Click on each layout for full details about the railroad, including a link to send an email. If there is one or more you would like to visit, simply send an email request to the owner with details of your availability to get the ball rolling. Last summer, I received such a request from a semi-retired oncologist in Texas who was coming to Kennebunkport on vacation. He did visit and we had a wonderful time talking trains ... I now have a train buddy in the Lone Star State. Give this a try the next time you're traveling ... AND, consider listing your railroad in the Directory !!

Looking for Help @ Train Shows:

The Seacoast Division will have a display table at each of these upcoming train shows in an effort to attract new members. The lead organizer for each show is noted as well as the show's location & hours. If you are going to be attending a show (or live nearby), we could certainly use your help manning our display table, even if it's just for an hour or two. It's a great way to spend quality time with a fellow member and also meet new people involved in our great hobby. If you can help, please contact the coordinating Seacoast member. Thank you in advance !!

Sat., 4/6/19: So.Me.Model RR Club, 10-3 in Westbrook, Me. // Lou Champagne, 207-229-5475
Sat., 4/27: Great Falls Model RR Club, 10-3 in Topsham, Me. // Lou Champagne, 207-229-5475
Sun., 4/28: Hooksett Lions Club, 10-3 in Hooksett, NH // Glenn Mitchell, 603-856-8146

New Seacoast NMRA Members:

Maine: Edgar Cormier, Augusta; Bill Grvener, Boothbay Harbor; John O'Sullivan, Rockport

New Hampshire: Gary Backus, Bedford; John Dell Grotte, Pelham; Joseph Linquata, Concord

Daron Whitehouse, Hillsboro; James Wiggin, Boscawen

What's on the Work Bench



Here are some pictures of the latest output from the Blue Hill & Eastern shops for the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club layout in Orland Maine . This is a Downtown Deco kit that was slightly modified to resemble a building that was on the tracks in Bangor yard . These pages are always open to any member who wishes to send me some pictures and a brief description . You can send them to

Editor@seacoastdivisionnmra.org

Model and photo by Geoff Anthony



AP Report

There was no AP report from New Hampshire or Maine this quarter

Editors Ramblings

I made a mistake last issue when I said that Larry Canons article on Trains and estates was in the Switch Tower it was not ,it was in the Coupler and the issue was #270 July through September . Sorry for any confusion.

I could use articles for the next issue of the Switch Tower . This is the members magazine. Please help make it the best it can be. Don't be afraid that your article will not measure up , it will. You do not have to be a great writer and it does not have to be long. Even a few pictures of what's on your workbench . Looking forward to hearing from you the membership and thanks .

Timetable

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| April 6 | Seacoast Spring Event | Newington NH |
| April 6 | Southern ME Model RR Club Show | Westbrook ME |
| April 7 | Downeastcon plastic models | Saco ME |
| April 6 | Great Northern NETCA show | Dover NH |
| April 14 | Dartmouth / Lake Sunapee | North Sutton NH |
| April 13 | Slide and Dine GFMRC | Auburn ME |
| April 27 | Great Falls Model RR Show | Topsham ME |
| April 28 | Hookset Loins Show | Hookset NH |
| May 4 | Contoocook Riverway ASS | Contoocook NH |



Blair Line Scale House based on a C & O prototype. Recently completed and installed in Searsport yard on the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club layout in Orland ME. Model and photo by Geoff Anthony

Seacoast Division NMRA Leaders



| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| President | Tage Erickson | etagee11@earthlink.net | 207-635-2157 |
| V. President | Glenn Mitchell | Glenn.t.mitchell@comcast.net | |
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