



Monthly Newsletter – October 2021

Product News, Announcements and How-To Videos



General Update from the lab bench of Model Train Technology. (Chip shortages and now this!)

The last few months have included many challenges and no doubt most of you have heard about the worldwide chip shortages and container ships unable to unload at ports.

Predating this container problem, in June we started to bulk up inventory of the main processors but there was already limited supply – not enough to get us through next year. Then we went to work redesigning most of the "smart boards" to use

different forms (footprints) of the same chip. But, we also had to redesign some boards to use different chips. And, we had to pick the chips and buy them before we actually had installed them in the boards and tested everything.

In early October we completed all the redesigns across the product lines and began shipping the MTT Sound Module with one of the new chips. It was indeed like changing tires while the car was in motion. And then we changed the engine as well!

After we were through the design stage we sent in a fairly large order of boards (the only thing we source from China). Usually it takes a few days for the manufacturing process and then they are shipped DHL to us in Orlando. The transit time is usually no more than 4 days. We have been on this cadence for two years now.

However, this time was different. It took four weeks and at one point we honestly thought they were lost! What happened is that the companies that could not get their shipments by sea, because the containers were not being unloaded, decided to use air freight. All at the same time! Immediately the Hong Kong customs and Air Freight operations were brought to their knees. This was made worse by a Typhoon that came through few weeks ago. A perfect storm in many dimensions.

We finally received our board today!

Meanwhile, we continue to scramble around to make sure we have the components we need for an extended time and our design process has change so that we can rapidly adapt as needed. It's not easy and it seems this will be a problem for sometime affecting every manufacture, especially those companies that rely on products made in

China.

The net of this is that we are behind on some of the new product introductions. Despite that we were able to ship a lot of Sound Controllers during the first few weeks of introduction.

Our next public product announcement will be on November 9th (Tuesday) when we have a exclusive email blast via Model Railroader. On Monday, November 8th, I will send out our newsletter to you with the link to the video for this new product . You will see it first since you are a newsletter subscriber. Thank you for subscribing!

Later in November I will be sending out a Survey in order to gain some feed back on what you like, what we need to improve and any ideas you have that can help us serve you better. Thank you in advance for participating.

Lastly, below is a sneak preview of the G Scale signal that we are working on. This thing is huge! It will be a combination of aluminum and 3D printed parts. We are experimenting with various resins that can perform in hot outside conditions. The lens system is under development so that we can support both LED and Fiber versions. We also have hopes to have a solar powered system with the signal controller and sensor built in. Availability is targeted to January 2022. Once we complete this base product we will be able to bring out more G scale items more rapidly.



Helpful links

[Website](#)

[STORE](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

Until next time, best regards and stay safe and healthy,

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