

OpenLCB / NMRAnet S-9.7 DevKit Manual

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Chapter 1

What's all this in the box?

Here's what you'll find in the box, and a short description of each to help you get started:

- 3 x Railstars Io V1.0 boards
- 1 x TCH Technology OpenLCB USB/CAN Interface board
- 1 x ButtonLED8 v1.0 board
- TODO cables
- TODO potentially useful odds and ends

The three Railstars Io boards are the heart of TODO. Each board is designed to connect to various features of your layout, and communicate to each other via the included CAT5 cables.

The TODO ButtonLED8 is a tool to help you quickly get the most from the Railstars Io.

The TCH Technology OpenLCB USB/CAN Interface permits you to expand your layout's capabilities by providing a USB interface to connect your home computer.

Chapter 2

Basic Concepts of OpenLCB / NMRAnet S-9.7

TODO What is it?

2.1 Producer-Consumer model

Chapter 3

Connecting the Railstars Io boards

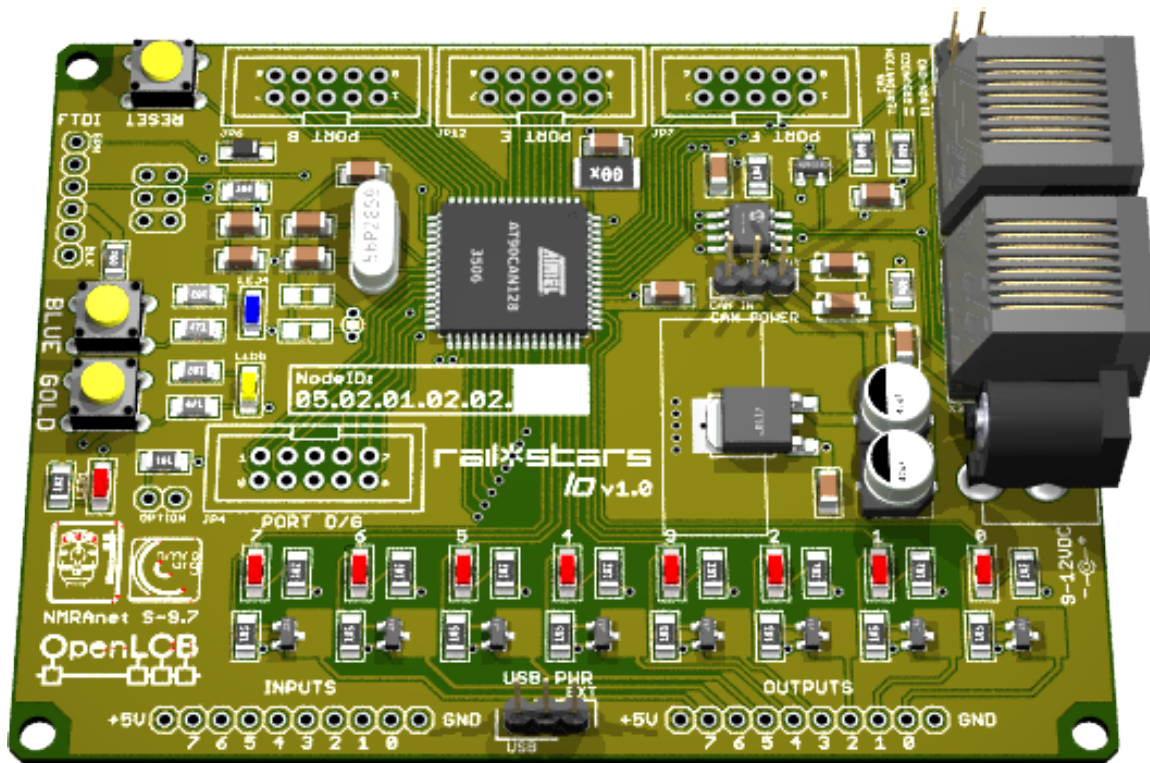


Figure 3.1: Railstars Io

Railstars Io provides a set of 8 inputs and 8 outputs to connect to your layout. The

inputs can be used with the buttons and switches on a fascia panel, or with existing accessories on your layout such as block detectors or turnout feedback units. The outputs can be used directly to control lamps or LEDs on your layout, or connected to existing accessories on your layout such as turnout controllers or signal decoders.

3.1 Initial Setup

To use Railstars Io, you will first need to solder the appropriate terminals to the input and output banks. You can solder wired directly to the holes in the circuit board, or solder in the included pin headers or screw terminals. If you are unsure which to use, the screw terminals are the most flexible, and will serve most purposes.

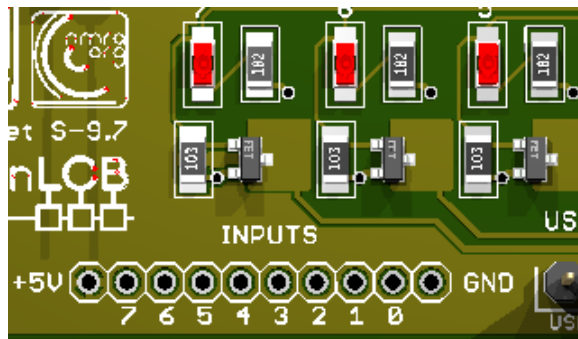


Figure 3.2: Railstars Io input bank as shipped

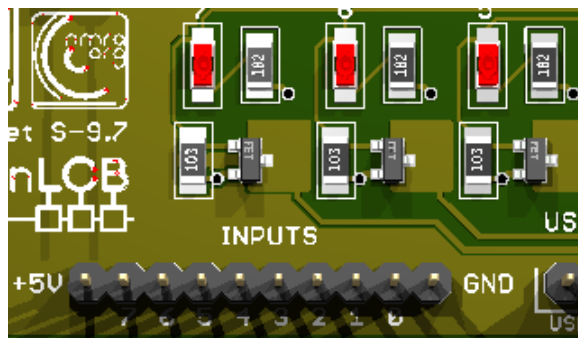


Figure 3.3: Railstars Io input bank with pin headers soldered in place

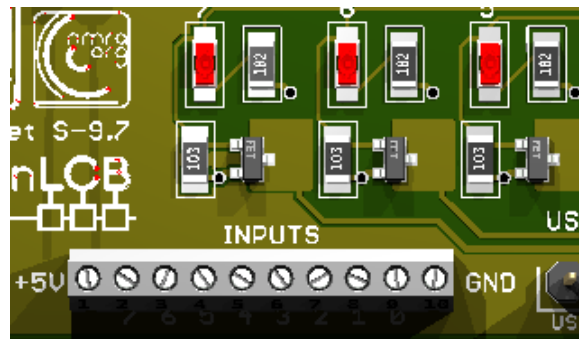


Figure 3.4: Railstars Io input bank with screw terminals soldered in place

3.2 Providing power

Railstars Io can be powered in one of three ways: From an external power supply, via the NMRAnet bus, or via a USB connection to a PC.

3.2.1 Powering with an external supply

You may power Railstars Io using an external power supply that provides a 2.1mm center-positive plug, and between 9 and 12V DC at 500mA or more of current. Ensure that the “USBPWR” jumper is set to “EXT”, as per Figure 3.5

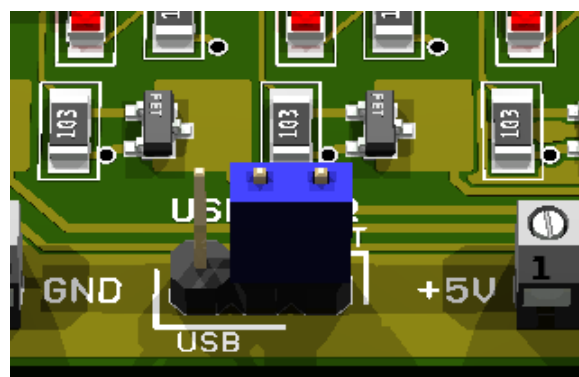


Figure 3.5: USBPWR jumper set to external power

3.2.2 Powering via USB

Using the included USB cable, you can power Railstars Io via the USB interface. To do so set the “USBPWR” jumper is set to “USB”, as per Figure 3.6, and then plug the USB cable into the FTDI header, following the instructions in §6.1.

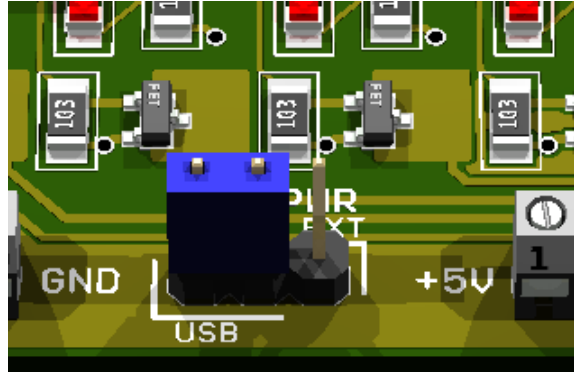


Figure 3.6: USBPWR jumper set to USB power

3.2.3 Powering via the NMRAnet bus

The NMRAnet bus can provide a small amount of power to individual boards. To configure Railstars Io to draw power from the NMRAnet bus, set the “USBPWR” jumper to “EXT”, as per Figure 3.5 above, and then set the “CAN POWER” jumper to “CAN IN”, as per Figure 3.7.

Note that drawing power from the NMRAnet bus requires that at least one other node be configured to provide power to the NMRAnet bus.

3.2.4 Providing power to the NMRAnet bus

A Railstars Io node that is configured to use an external power supply can optionally be configured to provide power to the NMRAnet bus. In this case, a power adapter capable of providing 750mA–1,000mA is suggested. Configure the board as per §3.2.1, and then set the “CAN POWER” jumper to “CAN OUT”, as per Figure 3.8.

Note: If the Railstars Io will neither draw power from nor provide power to the NMRAnet bus, please remove the “CAN POWER” jumper entirely.

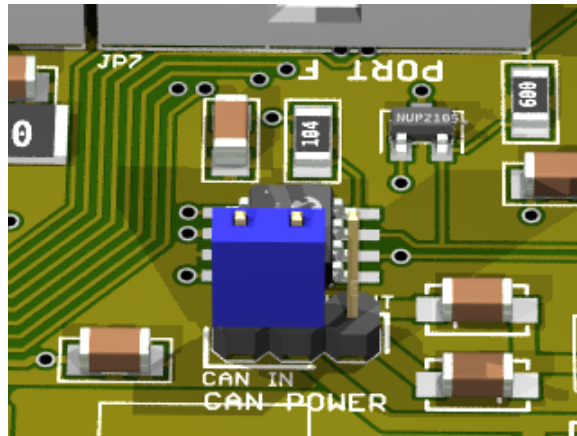


Figure 3.7: CAN POWER jumper set to draw power from the NMRAnet bus

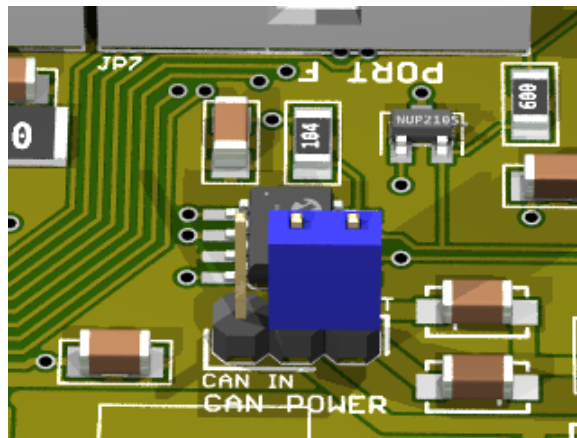


Figure 3.8: CAN POWER jumper set to provide power to the NMRAnet bus

3.3 Usage Example: ButtonLED8 v1.0

TODO image of screw terminals and ButtonLED8

3.4 Usage Example: Fascia panel

TODO image of screw terminals and push-buttons

TODO image of screw terminals and toggle switches

TODO image of screw terminals and lamps

TODO image of screw terminals and LEDs

3.5 Usage Example: Digitrax DS64 Quad Stationary Decoder

TODO image of screw terminals and DS64

3.6 Usage Example: NCE TODO

Chapter 4

Configuring Railstars Io

TODO images of b/g buttons and LEDs

Chapter 5

Using the TCH Technology OpenLCB USB/CAN Interface to connect your PC

TODO image of USB interface

Chapter 6

Advanced Topic: Writing custom firmware for Railstars Io

6.1 Connecting the USB adapter

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TODO Digitrax, NCE