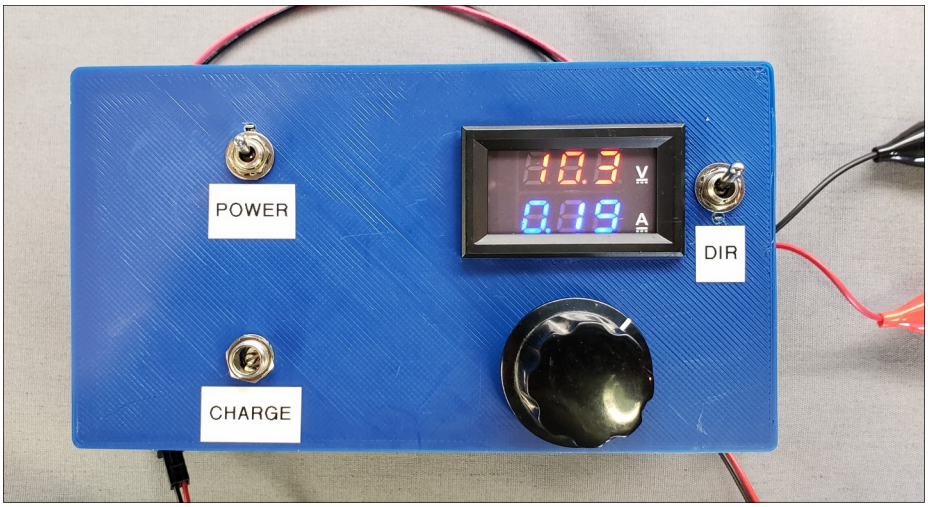
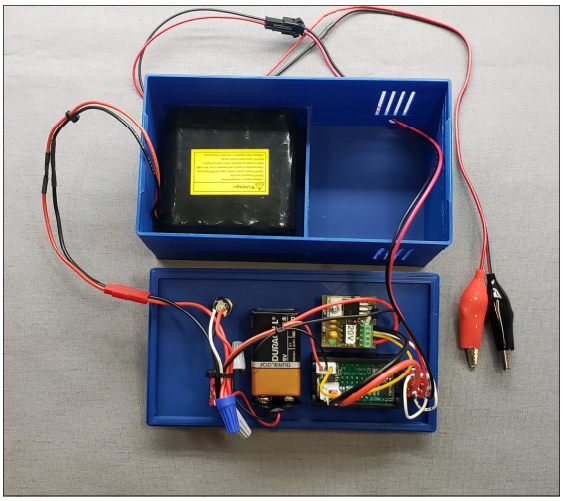
The Track Pack

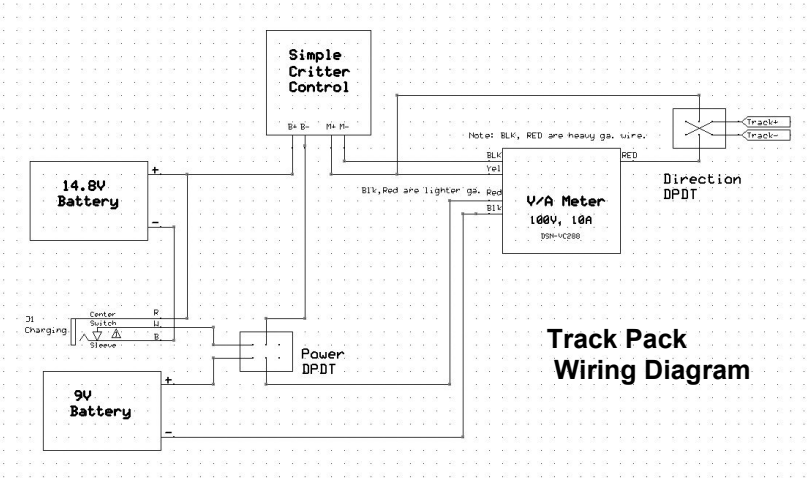
Battery power for your track

By Del Tapparo



Who says track power has to come from an AC outlet? A battery pack can do the job just as well, and may be more convenient in some cases. Maybe you don't have any AC power near your track, or you don't want to pay the price to get AC out to your track. Maybe you are going to a train

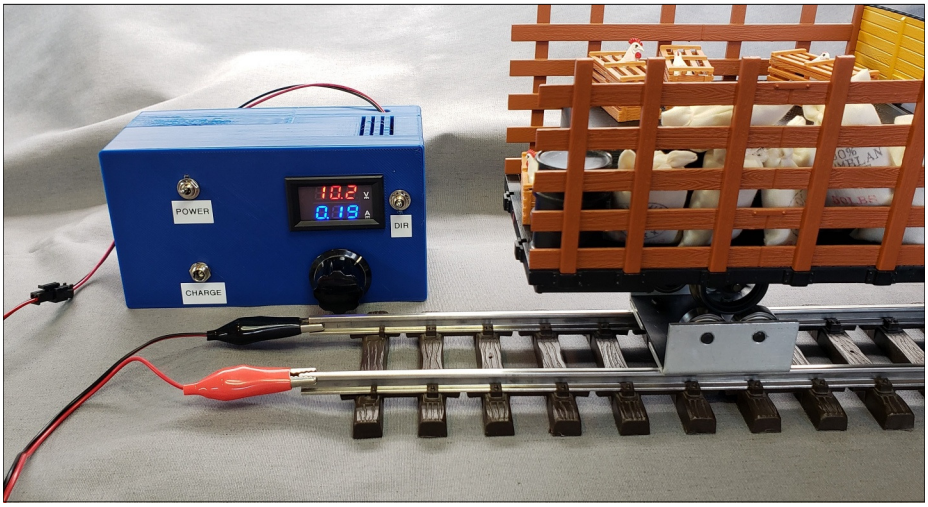




show and either they won't have power available in your booth or you just don't want to pay the extra cost for it Perhaps you just want a nice compact power pack for you test bench.

Well, in my case, I was just looking for a project to try out a little LED digital volt/ammeter, and test a 3D printed electronics enclosure with a snap fit lid instead of screws.

I designed the electronics enclosure to house a 14.8V, 4400mah Li-Ion battery pack, which will provide at least 5 hours of run-time for most locos, a charge jack, a G-Scale Graphics Simple Critter Control for speed control, a DPDT direction switch, a volt/ammeter display (P/N DSN-VC288), a 9V battery, and a power on/off switch. There is no internal fuse on the track output. An in-line fuse with the track output wiring would be a good addition.



The track output has a connector so different connection options can used. The battery pack can be charged from the front panel, but the snap-lid box and battery connector makes changing out the battery quick and easy if needed.

This was a fun project that will be a nice addition to my train toolkit.