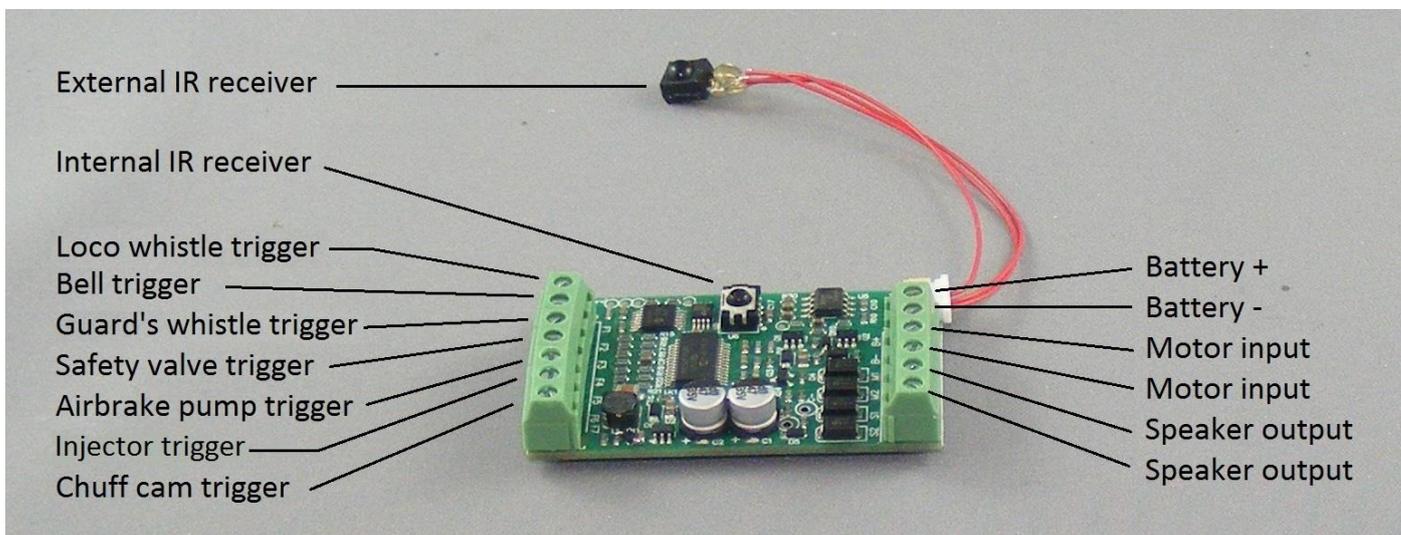


# MYLOCOSOUND

## UNIVERSAL SOUND FOR RIDE ON, DC, STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

### 1. OVERVIEW

- Easy installation using screw terminals with no soldering.
- Uses a TV remote control to adjust the volume and sounds to match the prototype loco.
- Provides a chuff sound which matches the loco speed and load.
- Sixteen pre-selected whistles, each with adjustable tone to suit the loco.
- Selectable sounds include whistle, bell, safety valve, "All aboard", brake pump, injector, guard's whistle and brake squeal.
- For DC controllers not exceeding 24v.



### 2. CONTENTS

The soundcard generates synthesised sound which is adjustable to reproduce the sounds of most steam locos and railmotors. The terminal connections on the right are necessary for the soundcard to generate a chuff which varies with the loco speed and load. The terminal connections on the left trigger the various sounds where the locomotive controller has the appropriate outputs available. The trigger terminals are labelled F1 to F7 and are referred to by these labels in these instructions.

Sounds can also be triggered by the infra-red TV remote control which comes with the soundcard. Although it can be used when running in the garden, the remote control is intended mainly for the adjustment and testing of sounds due to its short range.

The remote control communicates with the soundcard via two infra-red receivers. One is located on the soundcard and the other is on a flying lead which allows it to be fixed to any external surface of the loco.

Adjustments to the sounds can then be made without taking the soundbox apart to access the soundcard.

## Important Notes

The soundcard is designed for outdoor use and may not work correctly under bright incandescent lights on a workbench. LED lights are okay.

The soundcard is in a "sleep" mode when not in use. Connecting it to power at the B+ and B- terminals will not wake it up. It must also be connected to a motor at the M1 and M2 terminals as well. The small voltage it sees at the motor will wake it up and it will then stay awake for as long as it has power.

### 3. INSTALLATION

When used in 5 inch and 7¼ inch ride on railways there is a lot of environmental noise. The one watt output of the soundcard is not sufficient for these environments and an external amplifier needs to be used. The wiring diagram below shows how the soundcard can be interfaced to a commercial stereo amplifier in a loco powered by 12v batteries.

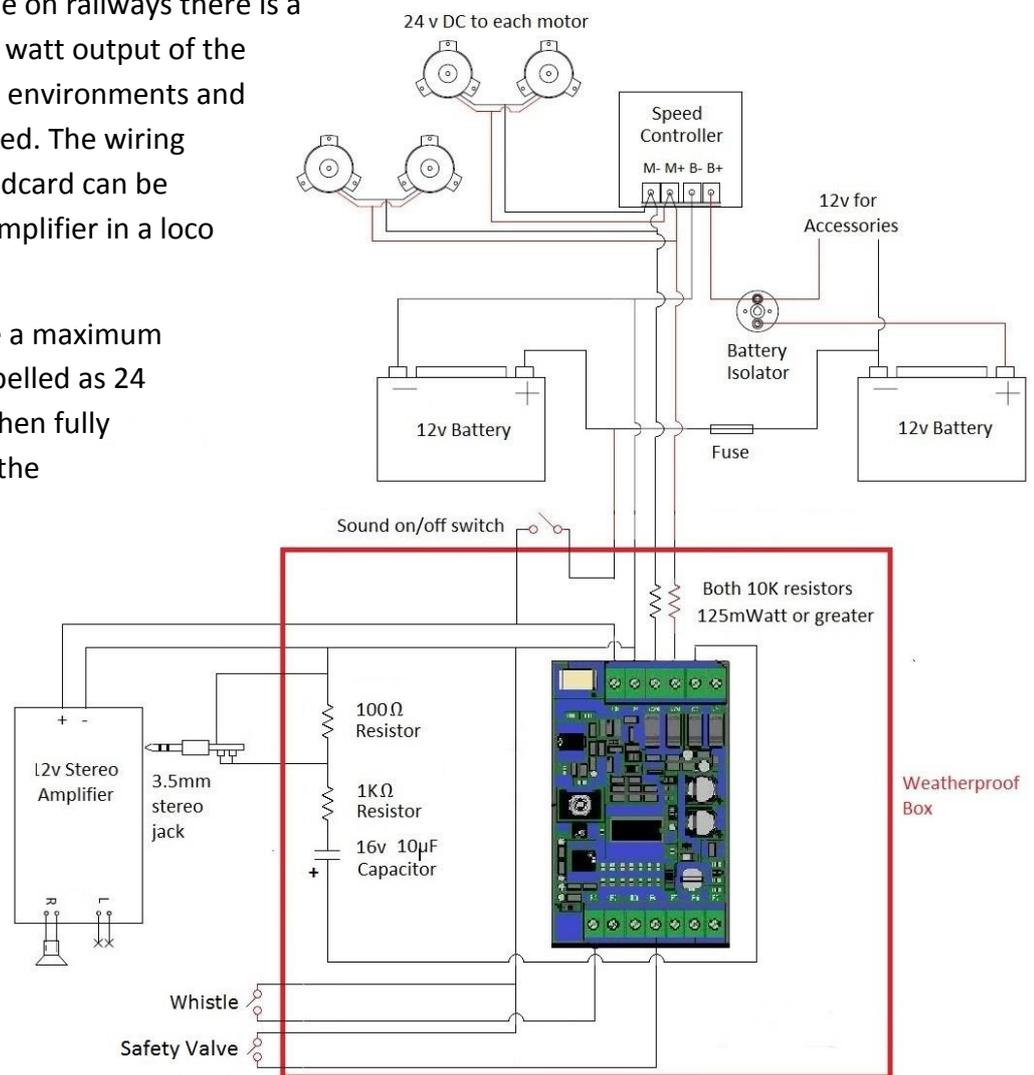
Note that the soundcard can handle a maximum of 24 volts DC. A battery which is labelled as 24 volts will typically output 28 volts when fully charged and will therefore damage the soundcard if connected directly.

For most locos a 12v DC, 2x15 watt amplifier is suitable. Other amplifiers may require the 100Ω resistor to be changed. If the output volume is too low then raise the value of the 100Ω resistor.

A single speaker can be used on the right output or two speakers on the left and right outputs.

Any of the five functions can be used by means of a pushbutton between the function terminal and ground. The sound functions available are whistle, bell, guard's whistle, safety valve release, brake pump and injector.

The installation can be made more robust by using two blobs of silicon to attached the soundcard to a plastic box in which the capacitor and two resistors are placed as shown alongside. The whole can then be fixed to the top of the amplifier, again using silicon.



## 7. THE REMOTE CONTROL

The soundcard will operate with any Sony™ TV remote control using the buttons described in this section. It will also operate with any universal remote control when the code is set to 0140. However, in the interests of domestic harmony, in which stealing your partner's TV remote is probably a bad idea, MyLocoSound supplies a suitable remote control illustrated here.

It is a universal device which has been pre-programmed to Sony™ coding. If your remote control stops working then please refer to the Trouble Shooting Guide at the end of these instructions to re-establish the coding.

Please ensure that your chosen remote control has batteries installed.



Note that the buttons on the MyLocoSound remote control auto-repeat if held down. If you want a single event to occur, like turning on the safety valve, then press the safety valve and release it immediately. If you want to make a large change in volume or tone then you can hold the button down to avoid the need to press the button repeatedly.

**Note also that some of these remote controls have a manufacturing fault where the up and down volume buttons have been reversed. So that the up button may reduce the volume and vice versa.**

## 8. CONFIGURING THE SOUND CARD

The soundcard has two modes:

1. **Setting mode in which you can select the sounds you want and can make adjustments to them.**
2. **Run mode in which the soundcard does its job on your railway.**

All settings are done using the remote control and we will cover that first. So place the soundcard into Setting mode by pointing the remote control at the soundcard or the receiver on the end of the flying lead and press the **Mute** button. The LED on the soundcard will blink slowly and all sounds will cease.

Next press one of the keys on the remote control to change the sounds listed below. When you press a button, the LED will start blinking faster. At any time, you can press the **Mute** button and then the button you are changing to hear the sound you have selected and then press **Mute** again to turn it off. The options are:

**Power Button – For ride on use, this needs to be set to one beep.**

**Button 0 – Country.** This is used to select the part of the world which your locomotive comes from. Your choice here will determine the selection of whistles offered and how those whistles are sounded. When you press the 0 button, one or more beeps will be heard to indicate the country currently selected as follows:

- 1 beep – Britain
- 2 beeps – North America
- 3 beeps – Australasia

Press the 0 button repeatedly to select the region you want. The sole purpose of changing the country is to select default whistles and sounds which are appropriate. If you want to use a whistle from another country because it fits your particular locomotive then there is no problem with changing the country to access that whistle.

**Button 1 – Whistle.** This is used to select the style of whistle which suits your locomotive. Every one of these whistles has an adjustable pitch and volume. Each time you press the 1 button the number of beeps will increase to indicate that the whistle listed below has been selected. If you wish to hear that whistle, press the Mute button on the remote control to reactivate the sound then press the 1 button to start the whistle and then again to stop it. While the whistle is sounding, you can use the channel up/down buttons to vary the pitch and also the volume buttons. The pre-selected whistles available are:

<b>Beeps</b>	<b>Britain</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>Australasia</b>
1	Classic Original	American 5" 3 Chime	Puffing Billy NA
2	Churchward	Hancock 3 Chime	NSW Chime
3	Stanier hooter	Reading 6 Chime	Victorian Chime <b>(default)</b>
4	Bullied <b>(default)</b>	Nathan 6 chime	South Australian Chime
5	Gresley chime	C & O 6 chime <b>(default)</b>	New Zealand Chime
6	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas

**Button 2 – Bell.** This is used to select the type of bell from the list below.

- 1 beep – Manual bell. Starts ringing repeatedly when the button is pressed until the button is pressed again.
- 2 beeps – Timed bell. When F2 is triggered, rings repeatedly for a predetermined time. To set that time, press the Mute button to exit setting mode and then press Button 2 to ring the bell. When the bell has rung for as long as you want, press Button 2 again to stop the ringing. The time is then set and the bell will ring for that time when F2 is triggered while running.
- 3 beeps – Automatic bell. Rings repeatedly when the motor voltage is less than 4 volts. **(US Default)**
- 4 beeps – Automatic bell. Rings repeatedly when the motor voltage is less than 8 volts.
- 5 beeps – Automatic bell. Rings repeatedly when the motor voltage is less than 12 volts.
- 6 beeps – Manual bell. Rings once only each time the button is pressed. **(Australasian Default)**
- 7 beeps – Bell not required. Button sounds a short whistle toot. **(British Default)**

**Button 3 – Guard.** This is used to select the guard's sounds from the list below.

- 1 beep – Sounds a guard's Acme Thunderer whistle. **(British Default)**
- 2 beeps – Sounds "All aboard". **(US Default)**
- 3 beeps – Sounds "All aboard" and then the guard's whistle. **(Australasian Default)**

**Button 4 – Safety Valve.** This will operate in four ways:

- 1 beep – Manual. Starts blowing when the button is pressed and stops when pressed again.
- 2 beeps – Throttle controlled. When the loco is stationary, turn the throttle up a little and the safety valve will blow off until you turn the throttle off or forwards to move off.
- 3 beeps – Automatic. Blows for ten seconds once a minute.
- 4 beeps – Automatic. Blows for ten seconds once every three minutes. **(Default)**

**Button 5 – Westinghouse Brake Pump.** This will operate in two ways:

- 1 beep – Manual. Sounds only if the 5 button is pressed. **(British Default)**
- 2 beeps – Automatic. Sounds whenever the locomotive is stationary. **(Other Default)**

**Button 6 – Injectors.** This will operate in three ways:

- 1 beep – Manual. Starts blowing when the button is pressed and stops when pressed again.
- 2 beeps – Automatic. Operates for twenty seconds once every two minutes. **(Default)**
- 3 beeps – Automatic. Operates for twenty seconds once every four minutes.

**Button 7 – Steam Chuff.** The locomotive chuff can be generated in three ways:

1 beep – Automatic chuff based on the motor voltage for two or four cylinders. **(Default)**

2 beeps – Automatic chuff based on the motor voltage for locomotives with three cylinders.

3 beeps – Mechanically triggered chuff. For locomotives which have a built in chuff trigger on an axle. The output from that chuff trigger needs to be connected to the F7 terminal on the soundcard. Note that the chuff trigger will function only when there is a voltage the M1/M2 terminals.

When automatic chuff is selected, the chuff needs to be set to correctly match the loco. This is done with the sound active. Starting from static, turn up the throttle until the loco just starts moving and then press the Power button on the remote control. This will set the voltage at which the chuff starts.

Next the chuff rate needs to be set to four or three beats per wheel revolution depending on the number of cylinders as above. Before doing this step it is a good idea to turn off all other sounds so that you can clearly hear the chuff alone. Then throttle up the loco so that it is running at a scale walking pace and use the channel up/down buttons on the remote to adjust the chuff rate to the correct number of beats per revolution. When you are satisfied then restore the other sounds.

A customer, Rik Bennett, has made an excellent video of setting the chuff which can be seen by going to YouTube and searching for “mylocosound steam setting”. It can also be accessed through the steam page at [www.mylocosound.com](http://www.mylocosound.com).

**Button 8 – Brake Squeal.** This will operate in two ways:

1 beep – Not required.

2 beeps – Automatic. Sounds whenever the locomotive comes to a halt. **(Default)**

**Button 9 – The Operating Mode.** There are three operating modes available:

1 beep – Indicates manual mode. In this mode all sounds are triggered according to the above settings. The whistle will sound for as long as its button is pressed.

2 beeps – Indicate simple automatic mode. This is designed for controllers which have no function buttons, as is often the case with track power, or at exhibitions, etc. where you don't want to operate manually. The whistle will sound once automatically when the loco moves off and then once more three times a minute when the loco is on motion. A reed switch can be placed under the loco and be connected to the F1 terminal to make the whistle sound when the loco passes over a magnet. Another reed switch, connected to the F2 terminal, can be used to trigger the bell. If the bell is set to one beep then it will ring continuously until the loco passes over another magnet. If the bell is set to two beeps then it will ring for the set time.

3 beeps – Indicates American automatic mode. Again this is designed for controllers which have no function buttons, as is often the case with track power, or at exhibitions, etc. where you don't want to operate manually. However, it follows American rules.

The whistle will sound two long toots when the loco moves off forwards or three short when backing up. If these occur the wrong way around then reverse the leads at the M1/M2 terminals. When the loco stops, a single short toot will indicate brakes on. A reed switch can be placed under the loco and be connected to the F1 terminal to make the whistle sound the grade crossing sequence when the loco passes over a magnet. Another reed switch, connected to the F2 terminal, can be used to trigger the bell. If the bell is set to one beep then it will ring continuously until the loco passes over another magnet. If the bell is set to two beeps then it will ring for the set time.

**Channel up/down buttons– Load Sensitivity.** The soundcard can be programmed to make the engine loud when accelerating and softer when coasting and slowing down. The channel up/down buttons change the level of sensitivity as indicated by the number of beeps when pressed. One beep indicates maximum sensitivity. Five beeps sets minimum sensitivity ie. the engine will be loud all the time. The default sensitivity is two and change to one if you want more sensitivity or three or more if the chuff sounds erratic.

**Resetting the soundcard back to factory default settings.** If you get in a bit of mess and want to start again then you can reset the soundcard by holding down the 0 (zero) button of the remote control for three seconds. You will then hear five beeps and all settings will revert to the defaults for the country you have selected. These include the default sounds, 2/4 cylinders and a voltage controlled chuff. It will not change the country.

You can change all the above settings whenever you wish and the changes will be effective immediately.

## 11. OPERATING THE SOUND CARD

When the loco is running, the engine sounds should operate automatically, getting louder when accelerating and softer when slowing down or idle.

Where your controller has function buttons then you can use them as follows:

- Button 1. Sounds the whistle for as long as the button is pressed.
- Button 2. Operates the bell for as long as the button is pressed.
- Button 3. Sounds the guard's whistle or "All aboard".
- Button 4. Sounds the safety valve blowing off.
- Button 5. Switches the Westinghouse brake pump when automatic mode has not been selected.
- Button 6. Sounds the live steam injector.

## 12. TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE

### THE REMOTE CONTROL WON'T WORK

Press any button. If a red light does not flash next to the SET button then the battery is missing. If it flashes twice then the battery is flat and the remote control is not sending anything. Using a small flat screwdriver or knife blade, lever open the battery compartment and insert two new AAA. Then, when you press a button, the red light should flash rapidly to indicate that it is sending.

If the remote still does not work then the Sony™ coding may have been lost. Hold down the SET button for about four seconds until the red light stays on. Press and release the 0, then the 1, then the 4 and then the 0 button in turn. The red light will then go out and the remote control is then ready for use.

If the remote control still does nothing then the problem may be the infra-red receiver on the loco which must not be painted or obstructed.

### I GET NO SOUND AT ALL

**Applying power to the red and black leads will not start the soundcard. A very small voltage needs to be applied to either the green or the blue leads to wake it up. Open the throttle a fraction to start the sound and it will then continue when the throttle is closed.**

Press the Mute button on the remote control in case the sound has been accidentally turned off.

Switch the loco off and then on again. When the soundcard starts, the LED should flash once. If not then use a multimeter to check that there is at least nine volts at the B+ and B- terminals. If not then check your wiring in case something has come adrift.

Check that the speaker is connected correctly.

### THE SOUND CARD MAKES A CLICKING NOISE OR SHUTS DOWN

This most often occurs when the whistle is sounded. It is caused by the soundcard restarting because there is insufficient voltage in the track or battery to sustain the volume setting. Recharge the battery.

### WHEN INSTALLED IN A LOCO, THE LOCO AND SOUND STOP INTERMITTENTLY AND I HAVE TO RESET THE CONTROLLER TO GET IT GOING AGAIN

The soundcard maximum output is 1.5 amps. If this is exceeded as a result of a short circuit, a heavy load and/or high volume settings then the soundcard will shut down. Also, if the soundcard is installed in a very confined space and is run for a prolonged period at high power then it can overheat and switch itself off while it cools down.

### HOW TO RESET YOUR SOUND CARD

A time may come when you have been adjusting the sound and you want to start again. This can be achieved by resetting the soundcard back to the settings when it left the factory. You can do this by pressing the 0 button on the remote control and hold it down for three seconds. The soundcard will beep five times when the reset is complete

PLC009 UK Ride On Steam Instructions.doc 8/10/18

For more information, please visit the web site at [www.mylocosound.com](http://www.mylocosound.com) or e-mail [sales@mylocosound.com](mailto:sales@mylocosound.com).

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<b>Mute</b>		Turns setting mode and sound on/off	
<b>Power</b>	<b>In run mode</b>	Sets start voltage for chuff	
	<b>In settings mode</b>		1 beep Locomotive is radio controlled
			2 beeps Locomotive is track powered
<b>Button 0</b>		Country	1 beep Britain
			2 beeps North America
			3 beeps Australia and New Zealand
<b>Button 1</b>	<b>F1</b>	Whistle	Six to select from in each country
<b>Button 2</b>	<b>F2</b>	Bell	1 beep Manual on/off
			2 beeps Automatic timed ring when F2 is triggered.
			3 beeps Rings when motor below 4 volts
			4 beeps Rings when motor below 8 volts
			5 beeps Rings when motor below 12 volts
			6 beeps Single rings
			7 beeps Short whistle
<b>Button 3</b>	<b>F3</b>	The Guard	1 beep Guard's whistle
			2 beeps "All aboard"
			3 beeps "All aboard" followed by guard's whistle
<b>Button 4</b>	<b>F4</b>	Safety Valve	1 beep Manual on/off
			2 beeps Throttle nudge operated
			3 beeps Automatic once a minute
			4 beeps Automatic once every three minutes
<b>Button 5</b>	<b>F5</b>	Brake Pump	1 beep Manual on/off
			2 beeps Automatic each time the locomotive stops
<b>Button 6</b>	<b>F6</b>	Injector	1 beep Manual on/off
			2 beeps Automatic once every two minutes
			3 beeps Automatic once every four minutes
<b>Button 7</b>		Chuff Control	1 beep Voltage triggered 2/4 Cylinder (4 chuffs per rev.)
			2 beeps Voltage triggered 3 Cylinder (6 chuffs per rev.)
			3 beeps Switch/Wheel trigger at F7 terminal
<b>Button 8</b>		Brake Squeal	1 beep Not used
			2 beeps Automatic each time the locomotive stops
<b>Button 9</b>		Control Mode	1 beep Manual
			2 beeps Auto Whistle every 20 secs
			3 beeps American automatic whistle
	<b>F7</b>	Chuff trigger input at F7 terminal	
<b>VOL up/down</b>		Change Volume of active sound	
<b>CH up/down</b>	<b>In run mode</b>	Change Sound	Whistle Tone when whistle sounding
	<b>In settings mode</b>	Load sensitivity 1 to 5, Default=2	Engine Chuff Rate when moving
			1 beep Chuff maximum sensitivity to power changes
			2 beeps Chuff average sensitivity to power changes
			5 beeps Chuff minimum sensitivity to power changes
<b>Reset</b>		Reset above settings to defaults	Hold button 3 down for 5 seconds