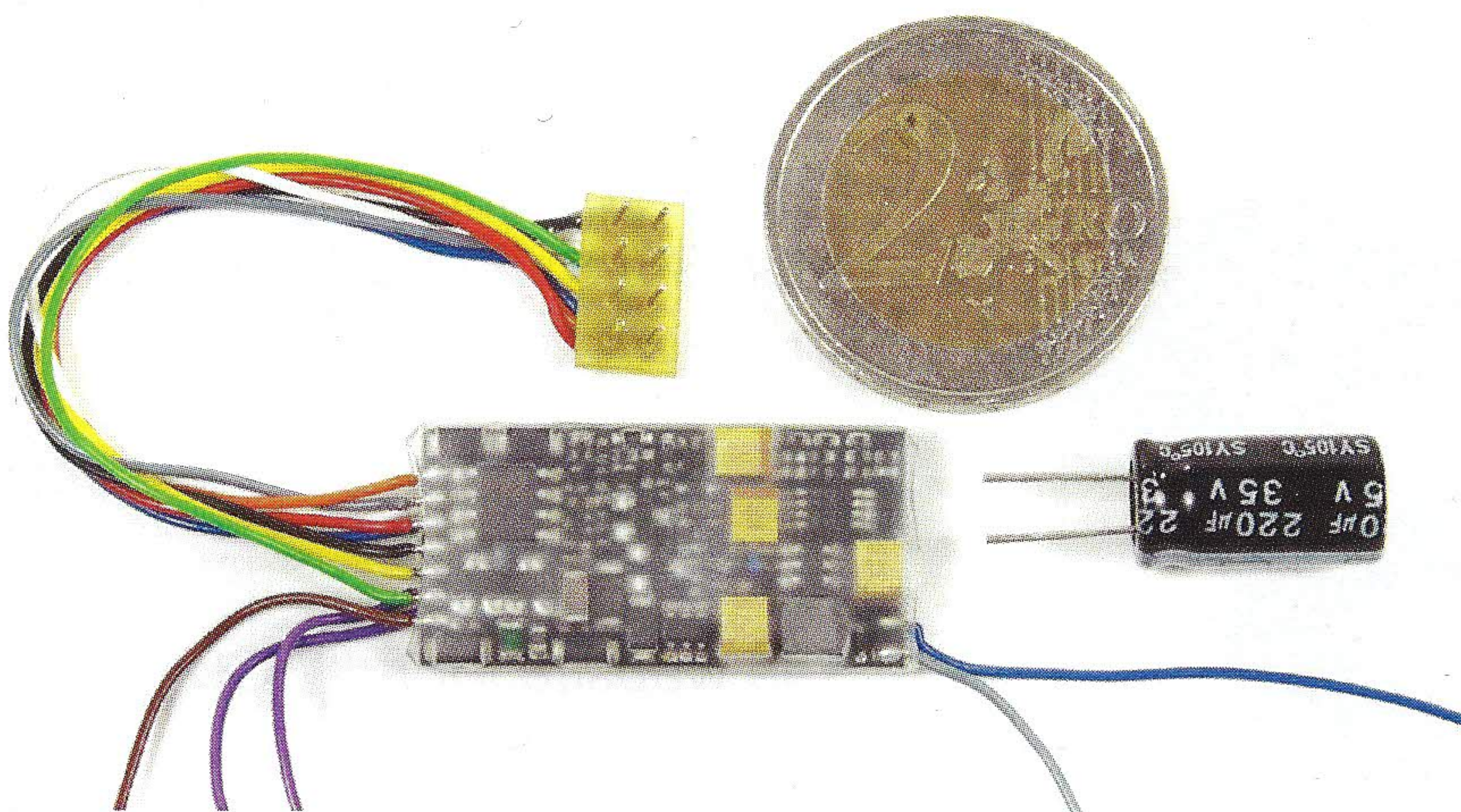


ZIMO TARGETS UK MARKET

RAIL EXCLUSIVE is the new UK distributor of ZIMO DCC products and is promoting the premium brand heavily having introduced new packaging.



The impressive 10-function MX645 digital sound decoder has an 'electronic flywheel' circuitry (energy store) for uninterrupted operation on dirty track and powerful 3W amplifier for excellent sound reproduction.

ZIMO decoders were the cause of one of those strange paradoxes of railway modelling and more specifically, DCC operations. There was a long held view that your best decoders were fitted to your best engines to achieve the ultimate driving experience, with older and less well regarded decoders relegated to poorer performing models with three-pole 'pancake' or Ringfield motors. The strange thing is that poor drives, particularly Lima, benefited dramatically from ZIMO's fine motor control and high performance - the decoder could be worth more than the model itself!

ZIMO continues to add to its reputation with advanced features including 'electronic flywheel' capacitors for coping with poor current collection, additional function outputs and advanced operating features. ZIMO now offer an 'economy' version, the MX623, with a continuous rating of 0.8 amps and a peak of 1.5 amps for getting heavy loads under way. The decoder is a double-sided type 20mm x 8.5mm and 3.5mm thick intended for HO/OO, although it may fit some N gauge models too.

Described as a four-function decoder, in fact it has six function outputs. Two are wired for head and tail lights (FOF and FOR) whilst the remainder are solder pads at one end of the board. An NEM 652 eight-pin DCC plug is included but without the wire for output 'C' (usually green) wired to it. Testing on a Hornby model with redeveloped motor for its former Lima range, control was smooth with excellent starting at around speed step 3. It provided smooth acceleration and deceleration throughout the speed curve and at no time left me feeling that the loco could run out of control. Quiet motor drive and BEMF made the loco a pleasure to drive.

Digital sound enthusiasts will welcome a competitively priced high end decoder compared to those currently available and on-board sound in RTR models. Self-install sound using decoders programmed by specialist retailers is growing in popularity as the price of sound on-board engines continues to rise. ZIMO's MX645R decoder is not only less expensive but feature rich with ten independent functions in addition to the

SUMMARY

MX623 economy fleet decoder

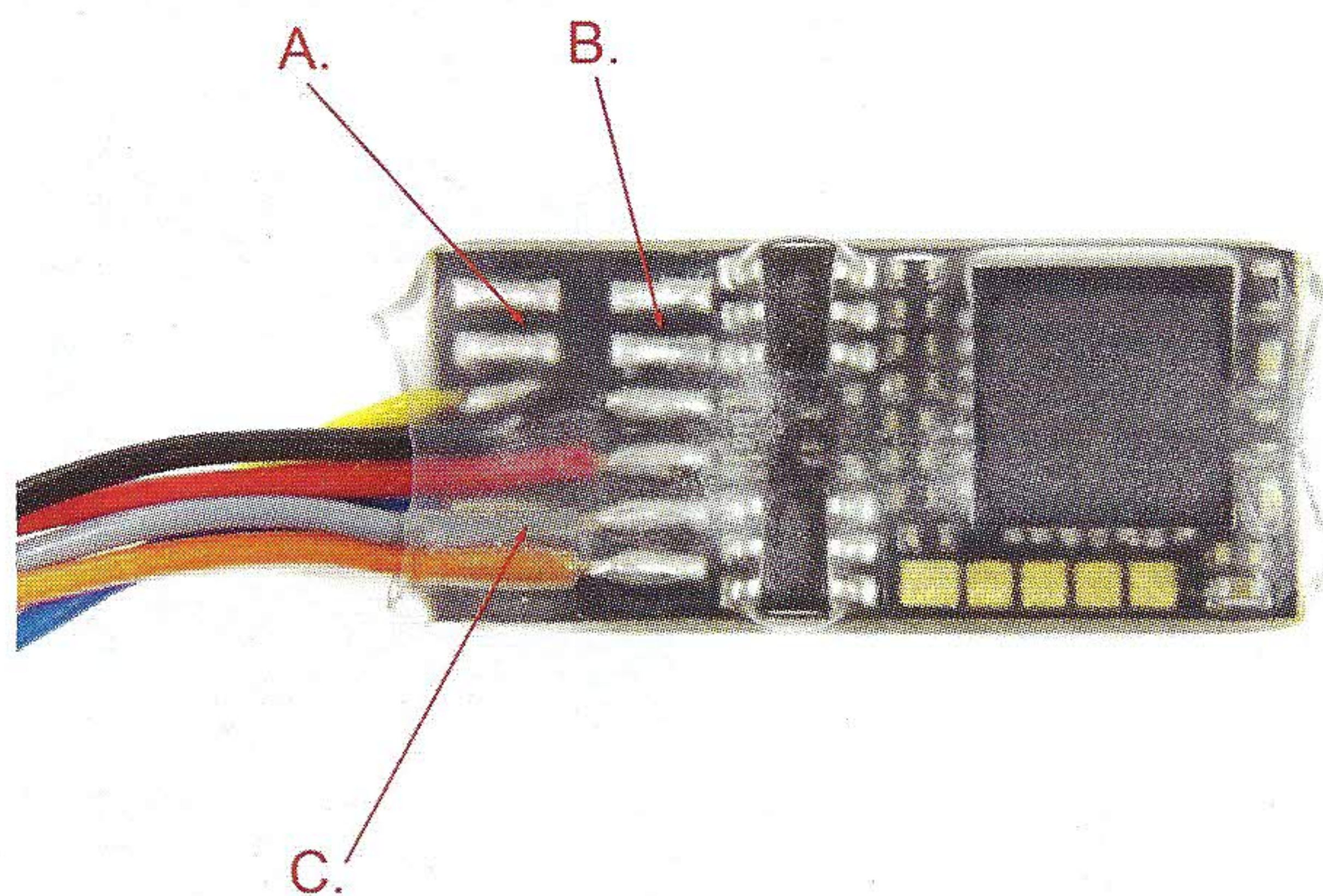
- Size: 20mm x 8.5mm x 3.5mm
- Functions: 4 plus head and tail lights
- Continuous rating: 0.8 amps
- Peak rating: 1.5 amps
- Connections: Loose wires, 6-pin and 8-pin on wire harness, PluX-12
- Price: from £22.50

MX645 digital sound decoder

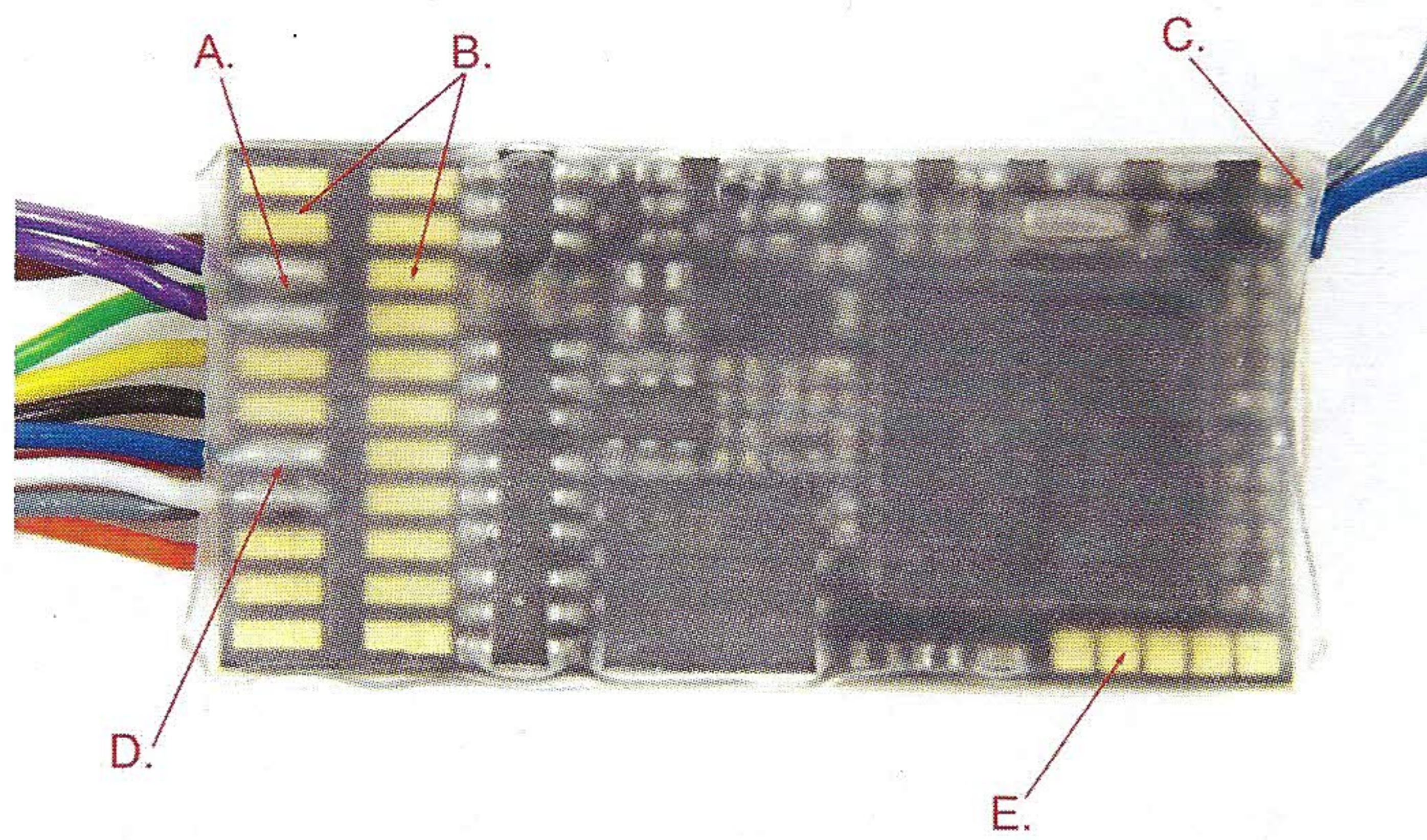
- Size: 30mm x 15mm x 4mm
- Functions: 10 plus head and tail lights
- Continuous rating: 1.2 amps
- Peak rating: 2.5 amps
- Connections: Loose wires, 6-pin and 8-pin on wire harness, PluX-16; PluX-22
- Energy storage capability
- Audio power: 3W - speaker output 4 - 8 Ohm (no speaker supplied)
- Price: from £73.00.

front/rear headlight outputs and very smooth controllable drive. No speakers are supplied as ZIMO believes the choice should be left to the modeller. Rated at 1.2 amps continuous and 2.5 amps peak, it has sufficient power to cope with any HO or OO gauge model. There is enough power for smaller locos in S and O gauge too. The MX645 also includes an 'electronic flywheel' in the form of an external capacitor. Pre-loaded with European sounds which may be selected through CV265; an increasing number of retailers are offering a 're-blow' service with specific British locomotive sounds. Priced from £73.00, it offers a significant saving for the sound hungry modeller. ■

For more info on ZIMO, visit www.zimo-digital.co.uk or contact any of the retailers listed on the advertisement, opposite.



MX623 'economy' decoder: Solder pads are provided for the additional function outputs: outputs 3 and 4 at (A); 1 and 2 at (B) together with a wired harness which is soldered to certain pads (C). A NEM652 8-pin plug and wire harness was fitted to the review sample.



Top of the MX645 decoder with its multiple solder pads for the various function outputs. The speaker wires are mauve (A); function output pads are provided at (B); the electronic flywheel capacitor is located off the wires at (C) and head light connections wired in at (D). The programming pads at (E) should remain untouched.



Put yourself in the driving seat with ZIMO digital control



Products for all scales

Decoders suitable for models ranging in size from 'N' to 'O' gauge, and larger, including garden railways.



High specification

Functionality is paramount at ZIMO. Plenty of function outputs are always provided for greater play value.



Smooth motor control

Low-noise, high-frequency drive options with back-EMF sampling obtains optimal performance from any motor.



High current ratings

Plenty of capacity provides peace of mind plus there are thermal cut-outs and overload protection on all outputs.



Superb sound output

Powerful amplifiers, large memory and high sample rates means sounds need to be heard to be believed!



Electronic flywheel

Many decoders incorporate energy storage circuitry that can improve running over poor or dirty trackwork.



Simple software updating

Our decoders can be easily updated with new software without having to remove locomotives from the rails.



Worldwide reputation

Widely respected in continental Europe and the USA. Chosen by brands such as Fleischmann, Roco & HAG.



Value for money

High quality decoders, manufactured at our Austrian factory in Vienna, at a surprisingly affordable price.

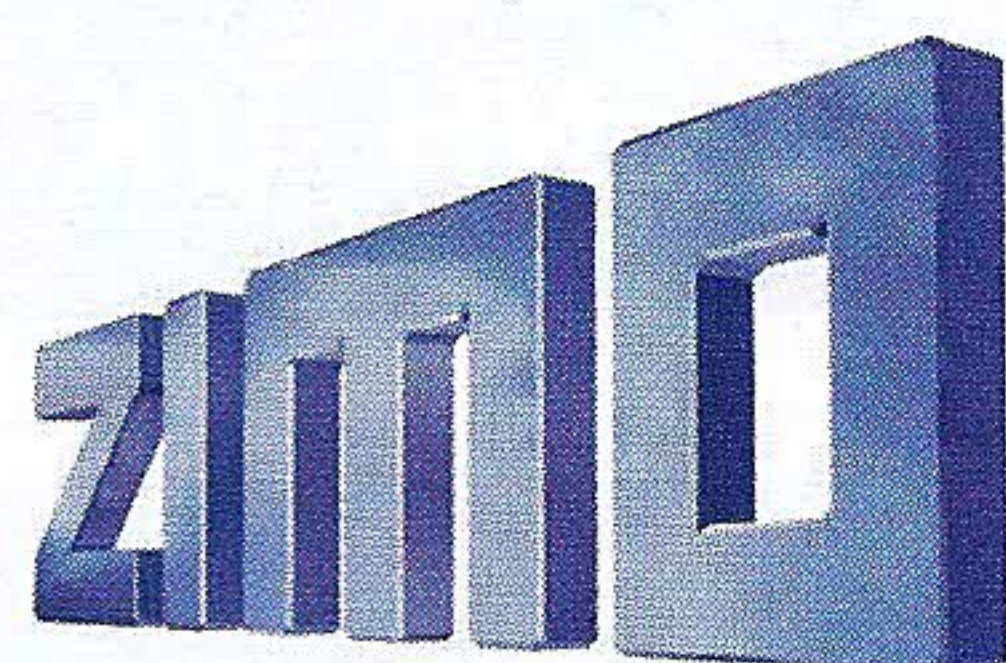
Quality and functionality: A wide range of technologically advanced, Austrian-made DCC decoders at value for money prices.



"The cost of 'OO' gauge factory-fitted sound locos from the big manufacturers have rocketed this year. Using a ZIMO MX645 chip and a bespoke speaker, you can save over £25 on the price of even a discounted catalogue item. The ZIMO sound decoder is also better specified and significantly less expensive than a common alternative brand."

For more details visit www.zimo-digital.co.uk or www.zimo.at

At the forefront of digital command control since 1979



The full range of ZIMO decoders is available from these approved retailers:

BROMSGROVE MODELS
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
01527 877066

COASTAL DCC
Ipswich
Suffolk
01473 403764

DCC SUPPLIES
Holt Heath
Worcestershire
0845 2241601

DCC TRAIN AUTOMATION
Barrington
Somerset
0117 230 8078

DIGITRAINS
Digby
Lincoln
01526 328633

RAIL EXCLUSIVE
King's Cliffe
Nr Peterborough
01780 470086

YOUCHOOS
Steeple Ashton
Wiltshire
0844 7725052