

Jargon Buster

This page is based on the original MERG glossary.

Before adding entries, please read [guide to adding entries](#) a how to do it for MERG Members.

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

A

[AC](#) - Alternating Current

[Accessory decoders](#)

[Accessory encoder](#)

[Address](#)

AFAIK - As far as I know

[Agile](#)

[Amplifier](#)

[AM](#) - Amplitude Modulation

[Amps or Ampere](#) - The measure of electrical current flow

[Analogue](#)

[AND](#)

[AG](#) - Area Group

[AGM](#) - Annual General Meeting

[API](#) - Application Program Interface

[Arduino](#)

[ASCII](#) - American Standard Code for Information Interchange

[ASCII Hex](#) - Hexadecimal

[Aspect](#)

[At-Bus](#) - (Layout) Control Bus

[ATC](#) - Automatic Train Control

[Auto Reverse Module](#)

[AVR](#) - Microcontroller family

[AWD](#) - Audible Warning Device

[AWG](#) - American Wire Gauge

B

[Back EMF](#) - Back Electromotive Force

[Baud](#)

[BC3](#)

[Bell signals](#)

[BGA](#) - Ball Grid Array

[Bipolar](#)

[Bistable](#)

[Bit](#)

[Bite](#)

[BJT](#) - Bipolar Junction Transistor
[Block Control](#)
[Block occupancy](#)
[BloNg](#) - Block oriented N-Gauge
[Boolean](#)
[Booster](#)
[BootLoader](#)
[Bps](#) - Bits per second
[Bridge rectifier](#)
[Buffer](#)
[Bus](#)
[Byte](#)

C

[C/MRI](#) - Computer/Model Railroad Interface
[Cab Control](#)
[Cabling](#)
[CAN or CAN bus](#) - Controller Area Network
[CAN related projects from MERG](#) - CBUS Modules
[Capacitor](#)
[CARLOS](#) - Computer Aided Railway Layout Operating System
[CBUS](#) - (Layout) Control Bus
[CDC](#) - Communications Device Class
[CDU](#) - Capacitor Discharge Unit
[CE Mark](#) - Conformité Européenne
[Ceramic](#)
[Channel](#)
[Charlieplexing](#)
[Circuit](#)
[Circular Buffer](#) - FiFo
[Clearing Point](#)
[Clock](#)
[Closed loop](#)
[CMOS](#) - Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor
[COB](#) - Chip-on-Board
[Coil](#)
[Colour Light](#)
[COM Port](#) - Communication Port
[Command Station](#)
[Common](#)
[Common Return Wiring](#)
[Computer Control Software](#)
[Conductor](#)
[Consist](#)
[Control Systems](#)
[CPC](#) - Circuit Protective Conductor
[Crystal](#)
[Current](#)

Current Shunt

CV - Configuration Variable

D

D Type Connector

DC - Direct Current

DC Control

DCC - Digital Command Control

DCC-EX

DCO - District Cut-Out

DCT - see DTC

Debounce

DecoderPro

Decoupling Capacitor

Digital

Digitrax

DIL Socket - Dual In-Line socket

Diode

Dirty PSU - Dirty Power Supply Unit

DPCO - Double Pole Change Over

DPDT - Double Pole Double Throw

DPR - Double Pole Relay

DPST - Double Pole Single Throw

Driver

DTC - DCC Track Circuit

E

EDG - Event Data Grid

EDL - Edit decision list (relates to MERG YouTube videos)

EEPROM - Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory

Electro Frog

Electromagnet

ELV - Extra Low Voltage

EMF - Electromotive Force

Engine Driver - Android Throttle Application

EPROM - Erasable Programmable Read-Only

ESD - Electro Static Discharge

ESR - Equivalent Series Resistance

EV - Event Variable

Event

EzyBus - A Model railway control bus created by Davy Dick

F

[Faller](#)

[FallerCarSystem](#)

FAOB - For and on behalf of

[Fast clock](#)

FCU - Full layout implementation model Configuration Utility

FDM - Fused Deposition Modeling (3D Printing)

[Feathers](#)

FET- Field Effect Transistor

FIFO - First In First Out

[Firmware](#)

[Flag](#)

[Flash Memory](#)

FLiM - Full Layout implementation Model

[Flip flop](#)

FM - Frequency Modulation

[Frequency](#)

FSM - Finite State Machine

FTDI - Future Technology Development International (connection devices)

[Fuse](#)

G

[Gerber image](#)

[GIT repository](#)

[GPP software](#)

GPIO - General Purpose Input and Output

[Ground](#)

H

[Hall effect](#)

[Handset](#)

[Handshaking](#)

[Happening](#)

HASL - Hot Air Solder Leveling

[Header plug or socket](#)

[Heat sink](#)

[Hector](#)

[Hexadecimal or Hex](#)

[High](#)

[HO Scale](#)

HTH - Hope that helps

[HYPOTRAC](#)

[Hysteresis](#)

Hysteresis loop

I

ICs - Integrated Circuits

ICSP - In Circuit Serial Programming

[Incandescent lamps](#)

[Include Guard](#) - also pragma once

Inductor

Infrared emitter

[Infrared receiver/detector](#)

Insulfrog

[Interlocking](#)

ISR - Interrupt Service Routine

ISTR - I seem to recall/remember

J

[JAL](#) - Just Another Language

[Java](#)

[JMRI](#) - Java Model Railroad Interface

[JSON](#) - JavaScript Object Notation

K

KISnet - a layout control bus created by John Purbrick

[Kits](#)

[KnowledgeBase](#)

KSM Kit Sales Manager - email on the Kitlocker page

L

[Latching](#) - the new state is held until it is changed

[LCB](#) - Layout Control Bus

[LCC](#) - NMRA's Layout Command Control (equiv. to OpenLCB)

[LDR](#) - Light Dependent Resistor

[Lead free](#) - usually refers to a type of solder

[LED](#) - Light Emitting Diode

[Lenz](#) - European manufacturer of DCC equipment

[LiFo](#) - Last in First out

[Lighting decoder](#)

[Logic](#) - refers to circuits or calculations on binary information

[Long Event](#) - 32-bit eventid

M

[Magnet](#)

[Matrix](#)

MCB - Miniature Circuit Breaker

[Memory Wire](#)

[Microprocessor](#)

MMC - MERG Management Committee.

MMC - Module Management Console for the configuration and management of CBUS and VLCB modules.

[Mobile decoder](#)

[Modulation](#)

MOMS - MERG Online Membership System

[Monostable](#)

MOSFET - Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor

MRC - Model Railway Club

MSAG - MERG Somerset Area Group

[Multiplexor](#)

N

NAND - Not AND

[Negative](#)

NMRA - National Model Railroad Association

NMRAnet - Early Layout Command Control

NOR - Not OR

NPN - Type of transistor

NV - Node Variable

O

[Octal Darlington Arrays](#)

Ohms - a measurement of electrical resistance

OP - Original Post(er)

Op amp - operational amplifier, often refers to an electronic chip

[Open collector](#) - a circuit with a transistor that not connected

OpenLCB - Open Layout Control Bus (equiv to LCC)

[Optical detector](#)

[Opto-isolator](#)

OR - a logical operation similar to arithmetic addition

[Oscillation](#)

[Oscilloscope](#) - an electronics instrument that displays waveforms

P

PAT - Portable Appliance Testing

[Parallel](#)

PCB - Printed Circuit Board

[PCB software](#)

[Peco motor](#)

PEI - Polyetherimide

[Phase](#)

PIC - Peripheral Interface Controller

[PICKit](#)

PiSo - Parallel in Serial out

PLA - Polylactid Acid or Programmable Logic Array

Plank - A small test layout, usually having no scenery or prototype

PM - Phase Modulation or Pulse Modulation

[PMD1](#)

[PMD2](#)

PMP - Pocket Money Project

[PMR1](#)

PNP - Type of Transistor

[Point Motors](#)

[Points](#)

[Polarity](#)

[Positive](#)

POR - Power On Reset

Pot - Potentiometer

[Potentiometer](#)

[Power district](#)

[Power pack](#)

[Programming](#)

[Progressive cab control](#)

PSU - Power Supply Unit

PTP - Point to Point

[PTP-Lite](#)

[Pulse](#)

PWM - Pulse Width Modulation

[Pulsed output](#)

Q

QFN - Quad Flat No Leads - a surface mount IC package

QFP - Quad Flat Pack - a surface mount IC package

QTU - Quad Throttle Unit

R

[RailCom](#)
[RailCommunity](#)
[Raspberry Pi](#)
[RC filter](#) - Resistance and Capacitor Filter
[Rectification](#)
[Reed Switch](#)
[Regulated power supply](#)
[Relays](#)
[Resistor](#)
[Resistor network](#)
[Resonator](#)
[Reverse polarity](#)
[RFC](#) - Request For Comment
[RFID](#) - Radio Frequency IDentification
[Ring Buffer](#)
[Risk assessment](#)
[RLSC](#) - Reversed Linked Section Control
[RMS](#) - Root Mean Square
[Road Vehicle Control](#)
[Route setting](#)
[RPC](#) - Remote Panel Control
[RPI](#) - Remote Panel Interface
[RS232](#)
[RS485](#)
[RSA](#) - a MERG RS232 to RS485 converter
[RSE](#) - Remote Stack Extension
[RTC](#)
[RTFM](#) - Read The Flipping Manual
[RTOS](#) - Real-Time Operating System

S

[SABLE](#) - Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy
[Schottky Diode](#)
[SD4](#) - Remote Panel Control module
[Seep motor](#)
[Semaphore](#)
[Series](#)
[Servo](#)
[Shift register](#)
[Short Event](#)
[SIG](#) - Special Interest Group
[Signalling](#)
[SiPo](#) - Serial in Parallel out
[SLiM](#) - Simple/Small Layout implementation Model
[Smoothing](#)

[SMPS](#) - Switch Mode Power Supply
[SoC](#) - System on Chip
[SoD](#) - Start of Day
[Solid conductor](#)
[Sound decoder](#)
[Soundtrax](#)
[SPAD](#) - Signal Passed At Danger
[SPDT](#)- Single Pole Double Throw
[SPI](#) - Serial Peripheral Interface
[Sprog](#)
[SPST](#) - Single Pole Single Throw
[SRI4](#) - Remote Panel Control module
[SRO4](#) - Remote Panel Control module
[SSI](#)
[Star network](#)
[Stationary decoder](#)
[Stay Alive](#)
[Steady state](#)
[SToC](#) - Searchable Table of Contents
[Stranded conductor](#)
[SuperBloc](#)
[SWG](#) - Standard Wire Gauge
[Switch](#)
[Switch machine](#)
[Switch mode](#)

T

[Tag strip](#)
[TB](#) - Technical Bulletin
[TBH](#) - To be honest
[TCC](#) - Train Control Centre/Center
[Technical Data](#)
[Thou](#) - 1/1000th of an inch
[Throttle/handset](#)
[Timers](#)
[TLA](#) - A three-letter acronym
[Toggle](#)
[TORR](#) - Train Operated Route Release
[Tortoise motor](#)
[ToTI](#) - Train-on-Track Indicator
[TOU](#) - Turnout Operating Unit
[Track circuit](#)
[Track cleaner](#)
[Train detection](#)
[Transducer](#)
[Transformer](#)
[Transistor](#)
[Tri-State](#) - Three State output pin

Ts&Cs - Terms and Conditions

[Turnout actuator](#)

[TVS](#) - Transient Voltage Suppressor

[Twinkling](#)

U

[UART or USART](#) - Universal Synchronous and/or Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter

[Unregulated power supply](#)

[USB](#) - Universal Serial Bus

[USI](#) - Universal Serial Interface

V

[Via](#)

[VCP](#) - Virtual Communications Port

[VLCB](#) - Versatile Layout Control Bus

[Volatile memory](#) - Memory that loses data without power

[Volt](#) The measure of electrical potential difference

[Voltage regulator](#)

W

[Watt](#)

[Welding simulator](#)

[Wiki](#)

w.r.t. - with respect to

X

[XLR Connector](#)

[XOR Gate](#) - Exclusive OR Gate

Y

YMMV - Your Mileage May Vary

Z

[Zener diode](#)

Zero 1

ZIF socket - Zero Insertion Force socket

ZIMO - Austrian DCC supplier

ZTC - British DCC supplier

From:

https://www.merg.org.uk/merg_wiki/ - **Knowledgebase**

Permanent link:

https://www.merg.org.uk/merg_wiki/doku.php?id=glossary:start&rev=1770625475

Last update: **2026/02/09 08:24**

