Newsletter - JANUARY 2012

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What ZIMO intends to do for the year 2012

Expansion of the ZIMO Decoder range

ZIMO is constantly developing new types of locomotive decoders, sound decoders, and function decoders to cover all needs and even very special types of use. Newly designed large scale loco decoders (MX695, 5 variants, including 4 with sound), and the miniature sound decoder (MX648, 4 variants), as well as a new functional decoder (6 types) emerged in the year 2011. In total, there are now about 50 types offered by ZIMO.

The decoder projects in 2012 will complete the product range, so we are talking about very small and very large versions, as well as the inclusion of newly introduced interfaces to the existing range.

MX618: A miniature decoder for the N and TT scales, with the new VHDM standard 18-pin "Next" interface: 0.7 A motor current or total current, 6 function outputs.

Note: for the recently introduced MTC-12 interface, this is also a variation that can be developed on demand.

MX622: A miniature decoder for N, TT, 00 and H0 with the 6-pin interface and the standard dimensions 14 x 9 x 3 mm, with motor or total current 0.8 A and four function outputs. In contrast to the otherwise very functionally similar sub-miniature decoder MX621 (which is already in production since 2011), the MX622 has no functional limitations compared to the larger types, and therefore has also the Motorola protocol, servo connectors, SUSI, the fully developed (beyond NMRA) function mapping, etc. 4 versions: in addition to the direct 6 pin plug, also wired versions with NEM652, NEM651 (6 pin and 8 pin) plugs, and wires (no plug) for direct soldering.

MX623: A decoder with 12-pin PluX interface, 20 x 8.5 x 3 mm, small enough so that he will fit in all vehicles, regardless of how the interface definition is "interpreted" (the decoder is not wider than the plug itself). Motor or total current 1 A, 4 function outputs, and complete ZIMO feature set. This ZIMO decoder type is also in terms of price rounded down, i.e. can be offered cheaper than the popular MX630. 4 models: in addition to the 12-pin PluX version, also wired versions with NEM652, NEM651 (6 pin and 8 pin) plugs, and wires (no plug) for direct soldering.

MX658: A miniature sound decoder for the N and TT scales with the new VHDM standardized 18-pin "Next" interface: 0.7 A motor or total current, 6 function outputs 1 watt sound output, technically based on the proven miniature sound decoder MX648, ZIMO full feature set.

MX696: A large scale sound decoder in two versions with all the properties of the MX695 project developed in 2011 (synchronous rectifier to reduce heat loss, special fan function, acceleration and inclination sensor, 10 watts sound amplifier, .. .), but in the dimensions (and with the connectors) of the earlier MX690, i.e. 55 x 29 x 16 mm (while the MX695 occupied an area of 50 x 40 mm).

MX697: A large scale sound decoder with "American interface", functionally and otherwise with respect to power (6 A) is equal to MX695.

Various **Locomotive circuit boards**: Specifically in development are currently three types, two for the 00/H0 scale and one for large scales. Such Loco boards (or "adapters") are used for simple wiring of the vehicle, have relatively large solder pads, an interface for a specific decoder class (e.g. PluX or MTC, so the decoder can be easily replaced, and manufacturer-independent). ZIMO locomotive boards have additional "goodies", typically the board has its own rectifier (stronger than that of the corresponding decoder, so that a 00/H0 decoder can be a large scale decoder for "small large-scale" locomotives) and possibly also a separate low voltage source for functional outputs. Loco boards will be created partly in collaboration with vehicle manufacturers, but may also be useful for the individual model railway modellers.

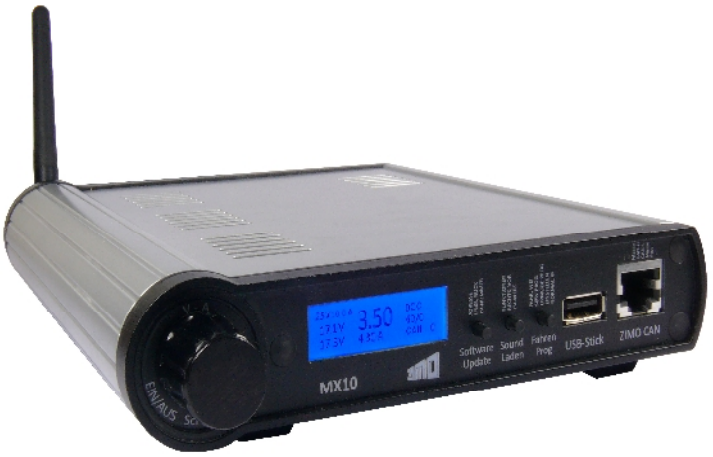
MX820: This new family of accessory decoders (formerly known as "Magnetartikel" decoder) will fill the supply gap, which is unfortunately caused by the abandonment of earlier types. At the same time, of course, there will be a number of improvements (e.g. 5 V supply for integrated servos and other features.).

An overview (with brief characteristics) of the ZIMO decoders and other products (including the most important announcements) can be found on the redesigned:-

PRODUCT and PRICE LIST (February 2012 Status) – currently in German (English to follow soon)

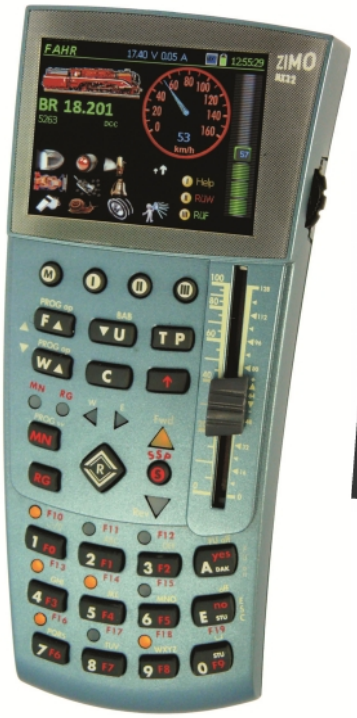
Note to the current prices: Comparison of 2011 price list has led in some cases to a certain adjustment (price increases). For many types - especially for the top selling MX630 or MX645 - prices could be left unchanged. So ZIMO decoders in the 00/H0 scale remain around 30, - EUR, Sound Decoders 90, - EUR, and large scale sound decoders from 150, - EUR.

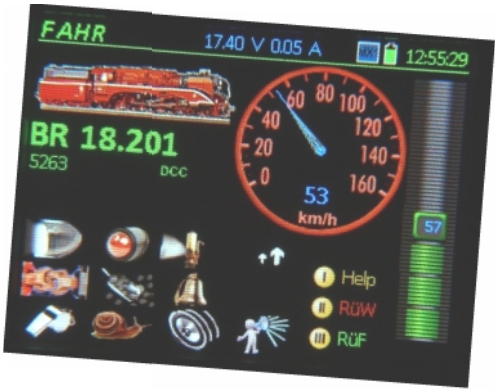
The New ZIMO System – MX10 and MX32



The new Command Station MX10 is unfortunately not yet ready for delivery ... but is in the final stages of preparation. There is an enhancement over the previous design: all of the base unit will be fitted with radio, and the wireless technology becomes even more powerful (a Zigbee derivative, probably able to operate in either band) - 2.4 GHz or 900 MHz.

With high efficiency and power (two-rail outputs with 12 A and 8 A), the device is naturally predestined for large and garden railways. But for the "small applications", the new generation of is extraordinary: for example, with a socket for USB flash drives, with a LAN port (in the era of the i-“this” and smart "that” this is actually a must have), or with the small integrated graphic display that shows the information that normally is displayed at the command station (voltages, currents, ...), With the rotary knob and buttons, simple driving is possible without an attached cab, as well as direct updating of decoders and sound decoder projects for vehicles that contain a ZIMO decoder.

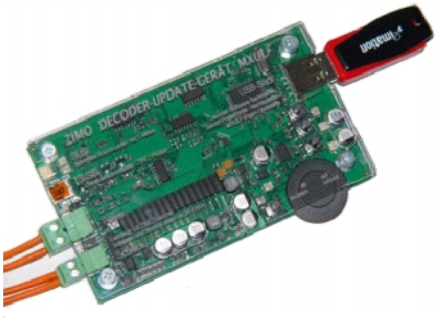




The **MX32 CAB (controller)**, has however been available for some time, and will cooperate with the "old" ZIMO devices (such as MX1, MX31ZL, etc.); however, these "old" devices are no longer produced.

In January 2012, the software version 01:09 has been released; see update page on www.zimo.at. Numerous bugs from version 01:08 have been fixed, and some functions have been improved. Included in this version are new function symbols (from Oliver Zoffi) which produce a more photo realistic images. Some of these symbols in the ON state are even animated.

MXULF - the New Decoder Update Device



Deliveries has already started in January 2012.

The new **MXULF** is a decoder update and sound project loading device with the latest technology to perform the upgrade and customization of the decoder in very comfortable and reliable way:

- Software Update from USB Stick for all ZIMO Decoder und ZIMO Sound Decoder.
- Sound Project Loading from USB Stick for all ZIMO Sound-Decoder.
- Self Update of the MXULF Software, also from the USB Stick.

The device is hardware ready for future functions, to be added via a software update:

- Driving and switching functions of the MXULF

  (MXULF as a "One loco digital system").

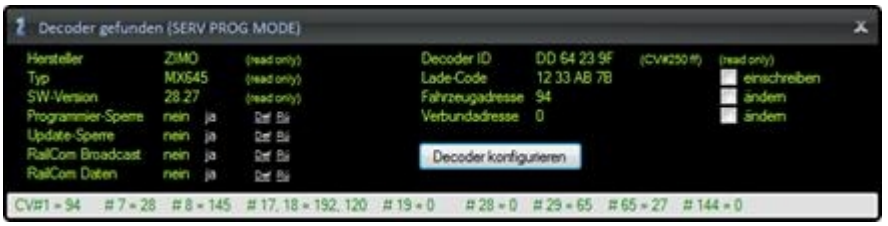
- Reloading of sound components in a sound decoder, which already contain a sound project, for example, replacement of whistles or station announcements by your own recordings.

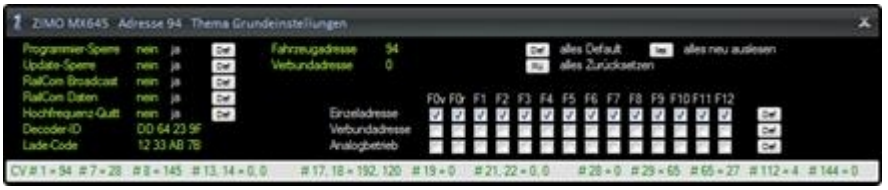
- Perform software updates, sound loading and reloading, optionally also from the computer (connected by a USB cable).

A new ZIRC for ZIMO ...

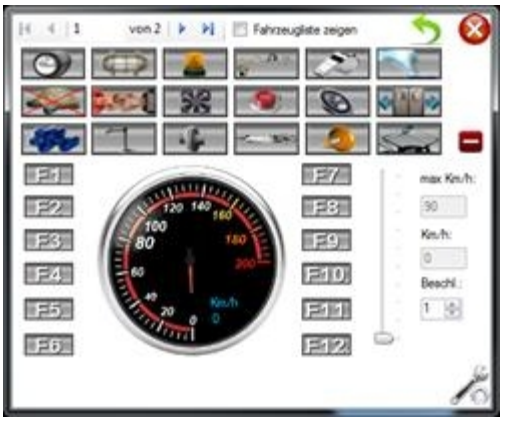
is in preparation, the most important concern is the so-called "theme-oriented" programming, so that, in the future, CV numbers can be "forgotten". However, this is a relatively tricky engineering development issue: the awarding of more or less apt names and brief descriptions for each CV's because many CV's contain multiple values, so they have several meanings, which are often dependent on each other, etc.

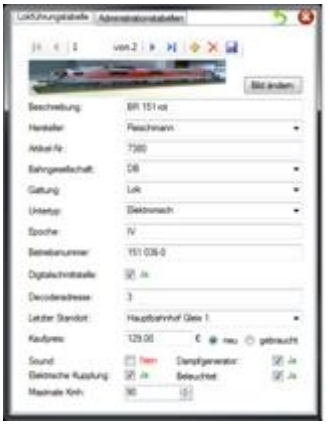
Therefore, a certain time will elapse until the next release...

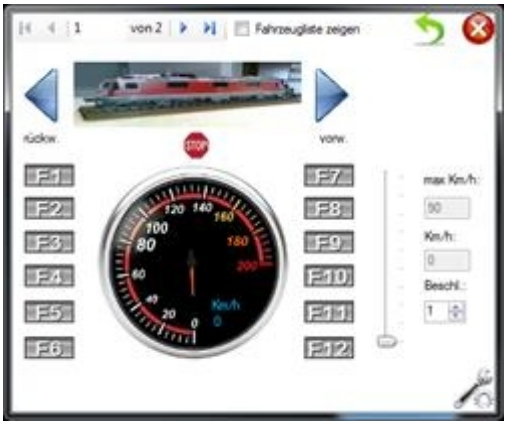




... and in the future ZIMO on the Smart Phone







Wolfgang Marschmann ("Modellbahnberatung W. Marschmann") is working in this promising sector. Emerging with RailManager is an app for Windows, Android, and Apple smart phones and tablets. These applications will use the same function symbols and loco images (and other elements) as the ZIMO MX32 cabs, so that a perfect combination is sought.

A correct model railway phone app is of course a signal box on the screen. In this case, the screen is based on the ESTWGJ software (developed by H.W. Grandjean), which emulates signal control towers (French/German practice?), and is the software most frequently used together with ZIMO systems.