

STARTING OUT WITH JMRI PANEL PRO

Here are the details for the “STARTING OUT WITH JMRI PANEL PRO” course which will take place at Strode College, Somerset, over two days **11th and 12th July 2019**.

For course booking, details of the venue and course start and finish times please contact Strode College directly.

Your course tutor will be Pete Brownlow, ably backed up by Tony Braithwaite.

This course assumes no previous knowledge of JMRI.

Topics covered will include:

- Downloading and installing JMRI
- Getting JMRI connected to your layout
- Monitoring messages
- Overview of JMRI - the various components
- Where to find help and documentation
- Driving trains with JMRI throttles and wireless devices
- Designing a layout diagram and control panel using the Layout Editor
- Setting up control of turnouts & signals
- Detecting sensors
- Turnout feedback
- Start of day
- Customising icons for your layout diagram
- Using other devices, such as Ipads, tablets etc, to access the control panel
- Setting up Blocks and Routes
- Block detection and train tracking
- Demonstration of Signal mast logic – automating the signals **
- Demonstration of automatic running **

** These two topics will be covered in detail in the follow-on JMRI courses.

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 able to connect to it via a wireless network connection to the CBUS layout control.

We will use CBUS as an example layout connection for practical sessions and demonstrations, but the principles learnt can be applied to using JMRI with any system.

You will be able to carry out each of the topics on your own laptop whilst we are all connected to the demonstration layout.

Please note that this course does NOT cover programming locomotive CVs using Decoder Pro. For that, see the “Introduction to DCC” course.

What to bring

All you need to bring is your computer. A laptop is ideal. We can also accommodate a desktop computer, but in that case you would need to bring your own screen, keyboard and mouse. JMRI will work on Windows, MAC or Linux.

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

Note that whilst JMRI will run on older PCs, including those running Windows XP, if you find that your laptop is generally slow, you will find it particularly frustrating when using JMRI on the course. JMRI is very slow to load and run on a computer that is already slow to do to other things. We have found this particularly true of old computers, that were fine as originally supplied but have since been upgraded to Windows 10, for which their hardware is not really adequate.

If you are able to install JMRI onto your computer before the course, this will save us some time on the day. (If you do not get JMRI installed, don't worry, we will sort it out for you on the day).

The recommended version for this course is JMRI test release 4.15.9, you can download it here:

<http://www.jmri.org/releasenotes/jmri4.15.9.shtml> (Scroll down that page for the download links).

Although this is a test version, it is almost ready for release as production version 4.16, which the JMRI dev team will do shortly. It includes enhancements to CBUS support which we will find useful during the course.

JMRI also requires that you have Java installed. If JMRI fails to install because you do not already have Java, you can install it from here: <https://www.java.com/en/>

If you have a tablet computer and/or smartphone, please bring them with you as well. Although JMRI cannot run directly on these devices, we will show you how you can use them to remotely drive trains and to remotely access JMRI control panels via WiFi.

Note on the Raspberry Pi:

JMRI also will work on the Raspberry Pi. (ideally a Pi 2B or later).

Although JMRI will work on the Raspberry Pi, we will not have time during a two day course to go through the extra work needed to get it set up and working. If you have a Raspberry Pi, and you are interested in running JMRI on it, then we can point you to resources on the MERG wiki that can help you set it up.

Even if you already have JMRI running on a Raspberry Pi, we would strongly recommend that you still bring your laptop for the course, as this will be easier for your tutors to help you with any problems. However, the knowledge gained will be equally applicable to using JMRI on the Raspberry Pi should you choose to do that later.