



Welcome to Lenz Elektronik, GmbH!

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The following tells about my background and the history of my company.

My background training is in physics and electronics with my earlier professional years spent in the Physics Department at Giessen University. I have been an avid model railroader for 45 years, beginning with the famous Christmas tree circle train set from my parents.

Prompted by the limitations of regular analog control, my explorations into command control began over 30 years ago. I especially disliked operating analog engines, whose lights went out when they stopped. Another limitation that annoyed me was the inability to independently operate engines in close proximity.

These limitations led me to search for new ideas for controlling trains and accessories. The break through was the progress in micro-electronic industry, opening a new world of possibilities for controlling trains. In 1988 these developments led to introduction of the DCC system, which is the basis of our system we now have.

At this time I designed for Marklin and Arnold. Lenz, GmbH was co-designer for the Marklin AC system, now called the Motorola packet format. The first product designed and developed by Lenz Elektronik was a circuit for a Marklin product. Other products were as far reaching as a dentist chair control circuit and another for the operation for kitchen range burners.

One of the reasons that I wished to design a new system was the fact that the Arnold product was just for N-Scalers. And since Arnold is 2 rail DC, the existing AC system didn't fit the requirements of either two rail or small N-Scale.

No one at this time had the idea to realize that small decoders could be programmed. Then I introduced the new DCC packet format, that is independent of the direction of the loco. At that time this was very important step, in that the packet format was innovative.

In 1991 Digital Plus was introduced by Lenz GmbH to fulfill the needs of model railroading. The Digital Plus System offered walk around control, more functions in the engine (like horns, whistle, bells, smoke units, etc.).

In 1993 Lenz GmbH started the cooperation with the Roco Company of Austria, designing and producing a new and successful starter set in DCC. And one year later the realization occurred in the co-operation of designing, and producing a multi-train control for LGB. Both Roco and LGB are based on the DCC standard.

In 1996 we redesigned our command station and decoders to be able to earn the prestigious NMRA conformance warrant. We are the first manufacturer to ship a fully compliant DCC system with decoder.

Please note that our Digital Plus is an open system and the first upgradable system in the market. I take pride in that Digital Plus continues to be a growing system. The introduction of the first emf decoder for DCC, represented a leap in the duplication of prototype throttle sensitivity. Producing this for N Scale is a significant engineering accomplishment.

During the development of the NMRA DCC standards, I cooperated with the DCC working group providing the basis for the NMRA's DCC. Now with the adoption of the Standards and RP's my company will do everything we can to ensure that the overall DCC movement started by the NMRA continues. Our position on NMRA Conformance is but the first in a series of announcements towards that end.

Currently the company has grown to twenty-five full time employees and the company building was built five years ago. Production has grown to over 100,00 decoders per year. The company will continue to be on the forefront of new innovations and designs for the DCC modeling community. **We are committed to the protection of your hobby dollar with our participation in the NMRA Conformance Testing Program, our upgradable systems and very aggressive "goof proof" decoder warranty.**

We are always interested in hearing feedback from you, the model railroad public. Let us know what new products you might like to see and what additions you would like to see.

Thanks for visiting.

Bernd Lenz, President Lenz GmbH