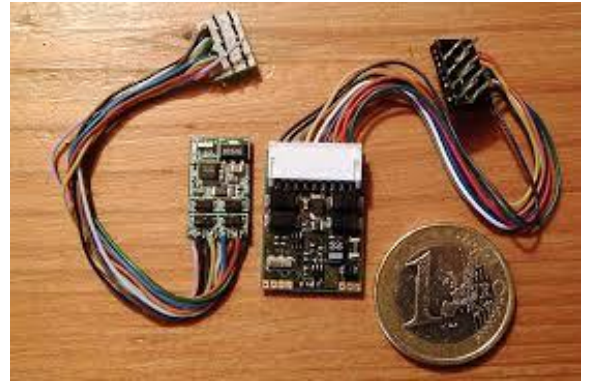


Model Railway History

In my 1940s childhood at Haltwhistle on the South Tyne, I played with big wind-up clockwork trains with track covering most of the attic floor. By the time I became a founder member of Bingham Model Railway Club in the early 1980s, things had changed. Most locos were in much smaller scales, and had internal electric motors driven by current from the track. Complex Control Panels fed the loco current and changed the points. However, computers have now taken over. Locos now have an internal chip and the controller passes on the operator's orders to each loco via the chip. This DCC (Digital Command Control) simplifies matters and layout development is much faster.

Having said all that, the change to DCC has affected the Club's development of the Ashtown layout. In the far distant past, we intended to build Cromford and High Peak Railway. We created two CHPR storage boards in the old fashioned way many years ago to shoot trains through the modules. The earlier decision for Ashtown was to use these storage boards, and in our previous Clubrooms everything was tested and worked. Since then, the Ashtown track layout has been much simplified, and we decided 15/09/2016 to go DCC with storage behind the layout. The redundant CHPR boards have now been dismantled and the Ashtown website entry will be updated VERY soon.



Graham Dean, DOFM (Doddery Old Founder Member) 23/09/2016