



Marvin Chow <hoorider@gmail.com>

Branchline repair

Martin Perry <msperry50@blueyonder.co.uk>

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To: Marvin Chow <hoorider@gmail.com>

Marvin,

Hopefully I have understood correctly that the section of track that is not working is that from the 322/Branchline switch to the 311/322 siding switch?

If so, that is technically an interchange sub-block within 322 and the power for each of the rails is connected through the auxiliary Tortoise contacts on two machines, the first is the Tortoise machine driving the 322/Branchline switch and the second is its AC operating partner at the other end of the short 322-to-Branch lead. Power to one rail is switched by one machine and power to the other is switched by its partner machine. Since both those machines are operated together then both rails of the sub-block are switched together. The purpose of this arrangement is to allow trains to emerge from the Branchline onto the mainline which has its common on the opposite rail.

It is quite likely that either a wire has come adrift from either machine contact or the auxiliary contact inside one of the machines has failed.

Make two tests with a multimeter on its resistance x1 scale

- a. with all switches normal, test for continuity (meter needle swings over to 0v or digital 0v) in both rails from one end of 322 to the other. → ~~all rails~~
- b. with the 322-Branchline toggle on the main panel thrown (so that trains could cross to the Branchline), test for continuity from each rail of the sub-block to the equivalent rail of the 322/Branchline crossover.

This should tell you which rail has lost its connection. Then you will have to locate the wire connected to that rail under the benchwork and follow it back to the switch machine checking that nothing has got loose.

You will then have to test the auxiliary contact of the switch machine if there are no loose wires and maybe change that machine for a new one if the contacts have failed.

I have left diagrams for this arrangement in the electrical folder in the rear cupboards but in case you cannot find it then attached is a scan of my master diagram

If I was there I would be able to eyeball it quite quickly as it was me that wired it up about 10 years ago!

Best of luck. Let me know how you get on.

RE infrared signal switch...sounds awfully expensive for a simple switch??

Rgds

Martin P.

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