

YouChoos – Individual Locomotives

Certificate & Quick Reference

Thank-you for purchasing a YouChoos sound decoder!

This certificate provides specific details of your decoder including your unique build number. Each sound decoder I load is individually catalogued and assigned a unique certificate, indicating the load date and an individual code...

Your decoder has unique number: ACRB-TEMPLATE-0447

YouChoos Sounds
GWR Diesel Railcar
DCC Address: 3



Included in this package:

PART NUMBER	YouChoos Sounds - GWR Diesel Railcar YC-RCAR
DECODER	MX series - template
SPEAKER	N/A - template

Functions:

FKey	Category	Action
F0fwd:	LIGHT	AUX1/FOfwd Forward lights
F0rev:	LIGHT	AUX2/F0rev Reverse lights
F1:	SOUND	Running Sounds / Callable Sounds
F2:	SOUND	Horn Pip
F3:	LIGHT	AUX3/FA1
F4:	LIGHT	AUX4/FA2
F5:	SOUND	Mini Rev and Flange
F6:	SOUND	Horn
F7:	SOUND	Brakes
F8:	SOUND	Brake Release 2
F9:	SOUND	Guard's Whistle
F10:	SOUND	Cab Levers
F11:	SOUND	Comms Bell 2
F12:	SHUNT + HALF SPEED	Shunting Mode / Half Speed
F13:	SOUND	Announcement 2
F14:	SOUND	Wheel Flange

All functions are ON/OFF.

FKey	Category	Action
F15:	SOUND	Rail Clack
F16:	SOUND	Close Door
F17:	SOUND	Signal Change
F18:	SOUND	Horn 2
F19:	SOUND	Mute
F20:	VOLUME	Volume Decrease
F21:	VOLUME	Volume Increase
F22:	COAST	Coast
F23:	SOUND	Horn (Looping)
F24:	SOUND	Rail Echo
F25:	SOUND	Announcement
F26:	SOUND	Comms Bell
F27:	SOUND	Horn 3
F28:		

IMPORTANT – WARRANTY INFORMATION!

Damage caused by mishandling, short-circuit, or undue force is NOT covered by warranty. Normally, a repair/replacement charge of approximately £30 + P&P will be levied in such cases. Decoders are delicate, so please handle with care. The most common cause of damage is caused by excessive force on wires, which may result in wires becoming detached, or worse, the entire solder pad coming off (particularly true for the smaller decoders). Also be careful that the coloured coating on the wires does not get pulled back exposing bare wire at the solder pads, thus increasing risk of short-circuit.

More Information on Your Sound Decoder



User Sound Assignments

The following table lists the sound effect files loaded onto your decoder, with their unique sample numbers which are used in CVs to assign a sound to a specific feature. Where a sound has no Function Key listed, this indicates that it is an additional sound included in your project which you can manually assign instead of another sound – for example, an alternative whistle/horn which you can swap in for one of the default ones. Please refer to the supplied CV Table document where you can see which CV is used to assignment a sound to each Function Key (starts at CV#513).

Of course there are many more sound files that make up your project, such as engine sounds, braking, set-off etc., but these are not included here – only those that are available as user sounds, assignable to Function Keys.



Random Sounds

Zimo decoders include 8 random sound generators, Z1 to Z8, which are also indicated here along with the sample number assigned to them, and whether they are to be played randomly at standstill, in motion, or both.

Likewise, please refer to the CV Table document supplied with your YouChoos sound decoder to see which CVs are used in random sound definition (CVs#744 to 767 and CVs#315 to 338).

Effect Sound Sample Number	Name	Looping	Function Key(s)	Random Generator	Random at Standstill	Random in Motion
16	Horn Pip		F2 (CV#516)			
17	Horn		F6 (CV#528)			
18	Horn 2		F18 (CV#564)			
19	Horn 3		F27 (CV#694)			
20	Horn (Looping)	Loops	F23 (CV#682)			
21	Rail Echo		F24 (CV#685)			
22	Mini Rev and Flange		F5 (CV#525)			
23	Brake Release 2		F8 (CV#534)			
24	Wheel Flange	Loops	F14 (CV#552)			
25	Rail Clack	Loops	F15 (CV#555)			
26	Comms Bell		F26 (CV#691)			
27	Signal Change		F17 (CV#561)			
28	Close Door		F16 (CV#558)			
29	Guard's Whistle		F9 (CV#537)			
30	Announcement		F25 (CV#688)			
31	Announcement 2		F13 (CV#549)			
32	Comms Bell 2		F11 (CV#543)			
33	Cab Levers		F10 (CV#540)			
34	Brakes		F7 (CV#531)			

Remember, you can always reset to the project's original configuration if you make a mess, by sending CV#8=8, though note that the DCC Address of the decoder will also be reset (normally back to 3)!

389	Limit accel influence over diesel sound steps	30
390	Momentum reduction when driving solo	0
391	Driving with idle sound, when driving solo	0
394	Switchgear flash with sound plus Blending	16
395	Max Volume via FKey volume adjust	65
396	FKey to reduce volume	20
397	FKey to increase volume	21
398	Automatic Coasting (diesels)	25
400	Input mapping for internal F0	0
401	Input mapping for internal F1	0
402	Input mapping for internal F2	0
403	Input mapping for internal F3	0
404	Input mapping for internal F4	0
405	Input mapping for internal F5	0
406	Input mapping for internal F6	0
407	Input mapping for internal F7	0
408	Input mapping for internal F8	0
409	Input mapping for internal F9	0
410	Input mapping for internal F10	0
411	Input mapping for internal F11	0
412	Input mapping for internal F12	0
413	Input mapping for internal F13	0
414	Input mapping for internal F14	0
415	Input mapping for internal F15	0
416	Input mapping for internal F16	0
417	Input mapping for internal F17	0
418	Input mapping for internal F18	0
419	Input mapping for internal F19	0
420	Input mapping for internal F20	0
421	Input mapping for internal F21	0
422	Input mapping for internal F22	0
423	Input mapping for internal F23	0
424	Input mapping for internal F24	0
425	Input mapping for internal F25	0
426	Input mapping for internal F26	0
427	Input mapping for internal F27	0
428	Input mapping for internal F28	0
430	Swiss Mapping Group 1 FKey	0
431	Swiss Mapping Group 1 MKey	0
432	Swiss Mapping Group 1 Forward 1st AUX	0
433	Swiss Mapping Group 1 Forward 2nd AUX	0
434	Swiss Mapping Group 1 Reverse 1st AUX	0
435	Swiss Mapping Group 1 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
436	SMG Group 2 FKey	0
437	SMG Group 2 MKey	0
438	SMG Group 2 Forward 1st AUX	0
439	SMG Group 2 Forward 2nd AUX	0
440	SMG Group 2 Reverse 1st AUX	0
441	SMG Group 2 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
442	SMG Group 3 FKey	0
443	SMG Group 3 MKey	0
444	SMG Group 3 Forward 1st AUX	0
445	SMG Group 3 Forward 2nd AUX	0
446	SMG Group 3 Reverse 1st AUX	0
447	SMG Group 3 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
448	SMG Group 4 FKey	0
449	SMG Group 4 MKey	0
450	SMG Group 4 Forward 1st AUX	0
451	SMG Group 4 Forward 2nd AUX	0
452	SMG Group 4 Reverse 1st AUX	0
453	SMG Group 4 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
454	SMG Group 5 FKey	0
455	SMG Group 5 MKey	0
456	SMG Group 5 Forward 1st AUX	0
457	SMG Group 5 Forward 2nd AUX	0
458	SMG Group 5 Reverse 1st AUX	0
459	SMG Group 5 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
460	SMG Group 6 FKey	0
461	SMG Group 6 MKey	0

462	SMG Group 6 Forward 1st AUX	0
463	SMG Group 6 Forward 2nd AUX	0
464	SMG Group 6 Reverse 1st AUX	0
465	SMG Group 6 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
466	SMG Group 7 FKey	0
467	SMG Group 7 MKey	0
468	SMG Group 7 Forward 1st AUX	0
469	SMG Group 7 Forward 2nd AUX	0
470	SMG Group 7 Reverse 1st AUX	0
471	SMG Group 7 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
472	SMG Group 8 FKey	0
473	SMG Group 8 MKey	0
474	SMG Group 8 Forward 1st AUX	0
475	SMG Group 8 Forward 2nd AUX	0
476	SMG Group 8 Reverse 1st AUX	0
477	SMG Group 8 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
478	SMG Group 9 FKey	0
479	SMG Group 9 MKey	0
480	SMG Group 9 Forward 1st AUX	0
481	SMG Group 9 Forward 2nd AUX	0
482	SMG Group 9 Reverse 1st AUX	0
483	SMG Group 9 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
484	SMG Group 10 FKey	0
485	SMG Group 10 MKey	0
486	SMG Group 10 Forward 1st AUX	0
487	SMG Group 10 Forward 2nd AUX	0
488	SMG Group 10 Reverse 1st AUX	0
489	SMG Group 10 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
490	SMG Group 11 FKey	0
491	SMG Group 11 MKey	0
492	SMG Group 11 Forward 1st AUX	0
493	SMG Group 11 Forward 2nd AUX	0
494	SMG Group 11 Reverse 1st AUX	0
495	SMG Group 11 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
496	SMG Group 12 FKey	0
497	SMG Group 12 MKey	0
498	SMG Group 12 Forward 1st AUX	0
499	SMG Group 12 Forward 2nd AUX	0
500	SMG Group 12 Reverse 1st AUX	0
501	SMG Group 12 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
502	SMG Group 13 FKey	0
503	SMG Group 13 MKey	0
504	SMG Group 13 Forward 1st AUX	0
505	SMG Group 13 Forward 2nd AUX	0
506	SMG Group 13 Reverse 1st AUX	0
507	SMG Group 13 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
513	F1 sound assignment	0
514	F1 volume adjust	0
515	F1 looping/short	0
516	F2 sound assignment	16
517	F2 volume adjust	0
518	F2 looping/short	0
519	F3 sound assignment	0
520	F3 volume adjust	0
521	F3 looping/short	0
522	F4 sound assignment	0
523	F4 volume adjust	0
524	F4 looping/short	0
525	F5 sound assignment	22
526	F5 volume adjust	0
527	F5 looping/short	0
528	F6 sound assignment	17
529	F6 volume adjust	0
530	F6 looping/short	0
531	F7 sound assignment	34
532	F7 volume adjust	0
533	F7 looping/short	0
534	F8 sound assignment	23
535	F8 volume adjust	0
536	F8 looping/short	0
537	F9 sound assignment	29
538	F9 volume adjust	0
539	F9 looping/short	0

540	F10 sound assignment	33
541	F10 volume adjust	0
542	F10 looping/short	0
543	F11 sound assignment	32
544	F11 volume adjust	0
545	F11 looping/short	0
546	F12 sound assignment	0
547	F12 volume adjust	0
548	F12 looping/short	0
549	F13 sound assignment	31
550	F13 volume adjust	0
551	F13 looping/short	0
552	F14 sound assignment	24
553	F14 volume adjust	0
554	F14 looping/short	8
555	F15 sound assignment	25
556	F15 volume adjust	0
557	F15 looping/short	8
558	F16 sound assignment	28
559	F16 volume adjust	0
560	F16 looping/short	0
561	F17 sound assignment	27
562	F17 volume adjust	0
563	F17 looping/short	0
564	F18 sound assignment	18
565	F18 volume adjust	0
566	F18 looping/short	0
567	F19 sound assignment	0
568	F19 volume adjust	0
569	F19 looping/short	0
570	F0 sound assignment	0
571	F0 volume adjust	0
572	F0 looping/short	0
573	IDLE sound assignment	0
574	IDLE volume adjust	0
575	CHANGEDIR sound assignment	4
576	CHANGEDIR volume adjust	0
577	COMETOHALT sound assignment	6
578	COMETOHALT volume adjust	0
579	THYRISTOR sound assignment	9
580	THYRISTOR volume adjust	0
581	SETOFF sound assignment	5
582	SETOFF volume adjust	0
583	WATEROUTLET sound assignment	0
584	WATEROUTLET volume adjust	0
585	EMOTOR sound assignment	0
586	EMOTOR volume adjust	0
587	ROLLING sound assignment n/a	0
588	DRIVING SOUNDS volume adjustment	0
589	SWITCHVALVE sound assignment	0
590	SWITCHVALVE volume adjust	0
591	THYRISTOR2 sound assignment	0
592	THYRISTOR2 volume adjust	0
593	PANTOSTOP sound assignment	0
594	PANTOSTOP volume adjust	0
595	PANTODOWN sound assignment	0
596	PANTODOWN volume adjust	0
597	PANTODOWNSTOP sound assignment	0
598	PANTODOWNSTOP volume adjust	0
599	TURBO sound assignment	0
600	TURBO volume adjust	0
601	DYNAMIC BRAKES - sound assignment	8
602	DYNAMIC BRAKES volume adjustment	0
603	F20 sound assignment	0
604	F20 volume adjust	0
605	F20 looping/short	0
606	F21 sound assignment	0
607	F21 volume adjust	0
608	F21 looping/short	0
609	F22 sound assignment	0
610	F22 volume adjust	0
611	F22 looping/short	0
612	F23 sound assignment	20

683	F23 volume adjust	0
684	F23 looping/short	8
685	F24 sound assignment	21
686	F24 volume adjust	0
687	F24 looping/short	0
688	F25 sound assignment	30
689	F25 volume adjust	0
690	F25 looping/short	0
691	F26 sound assignment	26
692	F26 volume adjust	0
693	F26 looping/short	0
694	F27 sound assignment	19
695	F27 volume adjust	0
696	F27 looping/short	0
697	F28 sound assignment	0
698	F28 volume adjust	0
699	F28 looping/short	0
700	unused	0
726	Sound id for trigger 1	0
727	AUX output to activate with trigger 1	0
728	Sound id for trigger 2	0
729	AUX output to activate with trigger 2	0
730	Sound id for trigger 3	0
731	AUX output to activate with trigger 3	0
732	Sound id for trigger 4	0
733	AUX output to activate with trigger 4	0
734	Sound id for trigger 5	0
735	AUX output to activate with trigger 5	0
736	Sound id for trigger 6	0
737	AUX output to activate with trigger 6	0
738	Reed input 1 sound assignment	0
739	Reed input volume adjust	0
740	Reed input 2 sound assignment	0
741	Reed input 2 volume adjust	0
742	Reed input 3 sound assignment	0
743	Reed input 3 volume adjust	0
744	Z1 Random sound assignment	0
745	Z1 Random volume adjust	91
746	Z1 Random standstill / motion	72
747	Z2 Random sound assignment	0
748	Z2 Random volume adjust	91
749	Z2 Random standstill / motion	72
750	Z3 Random sound assignment	0
751	Z3 Random volume adjust	91
752	Z3 Random standstill / motion	72
753	Z4 Random sounds assignment	0
754	Z4 Random volume adjust	91
755	Z4 Random standstill / motion	72
756	Z5 Random sound assignment	0
757	Z5 Random volume adjust	91
758	Z5 Random standstill / motion	72
759	Z6 Random sound assignment	0
760	Z6 Random volume adjust	91
761	Z6 Random standstill / motion	72
762	Z7 Random sound assignment	0
763	Z7 Random volume adjust	91
764	Z7 Random standstill / motion	72
765	Z8 Random sound assignment	0
766	Z8 Random volume adjust	91
767	Z8 Random standstill / motion	72
768	Steam set	0
769	unknown	1
770	unknown	127
771	unknown	127
772	unknown	127
773	unknown	127
774	unknown	1
775	unknown	42
776	unknown	26
783	PWM slow from auto-run	0
784	PWM fast from auto-run	0
800	SMG Group 14 FKey	0
801	SMG Group 14 MKey	0

802	SMG Group 14 Forward 1st AUX	0
803	SMG Group 14 Forward 2nd AUX	0
804	SMG Group 14 Reverse 1st AUX	0
805	SMG Group 14 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
806	SMG Group 15 FKey	0
807	SMG Group 15 MKey	0
808	SMG Group 15 Forward 1st AUX	0
809	SMG Group 15 Forward 2nd AUX	0
810	SMG Group 15 Reverse 1st AUX	0
811	SMG Group 15 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
812	SMG Group 16 FKey	0
813	SMG Group 16 MKey	0
814	SMG Group 16 Forward 1st AUX	0
815	SMG Group 16 Forward 2nd AUX	0
816	SMG Group 16 Reverse 1st AUX	0
817	SMG Group 16 Reverse 2nd AUX	0
818	SMG Group 17 FKey	0
819	SMG Group 17 MKey	0
820	SMG Group 17 Forward 1st AUX	0
821	SMG Group 17 Forward 2nd AUX	0
822	SMG Group 17 Reverse 1st AUX	0
823	SMG Group 17 Reverse 1nd AUX	0

Zimo Small DCC Decoders - YouChoos Common Tweaks

September 2018 Revision

For MX645, MX644, MX648, MX646, MX649, MX658, MX659, MX695, MX696, MX699

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Zimo DCC decoders are some of the most advanced decoders available, and as such have many aspects that can be configured and tweaked according to your preferences and how you wish to use them. This flexibility of course comes with a certain complexity, so YouChoos have worked to produce this mini guide detailing some of the more common areas that you are likely to want to adjust in your Zimo decoder.

While the information here relates primarily to Zimo's sound decoders, much of the information also applies to Zimo's standard non-sound decoders and function decoders. More detailed information can be found in Zimo's own *Small Decoder Manual* available for download from their website (www.zimo.at).

Wiring Colours

All Zimo decoders follow the same wire colouring convention (note that purple and brown are reversed from the standards used by most other DCC manufacturers):

Red	Track right
Black	Track left
Orange	Motor right
Grey	Motor left
Blue	Common Positive
White	AUX1/F0Fwd Negative – normally for forward motion lights
Yellow	AUX2/F0Rev Negative – normally for reverse motion lights
Green	AUX3/FA1 Negative
Brown	AUX4/FA2 Negative
Purple x2	Speaker connection

Stay-Alive Capacitors

If adding a stay-alive capacitor, ensure its' voltage rating is at least as high as the DCC track voltage. Normally this is around 16V.



If possible, it is recommended that you use a capacitor between 25-35V. Any size will help, even as small as 100uF, but the bigger the better. Electrolytic, Tantalum and some SuperCap capacitors may be fitted directly to decoders with energy storage connections, or via a SPEIKOMP kit for decoders only supplying +VE and GND connections. See Zimo's documentation for more information.

Understanding and Calculating Binary Values

In order to successfully understand and program some CVs, you will need a basic understanding of binary. Each CV contains what is called a *byte* of information. This is computer-speak for 8 bits of information, each of which can be ON or OFF. A *bit* is therefore a *toggle*, ON or OFF. A 1 represents ON and a 0 represents OFF. If you have just 1 bit, then you can have a maximum of 2 values i.e. on and off. Adding more bits means you can have more combinations, for example, 2 bits gives you 4 possible combinations: OFF+OFF; OFF+ON; ON+OFF; ON+ON, or 0,0; 0,1; 1,0; 1,1. Read this as 0,1,2,3 since computers always start at 0 instead of 1.

By convention, bits are read with the least significant to the right i.e. "bit 0" is the right-most bit. A byte, as mentioned previously has 8 bits, so bits 0 to 7, giving a possible range of 0-255 ($2^8 - 1$ being the maximum value, 256 combinations). Use the table below for reference to see what value each bit can represent.



Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

An example: if bit 6 is ON and bit 1 is also ON, then this is 64+2, so the value represented is 66. Simple really!

Many of the CVs in your decoder use individual bits to control different aspects, so it is useful to understand binary in order to a) work out how the decoder is currently configured, and b) to understand how to modify the CVs to change the decoder's behaviour.

Hard Reset

A *HARD RESET* is performed by setting CV8=8. This resets all CVs to factory setting. By *factory*, we mean the last project loaded into the decoder (by YouChoos, or other vender). This process will NOT wipe the sounds themselves! Occasionally you may have to send the RESET message a couple of times for it to actually work. This is particularly useful if you have lost track of the CV changes you have made and you want to go back, or the loco is not behaving as you hoped after some tuning!

Speakers

The connected speaker must have an impedance of 8ohm and 1W. Alternatively, you can connect 2x 40hm speakers in series, which will give 80hm overall impedance (although power required will be the power rating of both speakers added together). Any other impedance will void warranty and may cause damage to the decoder and/or speaker. MX644 and MX645 are exceptions, which both support 4ohm speakers and up to 3W power (use 2x 80hm speakers in parallel for these decoders to get 40hm overall).



Analog/DC Operation

By switching CV29 Bit 2 (value 4) ON, DC/Analog operation is possible. This is normally done by default in sound decoders supplied by YouChoos. Control of the loco under DC is quite different from a model without a decoder, so you may have to re-learn how to use the throttle range! There is a useful video by YouChoos on YouTube showing the effects and how control differs from traditional DC operation.



Reading and Writing CVs

All Zimo decoders are capable of working with a DCC programming track as well as accepting new CVs values via *Programming-On-The-Main* (POM). Any feedback (reading CVs) will require a *load* to the decoder such as an attached motor, or lighting, as an electrical load is used to send back information to the DCC controller.

Addressing

Decoders will normally be supplied with their DCC 'address' set to a default of 3. If you have multiple locos fitted with DCC, then you will need to change this quite soon.



Most DCC controllers provide automatic facilities to change a decoder's address, but it may be useful to understand how this works under the covers. The full range of addresses goes from 1 up to 10239, although most DCC controllers are limited to 9999 (4 digits), and some are limited to just 2, or even a single digit!

If your chosen address falls in the range from 1 to 127, then this is known as a 'short' address, and is stored in CV1. With bit 5 (value 32) of CV29 switched OFF, the short address is active, and the decoder will respond to commands on the address stored in CV1.

For addresses between 128 and 10239, a formula is used to calculate and store the address in CVs 17 and 18. This is required because the largest number you can store in a single CV is restricted to 255. The long address is active when bit 5 of CV29 is switched on.

CV19 is used when you add your loco into a Consist. Refer to your DCC controller's manual for more information on Consisting (temporarily placing multiple locos together, such as double-heading).

Function Mapping

Control of decoder's auxiliary features, such as lighting and smoke, can be configured flexibly to different Function Keys. YouChoos sound decoders are normally shipped with Zimo's *advanced function mapping* enabled (CV61=97), which allows totally flexible mapping of AUX outputs (lighting etc.) to any FKey in the range F0 to F12 using CVs 33 to 46 (simple 8-bit-mask defining the outputs to activate for each FKey). With CV61=0, standard NMRA function mapping is assumed.



FKey assignment to other features, such as sounds, is defined with dedicated CVs. For example, CV516 defines which sound is played when FKey2 is pressed. The values you put in for sound assignments are unique ids that were defined when the sound project was created, so you will have to use your powers of deduction (or contact us) to find out which sounds have what values!

Numerous additional CVs define FKeys for other features, such as coasting key (CV374), manual electric brake key (CV380), master volume down/up keys (CV396 and CV397), shunting key (CV155), momentum deactivation (CV156), Quick Select (CV345), engine & random sounds on/off key (CV310), FKey sounds on/off key (CV311), mute key (CV313) etc.

Lighting

LEDs and bulbs may be powered and controlled by the AUX function outputs of the decoder. In general it is recommended to use LEDs, as these have very long lives and do not generally get hot.



LEDs should always have their positive terminal connected via a resistor to the decoder's common positive (blue), and their negative terminal to one of the AUX function outputs e.g. white, yellow, green, brown etc.

Configuration of what Function Key controls each AUX output is detailed in the section on Function Mapping.

A variety of lighting effects can be applied individually to each AUX output using CVs 125 to 132. Dimming can be achieved using CV60 to specify the level of dimming (0-100 percent brightness) and CV114 as a bit-mask to define which outputs the dimming is applied to.

Smoke Generators

As long as your smoke generator device draws less current than the AUX outputs for your decoder is capable of, you can connect it directly between the common positive (blue wire) of the decoder and one of the AUX function outputs (typically the brown wire is used for this purpose). No other components are required. Seuteh #22 and #27 units are suitable for direct connection in OO/HO scale in particular to any Zimo sound decoder.



A special effect can be used for smoke generators (see CVs 125 to 132) to achieve load or speed dependent smoke output, as well as a useful safety feature to automatically switch off the smoke unit after a predefined period (CV353).

Motor Control and Tuning

Zimo decoders offer very flexible tuning for motor control, supporting a wide variety of motor types, and it is normally possible to achieve excellent smooth, and slow running performance with any well maintained motor.



Speed Curves

CVs 2, 6 and 5 provide a simple method of defining the motor's speed curve from initial set-off to maximum speed. With CV 6 set to 0, the speed curve is linear, but with CV 6 set to something between 0 and 255, a rough 3-point curve is applied. This assumes that CV 29 bit 4 (value 16) is switched off.

With CV29 bit 4 switched on, the speed curve is taken from CVs 67 to 94, allowing you a much finer control of the motor output through the speed range.

Momentum / Inertia

One of the great features of DCC decoders is the ability to automatically apply gradual acceleration and deceleration, making the motion of the loco much more realistic than would be possible with an analog control. Zimo decoders are particularly good at applying these gradual effects, and the strength of the momentum effects can be easily configured using CV 3 (acceleration) and CV 4 (deceleration).

Motor Characteristics and Back EMF

Smooth running is achieved using a technique called Back EMF, whereby the decoder regularly samples current usage of the motor in order to work out if the requested speed is actually being maintained. It is a very sophisticated technique, and the frequency and strength of the feedback must closely match the characteristics of the motor in order for it to work effectively. Bad configuration will result in jerky motion, and noisy operation.

Zimo decoders will normally be shipped with Back EMF settings appropriate for the majority of modern motors, so there will be little tuning, if any required.

CV58 defines how much effect the feedback from BackEMF has (normally best to leave at max 255). CV56 defines how sampling of the motor is done, ranging from 00-99 where each digit defines a different aspect of the sampling. A 'middle' setting is the default (55), but if you find that your motor behaves poorly, try adjusting each digit individually to see the effects. Of course, if you have a poor motor to start with, then there may be very little you can do with BackEMF to improve it, so it is important to test the model on analog before installing a decoder!

Adjusting Sound

Overall Volume

Master volume (affects all sounds equally) is controlled with CV266 with a range from 0 to 100. Higher values are possible, but you risk damaging the decoder and/or speaker.



Individual Sound Volume

Most sounds can be individually tweaked in volume. Sounds applied to FKeys have their own CVs for this purpose, such as CV517 for FKey2's volume. Range is 1-255 (0 means the same as 255 i.e. max). Refer to the CV crib sheet as supplied with your YouChoos sound decoder. You will see numerous 'volume adjust' CVs in the range 574 to 602, which enable you to tune the volume of automatic sounds, such as brakes, idling, motor, set-off and come-to-halt.

Random Sounds

CVs in the range from 744 to 767 relate to the playback of sounds randomly. Many YouChoos sound decoders (steam in particular) will be shipped with some appropriate sounds that play at a reduced volume at random intervals. Details of how this is done is beyond the scope of this guide, but if you simply want to remove all random sounds then you can set all of these CVs to 0!

Chuff Rate

For steam sound decoders, one of the most common tweaks required is to tune the chuff rate. CV267 is used to do this. A lower value means faster chuffs. Further fine tuning is possible with other CVs (see the Zimo decoder manual for more information).

Engine Volume Relative to Other Sounds

If you feel that the automatic engine sounds are too loud compared to the FKey sounds, you can easily reduce it by changing CV376. In conjunction, you may also wish to tune the set-off and come-to-halt sounds too (CV582 and CV578 respectively). This is primarily useful for diesel.

Speed, Load and Accel/Decel Effects on Sound

YouChoos tries hard to ship sound decoders with a sensible combination and balance for engine sounds, but everyone has different ideas of how a loco should sound, so you can fine tune many aspects. In particular, the volume of engine/chuffs can be adjusted according to rate of acceleration, deceleration, load as well as various time-based thresholds over which these aspects can change. CVs in the range of 268 to 288 are the primary ones used to do this, although there are many more. Refer to the CV crib sheet supplied with your YouChoos sound decoder, in conjunction with the Zimo Small Decoders manual for more detailed information.

Delayed Set-Off

When you open the throttle, a set-off or revving-up sound is usually played, but in reality you don't always want the motor to start spinning until this sound is finished, or at least part-way through playing. Many YouChoos sound decoders will be pre-configured with a suitable delay to the motor starting, but you can tune this to your own liking with CV273.

Final Braking Threshold

Depending upon your motor characteristics, you may also wish to tweak the threshold for the final braking sound (sometimes referred to as the 'come to halt' sound). This is done using CV287, which defines the speed step at which the brake sound starts to play. The lower the value, the closer the speed will have to be to stopping before the sound begins playing.

Further Reading

You have probably got the idea now that there is a lot you can play with in a Zimo sound decoder! This guide touches only a few of the more commonly tweaked areas, but you can find out a lot more detail in the Zimo Small Decoder manual, available for download from www.zimo.at. Here are some ideas of other areas of interest:

- Running in a consist (double-heading)
- Automatic braking, signal control and distance controlled stopping
- Uncoupler devices with automated uncoupling procedure
- Attaching a cam sensor for chuff synchronisation
- Railcom (feedback to your controller of what the loco is doing)
- Servo connection
- Input triggers – sensors to trigger effects and sounds
- Pantograph installation
- Swiss Mapping