

JMRI Decoder Pro 19th to 21st March 2022.

Here are the details for the “JMRI Decoder Pro” course which will take place in the “Goods Shed” meeting room at the Rushden Transport Museum & Railway, Rushden Station, Northamptonshire, over the weekend 19th to 21st March 2022.

If you already have a booking for any previous course date which could not take place due to Covid, your booking will be honoured for any course, you do NOT need to book again. Please just let us know that you will be coming, so we can keep track of numbers.

This is a new course for 2022. The course assumes no prior knowledge of JMRI or Decoder Pro, although a working understanding of basic DCC concepts would be helpful.

The course will run over the weekend with arrivals from 4pm on Friday afternoon 18th March to about 5pm on Sunday afternoon 20st March.

For those who arrive on Friday evening from 4pm onwards, we can get ahead with installing or updating Decoder Pro, getting connected and reviewing what you hope to get from the course

On Saturday and Sunday, the venue will be open from about 8am for tea, coffee and bacon butties, with the course starting at 9am on each day.

In addition to the weekend course, there is an optional follow-on practical workshop day on Monday 21st March. This day is a practical workshop for you to apply the knowledge learnt over the weekend, with the assistance of the tutors. If you have your own hardware that you want to work on with Decoder Pro, or if you would like to fit decoders into our locos, we can also assist with that on the Monday.

Your course tutor will be Pete Brownlow, and if course numbers require it, assisted by one of our other tutors, Chris Noble, John Gowers or Colin Head. We will limit numbers to make sure everyone gets good value from the weekend.

Topics covered will include:

- Downloading and installing JMRI Decoder Pro
- Getting Decoder Pro connected to your locos
- Managing profiles - and where JMRI puts your loco roster files
- CVs - What are they? What are they used for? How to set them
- Programming “On the main” or “On the Programming track”
- Creating a new loco roster entry
- Reading in all the CV entries
- The standard NMRA subset of CVs & how decoders differ
- Setting up Decoder addresses
- Motor control, speed settings, speed table and inertia
- Function outputs - mapping function buttons to physical decoder outputs
- Add function button names in Decoder Pro
- Other uses of function buttons
- Setting up directional lighting and other lighting effects
- Running in Multiple AKA Consists
- Braking options
- Sound decoders - lots of extra CVs!
- Differences between sound decoders - how to choose
- Setting up sound and function button control
- Steam sound chuff to wheel rotation synchronisation
- Setting up Railcom
- Advanced decoder capabilities
- Exporting the roster
- Roster groups
- Adding custom fields to the Roster
- Loco speed profiling
- Using your Roster with Smartphone throttles
- How the Roster can integrate with using other parts of JMRI

This is a practical course so that you can have a go on your own computer as we go along.

The course fee is £123, including a lunch provided on each full course day.

The fee for the optional extra Practical workshop day is £62, including lunch.

To book your place, please fill in the enrolment form and email to bookings@rmeuk.com

What to bring

Chris Langdon has kindly agreed for his “Missenden St Mary's” layout to be available for the course. This will be set up in the course room and we will all be use it for various demonstrations and exercises.

Please bring your own computer. A laptop is ideal. We can also accommodate a desktop computer, but you will need to bring your own screen, keyboard and mouse. Decoder Pro will work on Windows, MAC or Linux. Mains power and Wi-Fi will be available.

You may wish to have JMRI Decoder Pro already installed on your laptop and ready to go. We will advise you of which revision is best to install for the course a week or two before the date. However, if you do not feel confident to get that done in advance, that is no problem, we can get everyone installed a the beginning of the course.

For laptop users, please bring also bring a mouse as some of the operations are fiddly to do using a touchpad.

If you have your own DCC command station, with computer connection, please bring it with you and you can use it for the course.

If you have a DCC loco you would like to use for the course exercises, please also bring that with you and a piece of track you can use as a programming track in the same gauge as the loco.

However facilities will be provided for you to link your laptop to a programming track that we can provide to follow the course exercises.

For the Monday workshop session, feel free to bring any DCC system of your own that you would like to work with, or locos you would like to fit with DCC decoders. We will have a small selection of decoders available for purchase at the course.

The Course Venue

**The Goods Shed
Rushden Station
Rushden
Northamptonshire
NN10 0AW**

Rushden Historic Transport Society (RHTS) are based at the restored Rushden Station. They recently acquired the historic goods shed across the road, it having previously been in use as a council depot, which now forms part of the Rushden Transport Museum and Railway. See www.rhts.co.uk for more information.

Parking is available directly outside.

If you would like to come by train, the nearest main line railway station is Wellingborough. We can arrange to collect you from the station.

There is a fully compliant wheelchair ramp to the venue.

Please let us know if you have any mobility requirements, so that we can ensure that all your needs are met.

If you need more information about accessibility, please get in touch.



These photos were taken at a recent CBUS course. For Decoder Pro, we won't be expecting the chaos of tools, soldering irons and circuit boards, just a line of laptops!

Local Accommodation

The course fee does not include overnight accommodation so, unless you live locally enough to travel each day, you will need to book your own hotel.

Here is a list of some local hotels. This list is not exhaustive, and was compiled pre-Covid 19, so some things may have changed and the inclusion or not of a hotel on this list does not imply any particular recommendation or otherwise.

You can try online booking websites such as trip advisor, laterooms.com, booking.com and trivago.co.uk. Other course attendees have also reported good results using Airbnb.

The Stables @ The George Wilby, near Wellingborough

**117 Main Rd,
Wilby,
Wellingborough
NN8 2UB**

Tel: 01933 270033 / 01933 715232

<https://www.facebook.com/TheGeorgeOfWilby/>

About 6.5 miles from the course venue

Travelodge Wellingborough Rushden

**A45 Eastbound,
Rushden,
Northamptonshire
NN10 6AP**

Tel: 08719 846115

www.travelodge.co.uk

About 1.7 miles from the course venue

The Stanwick Hotel

**West Street,
Stanwick,
NN9 6QY, United Kingdom**

Tel: 01933 622233

www.thestanwickhotel.co.uk

About 3.3 miles from the course venue

Redlands Farm Bed & Breakfast

**Redlands Farm,
West Street,
Stanwick,
NN9 6QZ**

01933 355169

www.redlandsenterprises.com

About 4 miles from the course venue

Premier Inn Wellingborough

**London Road,
Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire
NN8 2DP**

Tel: 0871 527 9144

www.premierinn.com

About 4.6 miles from the course venue

The Hind Hotel

**38 Sheep Street
Wellingborough
NN8 1BY**

Tel: 01933 222827

www.facebook.com/TheHindHotel

About 5.5 miles from the course venue

IBIS Wellingborough

**Enstone Court
Wellingborough
NN8 2DR**

Tel: 01933 228333

www.ihg.com

About 5.8 miles from the course venue.

Millhouse Hotel

**Mill Road,
Sharnbrook,
MK44 1NP**

Tel: 01234 781678

www.millhouse-riverside.co.uk/

About 6 miles from the course venue