



Protocab

OWNER'S CLUB

OWNERS'

UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF ACC+ESS LIMITED- MANUFACTURERS OF THE PROTOCAB WIRELESS MODEL RAILWAY CONTROL SYSTEM

Edited for you by Tony Hagon, Director, Acc+Ess Ltd

We're still here - thanks to you!

Firstly, the compliments of the season to you. We would say 'Happy Christmas' but for so many in this last two years, it will be anything but. So, we will say 'keep safe, have the best Christmas you can and enjoy your modelling'.

I have received a number of upbeat Christmas messages from organisations saying how wonderful their year has been thanks to their staff and that is good for them. I can't help but wonder how many of them are using this as a morale booster hiding issues that could damage their business? It's all very well and good to be positive but we all have to be realistic. The pandemic has affected many businesses adversely. We've all probably experienced shortage of many items on the retailers' shelves (cat litter in our case - our local supermarkets have been out of stock for weeks now. Fortunately, I have a good but dwindling stock of track ballast...). We accepted a substitute cable for the 9950-X charging cable, which has a right angle plug rather than straight, and when these have been ordered, we have given Owners the option to take this version or wait until straight plug stocks are available again. Owners who have had the right angled version are reporting that they are useful in several situations. But we have both versions now, so you have a new option!

The 'Keep Calm and Carry On' attitude has been our watchword at Acc+Ess. This year we have turned off many of the overhead costs so that we can devote our resources to you, our valued Protocab Owner. Above all, we want to protect supplies for you, so that, when you want to fit Protocab into additional locomotives, stocks of 0052 Locomotive Sets are good. We are also fitting Protocab into Owners' locomotives and there have been some very interesting experiences with locomotives that, maybe, we would have recommended against because of either too little space for the Protocab components or our belief that the motor in the locomotives were too current hungry. The biggest surprise was success with the two Heljan GWR locomotives, the 43xx and 61xx. These are delivered as VERY heavy locomotives, and initial tests before fitting the components suggested that the motor would be too current hungry. But with the test leads clipped to the motors and running the locos light, they did respond to the 0201 Direct Controller. There are caveats. The Owner of these locomotives has a small O gauge layout,

so high speeds and heavy trailing loads on steep gradients or curves would not be a problem. He is also a modeller who likes realistic acceleration and braking, so gently coaxing the locomotives into motion, ideally through SIMUL mode, would ensure that the LCU and battery would handle the current load. Indeed, trying a rapid acceleration in tests did cause a reset.

We have had some additional interest in the New Products, which is encouraging, and would provide for higher current support but still a way to go. It's also becoming clear to us that Protocab has been ahead of its time and the idea of using a battery to power locomotives is rapidly gaining momentum.

So in 2022, we have plans.

We have been working through 2021 on developing a different product, one which we believe will attract a wide range of modellers, covering many scales and interests. It is a fundamentally different direction from Protocab, but will provide a bedrock to support the final stages of development for the Protocab New Products. We are not yet quite in a position to announce this new product, but you will be the first to hear about it! I can say with a high degree of confidence, and knowing how much you value quality products, that it will be one that you will want to use as well!

We are endeavouring to bring you the New Products but we need that final number of pre-orders so we can get them to initial production. Owners who have sent in pre-order deposits are always able to have them refunded if they wish. Your continued confidence that we *will* be able to finalise developments is very much appreciated. After all, Owner number 1 in the list for the 0241 Touch Controller and about 20 new LCUs and batteries is.....me!

Website update

protocab.com has been off the air for a couple of weeks, as we have been updating our security arrangements on it. With thanks to the several Owners who contacted us to let us know of the outage, we are now back on the air!

Lastly and sadly, we know of three Protocab Owners who have died in 2021. We send their families our sincerest condolences.