



Model Electronic Railway Group
123, Mudford Rd., Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4AQ, UK

M_____

Please write clearly (in BLOCK CAPITALS) and return with remittance to the Membership Secretary at the address above.

First NAME : Surname

ADDRESS :

TOWN / CITY

COUNTY / STATE :

COUNTRY :

POST CODE / ZIP :

TEL No. :

EMAIL :

Where did you pick up this leaflet ?

I live in the UK and enclose my Cheque/PO No. for the sum of £18 or
 I live in Europe and enclose my Cheque/PO No. for the sum of £19 or
 I live outside Europe and enclose my Cheque/PONo for the sum of £22 or
 I have paid by PayPal using reference

I have read and accept the conditions overleaf

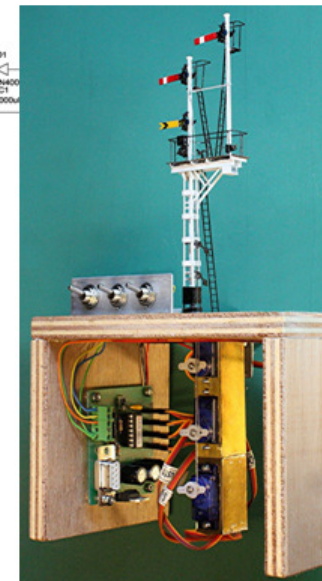
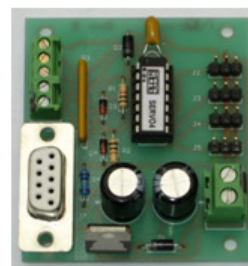
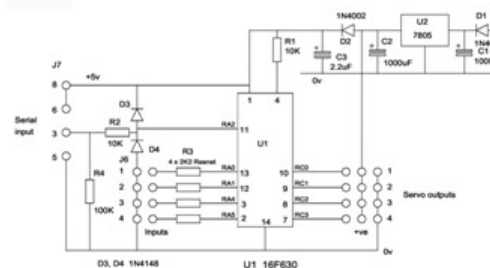
Signature Date / /

For MERC Administration purposes only

Date rec'd	Cheque/cash	Date entered	Banked ref	Mem no

Model Electronic Railway Group

Circuit Diagram of the Servo4 Driver Board



Signal for South Pelaw by Martin Lloyd. See MRJ 201.



Established 1967

**Model Railway Electronics for All Gauges
and Modellers at All Stages.**

**The leading International Forum
for all Railway Modellers
interested in the application of
Electronics to the Hobby.**

www.merg.org.uk

MERG is a friendly and informal 'first names' group and new members are encouraged to present their ideas, as well as share those already available via the Technical Bulletins. We try to cater for all-comers - beginners (which is where we all started from), semi-experienced, and professionals.

Benefits include :

Website

Provides access to a large range of resources and our forum.

Technical Bulletins

Currently over 250 available on a wide selection of topics.

Kits

An increasing range of low cost, self assembly kits available to members.

Assistance

Through meetings, the Forum, email groups on Yahoo, courses & training days, & Local Area Groups, as well as informal one-to-one contact with experienced members.

A Regular Journal

Distributed at least four times a year to all members, containing new ideas & developments, along with notification of the latest Technical Bulletins.

Meetings

Held at least four times a year in London, as well as those meetings held by the Local Area Groups.

Local Area Groups

Located around the country, an increasing number of regional groups for those members who find it difficult to attend the London meetings.

Training

We provide tutors for courses run at Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire, including an "Electronics for Railway Modellers" weekend. MERG Local Area Groups also arrange mutual assistance meetings in their areas.

Discounts

Available to members on selected commercial products.

Exhibitions

MERG appears at several major shows each year, as well as a number of smaller ones, usually attended by the Local Area Groups.

To join MERG and take advantage of all that the group has to offer, please read the following and then fill in the form overleaf and post to the Membership Secretary.

I agree to abide by the Rules of the Group and I confirm that I am 18 years of age or over. By applying for membership of MERG I consent to the data supplied on the application form being used for the promotion of MERG's aims and for membership administration purposes. I understand that the data will be included in a Membership List that is provided to other members. Once a year the list may also be viewed on the password protected members only area of the MERG website. I understand that the Membership Secretary will hold my details on a computer. I also understand and accept that my data and that of other members may not be used for any commercial purpose. Should I not renew my subscription, my full name and membership number will be retained, for the purpose of allowing the re-allocation of the same number if I rejoin at a later date, other membership data will be deleted 24 months after last renewal. Members are responsible for advising the Membership Secretary of any changes in their data. I also agree to indemnify MERG, its Officers and Members against any claim arising from any use or misuse of any publication, kit or other goods supplied to me by MERG.

Current Membership Rates :

The basic subscription runs for a year from the date of joining. For new joiners, there is a one-off joining fee of £4.

For countries in the UK it is £14. New members pay £18 in their first year only.

For countries in the Royal Mail European area it is £15. New members pay £19 in their first year only.

The rest of the world pays £18. New members pay £22 in their first year only.

The higher subscription rates outside the UK are to offset a proportion of the higher postage cost.

Payment may also be made by PayPal at paypal@merg.co.uk

NB. If using PayPal you still need to send in the form, but it can be scanned and emailed.

Cheques should be drawn on a UK Bank and made payable to "MERG".

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the membership secretary at memsec@merg.info for details before sending in the form.

Unfortunately, at present, we are unable to accept payment by credit card (except via PayPal) or to handle direct debits.

CAN I MEET OTHER MEMBERS?

About four times a year there is a members' meeting in Central London open to anyone who can make the journey. Where possible, a copy of the presentations made is posted on the website.

We encourage members to get together locally and at present, there are several established Local Area Groups, based in various places throughout the British Isles. Area Group co-ordinators are given details of new members in their area.

TRAINING AND COURSES

New members are often interested in the basics of electronic circuits. A series of 12 articles, which appeared in the Journal between 2004 and 2006, is available collected together on a CD from the Kitmaster.

MERG also participates in weekend residential courses on model railway electronics at Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire. Announcements about these are made in the Journal, on our website, Forum and email group as well as the Missenden Abbey website.

If there is sufficient demand, Local Area Groups can arrange courses for their members.

CAN I HELP?

MERG is entirely run by volunteers and no member of the group receives any financial remuneration for the time and expertise that they contribute to our activities. This applies to those who provide the administrative support, to those who design the kits and to those who write Technical Bulletins and provide advice on the Forum.

MERG can only function if we have volunteers to help with the work. Most jobs do not require you to be an electronics expert (generally their time is better used designing new things for us) and you do not have to be in the Southeast of the UK.

MERG attends national and local exhibitions and we are always seeking help to man the stand for a few hours - it is a good way to meet other members and some of the Committee. Members can also buy kits at these exhibitions and discuss any matters relating to them with knowledgeable people.

WHEN AND HOW DO I PAY MY SUBSCRIPTION?

The annual subscription covers the direct costs involved in the running of the Group (e.g. printing, postage and out of pocket expenses) and to provide some finance for funding new kits. Members who buy the kits cover the costs involved in sourcing the kits and making the circuit boards, plus a small mark-up that also provides some funding for new kits.

All subscriptions are due on the anniversary of joining and can be paid in cash, by cheque, bank transfer or PayPal.



WHAT IS MERG?

MERG – MODEL ELECTRONIC RAILWAY GROUP

MERG members are model railway enthusiasts who are interested in applying electronics to the operation of their model railways. The Group enables members to exchange ideas and information, and provides kits covering a number of interests including DC operations, DCC, Radio Frequency Identification, computer control and CBUS. Members have a wide range of knowledge and capability, and include beginners and those who work in the electronics and railway industries.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and this leaflet will explain the benefits of membership.

HAS MERG BEEN AROUND LONG AND HOW IS IT RUN?

MERG started in the UK in 1967 and is now over 40 years old. In the early days just two or three simple MERG kits were made available. The advent of the Internet enabled the Group to expand rapidly and geographically and today we have more than 1,200 members across all continents. All gauges, from 'T' to at least 7¼" (passenger-carrying) have made use of our expertise and kits.

MERG is managed by a Committee with members who are elected each year at the AGM. The Committee divides the work up into functional areas and each area is the responsibility of an individual committee member.

WHAT'S ON THE WEBSITE?

The MERG Website (<http://www.merg.org.uk>) has two parts; the public area and the "members only" area.

The contents are always being adjusted and added to, currently the topics covered include train control (with and without computers), route setting ideas, controllers, DCC, turnout and signal control, and a glossary. The glossary provides a simple explanation of many terms used in model railway electronics. There is also a very extensive set of links to other websites covering electronics manufacturers and suppliers, computer software, DCC, memory wire, MERG members' own pages and non-commercial pages providing model railway and / or electronic information.

The "members only" area is accessed using an ID and Password. This is the most valuable resource because it includes the archive of all MERG documents, going back many years, and our interactive Forum. Copies of all past and current Technical Bulletins (see page 4) and the MERG Journal (see page 5) can be downloaded from here. There is also information about the MERG Kits available (see page 4). The site is also used for members' news and information.

WHAT ARE TECHNICAL BULLETINS?

Technical Bulletins (TBs) are formal records of information relating to MERG designs, solutions and the theory behind the kits. The Technical Bulletin Editor strives to ensure that TBs are error free and written in a straightforward manner avoiding as much “jargon” as possible. As new TBs are prepared they are published on the members’ area of the MERG website, notification being given in the Journal.

The TBs cover a wide range of topics, ranging from Educational through simple useful kits or ideas to a number of complex systems. These systems include the RPC System (Remote Panel Control), and its software, which provides a range of kits for controlling & monitoring different elements of a model railway. These can be used with or without a computer and can apply to large club layouts or a small home layout, depending upon the elements used and how they are put together. The SuperBloc concept is another system that provides a model railway control & monitoring system that does not involve computers but in which information is passed from one block section to the next to allow trains to be run automatically in a prototypical manner. More recently TBs have been added covering the CBUS Layout Control System which can be used to considerably simplify the wiring of the larger layouts and also provides automatic control from a computer. It is worthwhile considering all these various control options before implementing a wiring or control strategy for your layout.

WHAT KITS ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW DO I GET THEM?

MERG Kits usually come as complete packages with the circuit board and all the components needed to build a fully working module. To achieve this, the Kit Sales Manager relies upon a small team of volunteer Kit Producers who purchase the components and pack them up.

Full instructions for building the kits are available and our experience is that anyone who has reasonable skill with the soldering iron can complete them successfully. It is not necessary to understand how the kits work in detail to be able to build and use them.

For overseas members it may be possible to just provide circuit boards or partial kits to reduce their weight for shipping purposes (e.g. you can source a transformer locally). The Kit Locker is also able to accept payment by PayPal.

HOW DO I GET SOME HELP?

Personal support and information is readily available from your Local Area Group or individual members (possibly living close by).

MERG offers two online facilities, an online interactive forum which offers a structured approach to a broad range of topics and help, and a wide ranging email based group for those who prefer to use email for contact.

Both facilities offer new members the chance to ask questions, although with the forum being more structured, it is easier to search for information and/or help

already given by our large active membership.

New members are invited to introduce themselves when they make their first posting. Do not be afraid to ask basic questions and do not be surprised if these result in a multitude of responses and if opinions are not always fully convergent. If you have particular technical expertise in a relevant area, please make it known and contribute as soon as you can. New blood and fresh ideas are critical to the success of MERG.

Our online facilities allow the inclusion of drawings, photographs and other attachments to better illustrate your ideas or questions. Even videos can be included provided the actual video file is uploaded to Youtube.

We are also developing a range of wikis that hold information on particular subjects, giving direct access to latest news and information on particular MERG related topics.

More information on the facilities available to members can be found on our website at <http://www.merg.org.uk>

WHAT IS THE MERG JOURNAL AND HOW DO I GET IT?

The Journal, usually published four times a year, contains short technical articles that are developments of topics discussed on the Forum or email group, additions to previously published ideas, changes to Technical Bulletins or ideas that are not yet developed to the point to warrant the more rigorous approach of a TB. The Journal is a very appropriate medium for recording members’ experiences with the practical application of MERG kits and any other matters relating to electronics and model railways.

The Journal carries notices and information about the group, changes to the Committee, papers relating to the AGM, membership list updates, information about new kits and the availability of old kits. Also included is news from and information about some of the Local Area Groups of MERG.

As a new member you can access old copies of the Journal (and the former Newsletter) on the MERG website and you are encouraged to do this. For some periods an index is available.

The Journal Editor is always looking for material to fill each issue and is particularly interested in practical articles that illustrate how members make use of MERG resources. Do not feel that as a new member you have nothing to offer, because the reverse is more likely to be the case. You do not need to be an expert in electronics to contribute.

The Journal is sent to every member by mail (airmail for non-UK members) and a mailing house handles the distribution. Notification of any new TBs is sent at the same time, together with any administrative documentation – AGM papers, subscription renewal etc.