

Pocket Money Kit of the Month – April 2019

No 18 – EzyPoints points controller

As the 'Tip of the Month' reports, many modellers are abandoning the old solenoid method of remotely operating points in favour of servos.

The amount a servo rotates is determined by the width of the pulses sent to it, so they need electronic modules to control them.

One of MERG's biggest sellers nationally is the PMP18 kit.

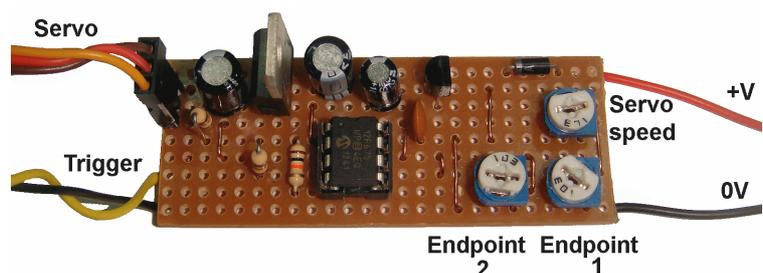
This module controls a single servo, requiring only connections to a 12V DC supply, the servo and a simple on/off switch to operate the point.

It is suitable for use on DC, DCC, EzyBus and CBUS systems and does not require a computer to set it up.

The picture shows a completed kit.

It has three trimmers and these are adjusted using a small screwdriver.

- One sets how far the servo rotates in one direction when the switch is closed.
- Another sets the servo position in the other direction when the switch is opened.
- The third sets the speed at which the servo arm turns.



Although the module is called EzyPoints, it can also be used to operate semaphore signals, crossing gates and animated trackside features. Its your choice.

The three trimmers allow you to use the servo's endpoints for different purposes (e.g. 90° for a barrier gate, 45° for a signal, 140° for an animation, etc.).

You can choose either a maximum rotation of just over 90° or just over 180°. Leaving out a link provides the 90° option.

90° is the preferred setting when operating points as it provides the best resolution.

180° is useful when you want larger movements, such as animations.

It is also capable of being operated by other MERG modules instead of a manual switch.

This allows, for example, the *remote* operation of points/features by connecting the outputs of a DCC Steady State decoder, a CBUS output module or an EzyBus module to the input of the EzyPoints module. Points/features can then be controlled from your control panel or DCC command station.

Also, it allows *local* operation of the module by connecting the outputs of the a train detector (such as the DTC8 8-channel block detector, the DCC Train Detector, the LDR Train Detector or the Laser Detector to the input of the EzyPoints module. Example uses are detecting when a train is in a particular track section and station/yard lights coming on, doors opening, cranes moving, sounds being played, etc.

The kit is available at all West of Scotland activities (for £1.55) or can be purchased from the national MERG website as PMP18.