

What do I need to add AirWire to my railroad?

The most basic installation requires one AirWire900 throttle and one AirWire900 decoder module. The decoder module includes a 10 Amp motor driver, lamp drivers and an auxiliary DCC booster output. An optional DCC sound decoder can be connected to the Auxiliary DCC output. The optional NMRA-DCC sound decoder is not provided but can be purchased from your local hobby shop or any other convenient source of DCC decoders. Batteries are not part of the starter set. However, almost any type can be used and the decoder manual includes an extensive list of sources for all types of batteries, battery packs and chargers.

Is AirWire compatible with other large scale radio systems?

AirWire can be used along side all other large scale radio systems without fear of interference.

How do I program the sound decoder?

The AirWire throttle has a built-in programmer and can program all configuration variables any DCC decoder.

How many trains can I run?

There are 8 unique frequencies. Each frequency can control up to 10,000 unique addresses. However, at any one time, a single AirWire throttle can control just one locomotive or MU-consist address at a time. However, if the throttle is changed to a new address, while the 1st address is running, the 1st address will continue to run at the last speed. The T9000 can have up to 15 locomotives and 4 consists (with up to 4 locos in the consist), running in memory at the same time.

Can I use brand X decoder that has sound or more functions?

Yes, any brand of DCC compatible decoder can be used with AirWire900 including sound decoders and function decoders. The AirWire decoder provides an auxiliary DCC booster output that provides drive power and passes along the DCC control commands to the external decoder.

How many different radio frequencies are there?

The RF1300 offers 8 frequencies. The T9000 also offers the standard 8 frequencies. The T9000 also has a 100 frequency capability which is provided for future growth. The present AirWire decoder has 8 frequencies.

What is the output power of the motor driver?

The AirWire decoder can provide 120 Watts of continuous power. For example, a 12 volt battery means the decoder can supply 10 Amps of motor drive. If using a 24 volt battery, the decoder can provide 5 amps of motor drive.

What is the highest battery voltage that can be used?

The new AW9D10SS allows up to 28 volts to be applied to the motor. Of course the motor must be capable of safely handling the drive voltage. Most motors are rated at either 18 or 24 volts. When battery input voltage exceeds 18 volts, the battery supply must also provide a source of about 12 volts. This is most commonly done with two 12 volt batteries in series. The sum of the two batteries (24V) powers the motor and one battery provides the necessary low voltage (12V).

How long will the battery last?

Battery life is dependent on the type, size and chemistry of the battery used and the motor load. Batteries are rated in Amp/Hours. That is a measure of how much current can be supplied for an hour. For example, a 1A/Hr battery will supply 1 Amp for 1 hour. If the motor draws only 0.5A, the battery will last for two hours.

What kind of antenna goes in the loco?

Receiver antenna is a 3.5 inch length of insulated wire .An optional external, long range antenna kit is available.

Can I control turnouts?

The T9000 throttle offers turnout control when the turnouts are equipped with a special decoder module. This module is planned for addition to the product line in 2006. Cost has not been set at this time.

Can it pick up power from the track?

Yes but we don't recommend it. Not only do you have to keep the track and wheels clean, but now you have to worry about electrical safety and reversing loops.

Can you charge the batteries from track power?

Maybe, but the extra circuitry, added cost and restrictions have not been evaluated.

Do you offer dealer packages?

We offer a dealer packages to qualified dealers and installers. Call us to obtain an authorized dealer package.