

Pocket Money Kit of the Month – Aug 2018

No 2 – Train detector

This is basically a circuit for detecting changes in light levels and it is has many uses in model railways.

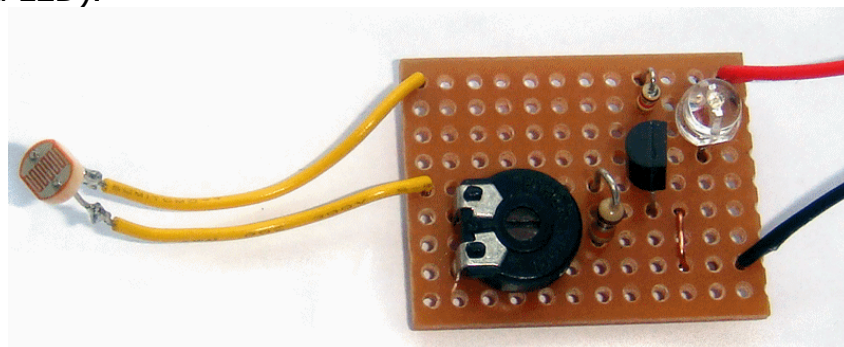
Possible uses include:

- A train stops in a marshalling yard and yard lights come on.
- A light comes on in the control panel when a train reaches a required point on an obscured section of track.
- Control panel lights indicate which hidden sidings are occupied.
- Triggering events in other modules such as the CANAC8c.

How to use it



A light sensor is positioned between track sleepers and the light to it is blocked when a train goes over the sensor. This triggers an output from the module (in our case lighting a LED).



The LDR can be mounted on the stripboard if necessary, although most operators prefer it to be connected to the board by a length of wire to allow easier placement.

Similarly, the LED can be fitted to the board, or can be fitted to a remote place (e.g. the operator's control panel, on top of a yard lamp) using wires from the board to the LED.

The kit has few components and is available at all West of Scotland activities (for 70p) or can be purchased from the national MERG website.