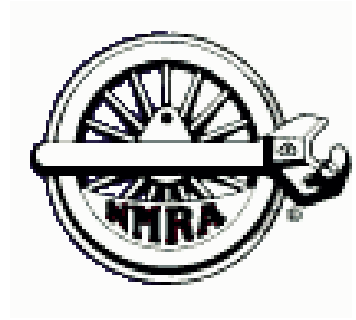


**Minutes of the
NMRA DCC Working Group Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2009
Location: Nuremberg Toy Fair, Germany**



Attendee list follows the minutes
Minutes recorded by Reinhard Müller

Welcome

The meeting was opened at 9:15 in room Bremen.
The attendance was lower than usual, missing some key manufacturers.
First Reinhard Müller reported about the status of some changes at the NMRA and old topics.

Status Reports

1. Changes in approving Standards

The NMRA has changed the rules for approving standards. Changing a standard does no longer require all NMRA members to vote on. This makes it more easy to update the standards within a shorter timeframe.

2. Topic 9910241 - Analog Output Instruction

This instruction has been addressed several times including votes and it is already implemented in products of some manufacturers. However nobody took care of putting it into RP-9.2.2. This should be done in time for the next BoD meeting in July this year.

Old Business

3. Topic 0309302 - RP-9.3.2 Revision

There was no report on this topic as nobody from the RailCom Group working on this topic was present. However while it looks that there is no progress at all, the group is busy as several things have to be carefully designed, e.g. to allow automatic detection and addressing of new decoders, requiring unique IDs in the decoders and the command station.

4. Topic 0408251 - In-rush Current Compatibility

The problem when powering up the layout with a large number of decoders with large capacitors without current limiters (like sound decoders) is well known.

As Arnold Hübsch could not attend the key points of his proposal were addressed. Limiting the inrush current of any device connected to DCC power to 10% of the device's maximum capacity in normal operation and every booster supplying DCC power should provide power in current mode for 1-2 seconds at power up, before switching off due to cover current.

5. Topic 0504023 & Topic 0603242 - Minor editing revisions to RP-9.1.1

There are a few things like typos and wording which should be improved in the current version of RP-9.1.1. However as there will be further changes to this RP it was decided in Anaheim to include these changes with the next major version of this RP.

Business from Anaheim

6. Topic 0807171. - Wire Color Code Change

Currently there are two sections dealing with wire colours. Section C for the locomotive and Section G for the decoder. Both sections have most in common and the colour code for both should be in one place. Furthermore the wires in the locomotive may have different colours for valid reasons, e.g. to make the wires between a steam locomotive and the tender less visible. Brian Barnt is dealing with this.

7. Topic 0807172 - Converting RPs into Standards

Except for DCC the NMRA is testing only against the standards and not the RPs for a conformance warrant. However in the DCC related RP are many specifications vital for compatibility. In several cases it is not clear, which sections of the RS are mandatory. Therefore the mandatory parts should be moved into the standards. While changing the standards is now easier, all standards and RPs will have to be rewritten. Mark Gurries and Karl Kobel are working on this.

MW: There are many ambiguities which may be solved in this process.

RM: Please tell the NMRA about any ambiguity found as otherwise there will never be solved. There can't be addressed instantly but they will be on the list to be worked on.

8. Topic 0807173 - Reserve Binary State Controls

There is an application - the railroad positioning system of Walter Naumann working with ultra sonic signals to locate a locomotive on the layout - which needs an instruction to trigger the sound signal. A Binary State Control is used for this. To avoid interference with other manufacturer specific uses of the BSCs it is suggested to reserve the uppermost 256 BSCs for manufacturer specific use, using an address based on the manufacturer as specified in Appendix A of RP-9.2.2: 0x3F<mfg. ID> There will be a proposal at the meeting in Berlin.

New Business

9. Space for PluX12 and PluX16 as defined in NEM658

A presentation (as attached to the minutes) was shown describing the problem when placing a PluX12 with the full width allowed in NEM658 into a PluX16 socket, as the decoder will be offset by 1.27mm = 0.05". There are several solutions which all have some problems. When changing the space for the PluX16 more manufacturers will be affected. Asymmetric spaces are calling for errors; symmetric changes will have a large impact on the sizes. Any comments related to this topic should be sent to Rüdiger Uhlenbrock. This topic has been assigned the number **0902071**.

As a side note there will be changes to the NEM658 as well. The meeting for this will be one week before the meeting in Berlin. Therefore a decision should be made before the MOROP meeting.

10. Reorganization of the NMRA DCC WG

As we all know the NMRA DCC WG is not working as it should for several reasons. While the modellers - the users - will input their ideas, the manufacturers have to find out how to implement this in a selling product. Based on this approach the USA based manufacturers formed a DCC WG under the umbrella of the HMA (Hobby Manufacturers Association). They have monthly teleconferences organised by the HMA. Minutes are taken and distributed by the HMA. The minutes are also available for manufacturers outside the USA. It may be

useful to have a similar set-up in Europe as well. However an organisation like the HMA supporting this needs to be found. For any questions regarding the approach in the USA contact Nancy Workmann of Soundtraxx.

Personal note: I believe the results from the groups have to be documented and published by a manufacturer independent organisation, e.g. the NMRA in the USA and MOROP in Europe.

MW: Comparing to other areas manufactures tell they want to work together but they don't. Manufacturers have often no interest in other manufacturer's products. The PC was so successful due to an open standard. No manufacturer can deliver everything, none is omnipotent. Most manufacturers are participating but not working in the group.

FG: Many have private ideas, which are not in the same direction. Manufacturers need to design selling products. Most Ideas on the Net are nice but companies have to work for money. Therefore there is often no chance for a product. Also decisions are taken by the marketing and not by the technicians.

RM: Same product may be designed compatible or incompatible. For H0 everybody uses 16.5mm gauge to be compatible. DCC is basically asking for the same level of compatibility.

HK: How to educate the hobby shops?

RM: No solution except improving compatibility. The more items are working together as assumed the less information is needed.

FG: Marketing selects Products. Main concern is compatibility to the other products of the company.

NR: Are there standards for wireless communication?

RM: There are no such standards within NMRA, as this depends on available frequencies and different rules in each country. Things move fast with new frequencies becoming available for models.

AOB

The next Meeting will be in Berlin, Germany 14th - 16th May 2009. Thursday the 14th will be the day of arrival and for conversation at the hotel. The meeting will continue on Friday all day and Saturday morning at the Technical University of Berlin. There will be a visit including an operating session at the EBUEF <http://ebuef.de/>, operating a "plywood city" type layout with original signal tower equipment including mechanical leavers, electromechanical controls and a pushbutton based signal tower (GS II).

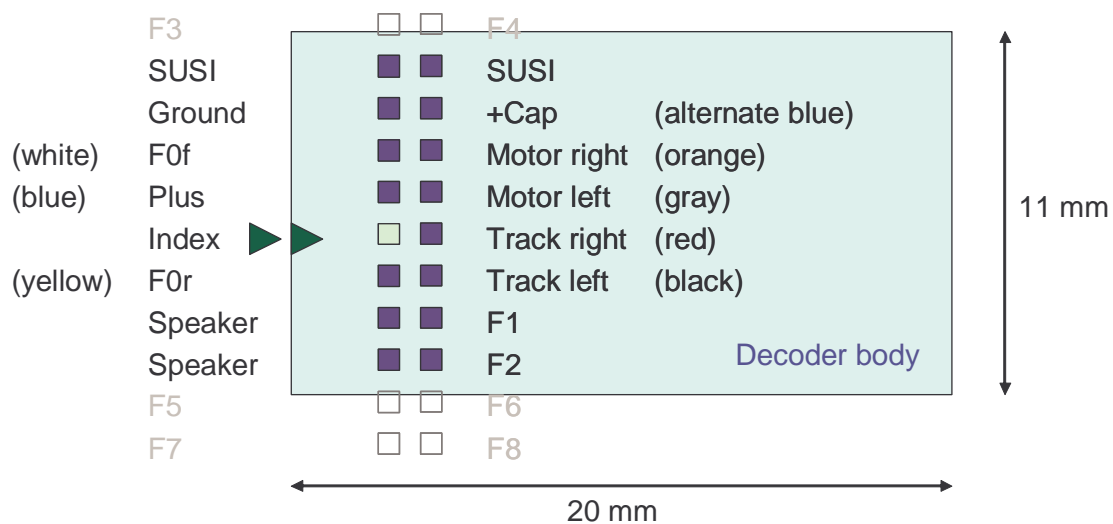
The meeting closed on 10:15 as several participants had to leave.

Participants:

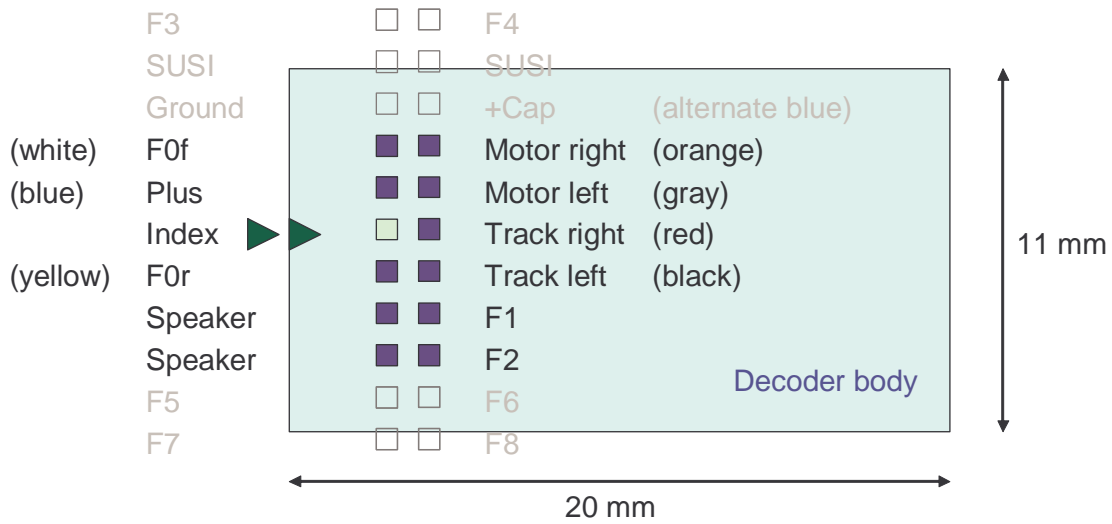
Name	Company or Organization
Jürgen Hause	Noch Gmbh & CoKG
Hans Hug	MOROP
Dr. Frank Grünig	Fleischmann
Hiroshi Kato	Kato
Christian Lemke	Lemke Collection
Reinhard Müller	NMRA
Bruce Norton	NMRA
Norbert Rosch	Massoth
Winfried Seewald	Tillig GmbH
Achim Sührig	MOROP / Arge Spur 0
Rüdiger Uhlenbrock	Uhlenbrock Elektronik
Dr. Thomas Vaupel	Uhlenbrock Elektronik
Manfred Waldmeyer	WalMo

Appendix A: Slides about the 21 Pin Connector

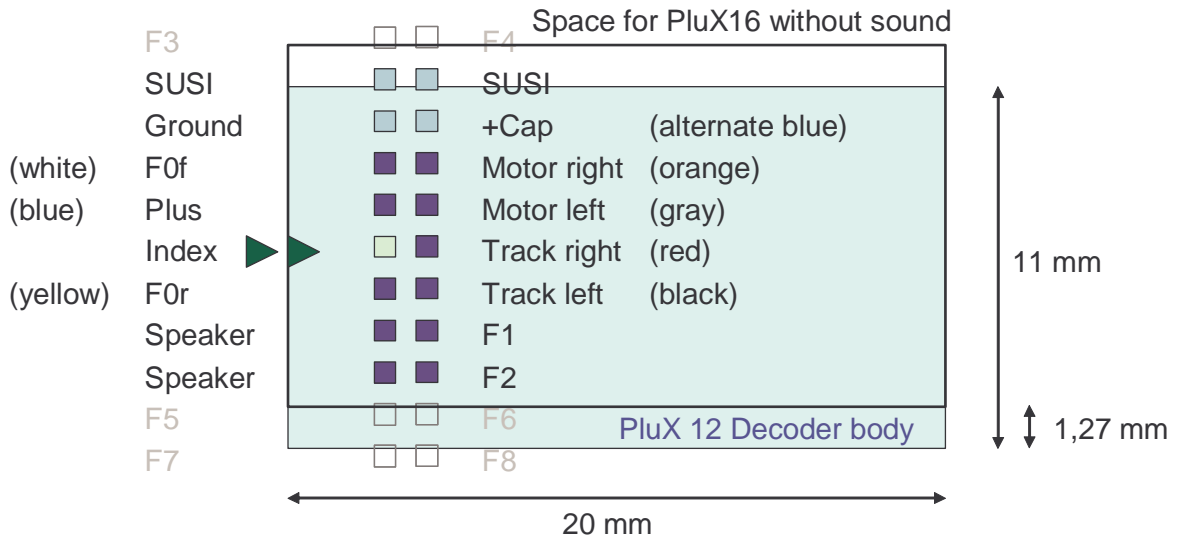
PluX16 without sound



PluX12 (NEM658)

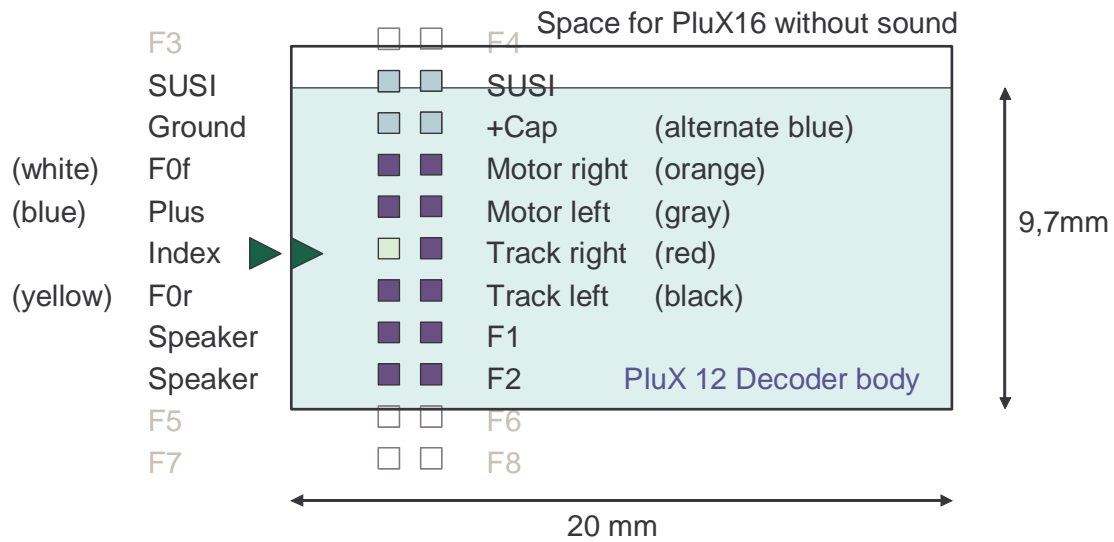


PluX12 decoder in PluX16 socket



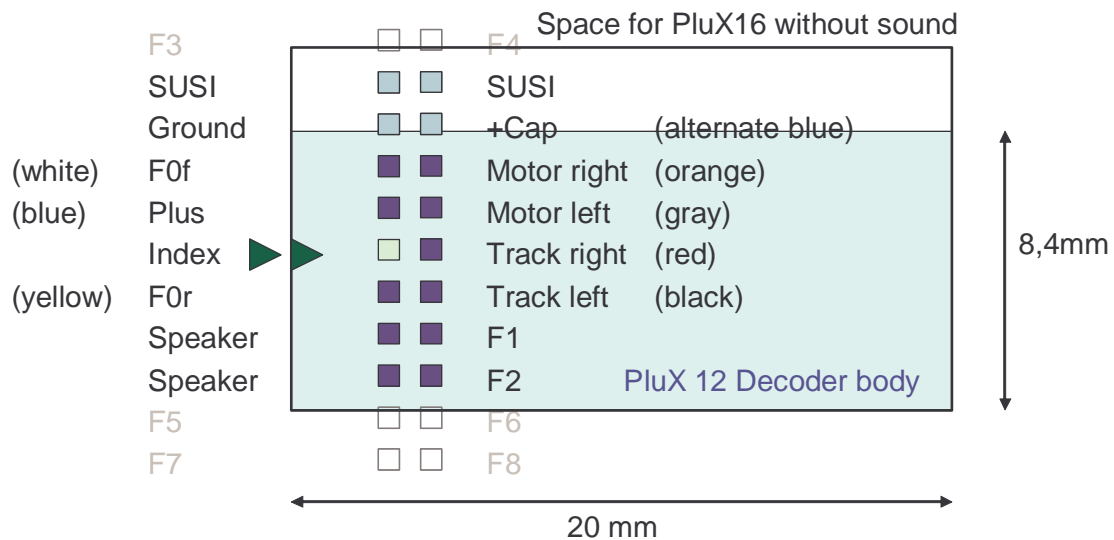
Solution 1a

PluX12 smaller on one side



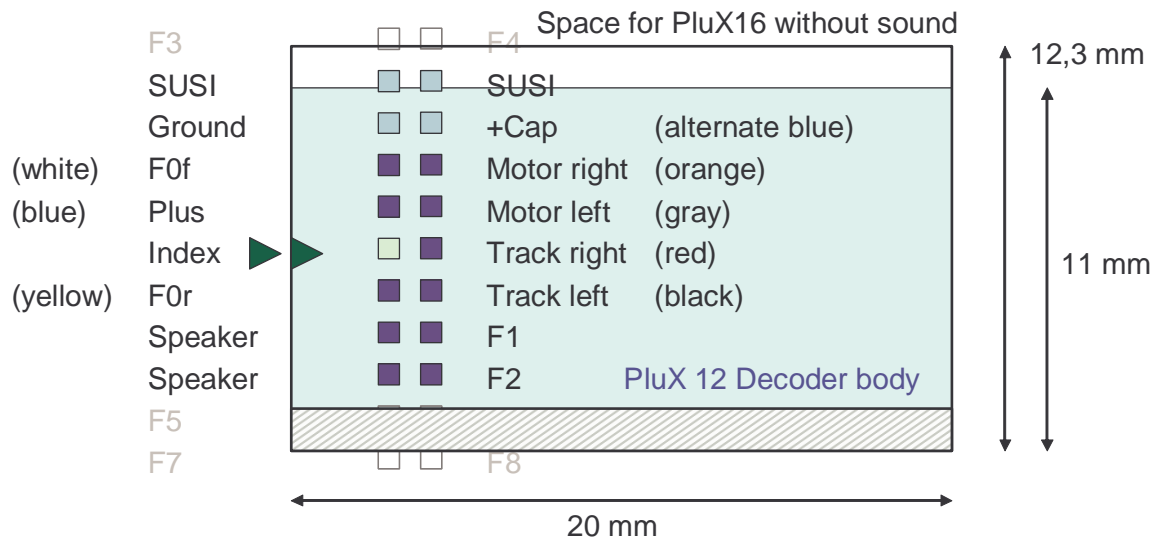
Solution 1b

PluX12 smaller on both sides



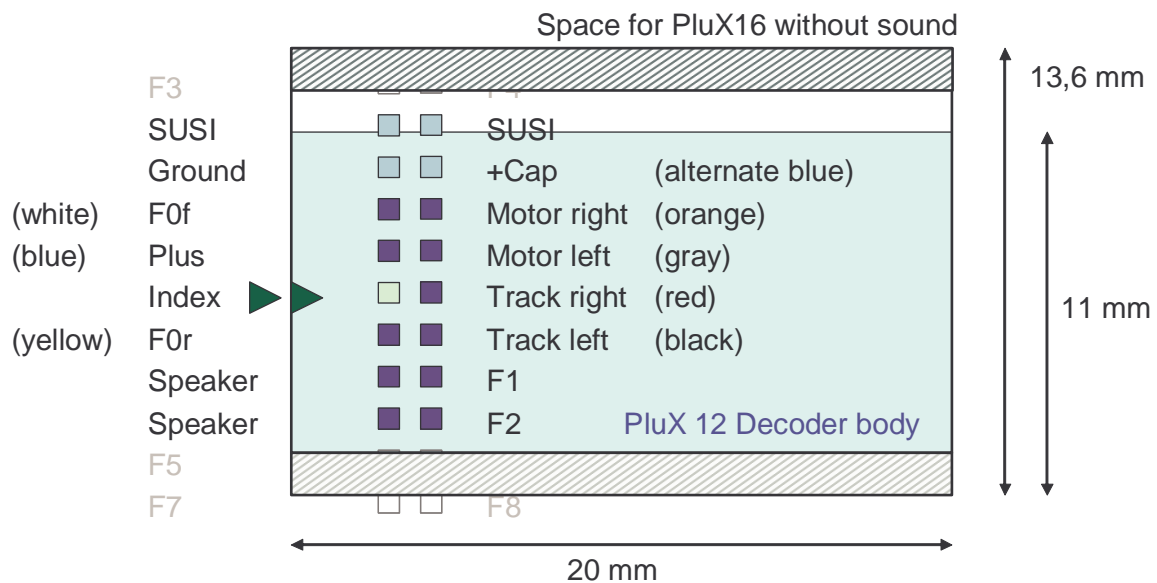
Solution 2a

PluX16 space increased

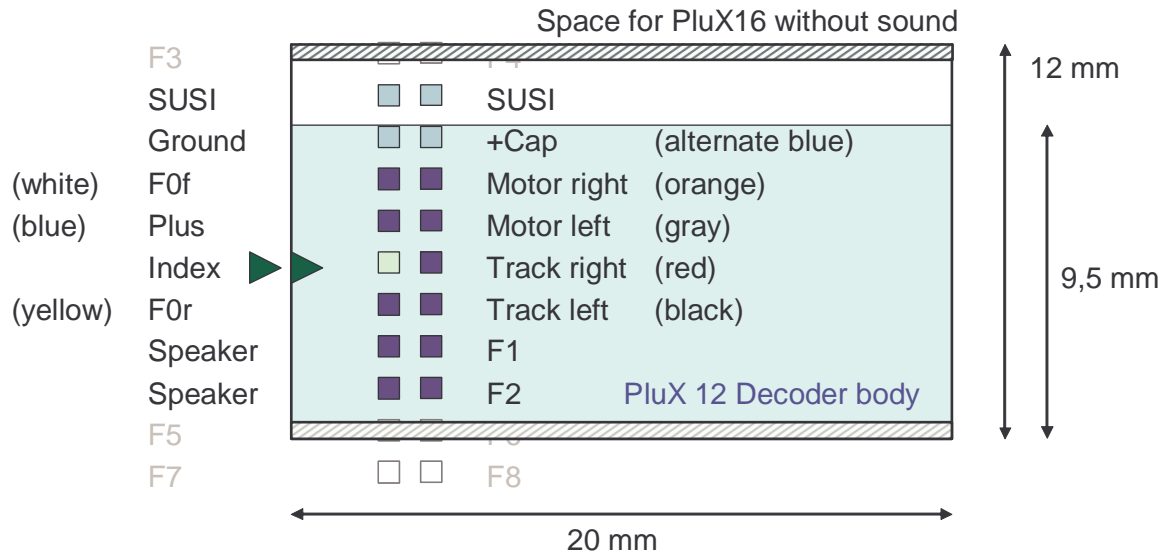


Solution 2b

PluX16 space increased



Solution 1 & 2 combined



Solution 3

PluX12 with offset connector

