



A Cobalt Overview...

We've been a little slow with trade newsletters because we are super-busy with product development at the moment... Sorry!

Of course... that means lots of new things and as a result, there are LOTS of new products now available or imminent - and so we thought we'd give you a heads-up about new Cobalt range items...



So here is * An over-view * What has arrived * What is to come

Do you have any questions?

Please email me directly for more information, and if I have the information you need -I'll tell you what I can

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Things to come.....

Before I tell you about the future, it will be helpful to explain the overall use of the Cobalt name within our product ranges.

Most of you are familiar with the Cobalt name.

Introduced with our super-successful turnout motor range, currently represented by the super-high quality and exceptionally popular Cobalt iP Digital, Cobalt iP Analog and Cobalt Omega motors and the innovative Cobalt-S Lever, the Cobalt name has always been intended to represent state-of the art “Control of the layout” devices... and with that in mind, The Cobalt name is now extending to a steadily widening range of DCCconcepts products...

To join the Cobalt family, a product needs to meet three core conditions.

It must be unique in the way it operates or include new features.

It should push the boundaries of existing product technology

It should relate to the control of the layout and its track-work

As an accompanying guideline: Where possible any Cobalt product should also bring the advantages it offers to both Analog and Digital/DCC modellers, because we feel that both are equally important to the future of our hobby!

What’s on the horizon?

We often see announcements made by respected brands that offer new releases... and equally often, we see the projected delivery dates slip ever-further into the future.

DCCconcepts doesn’t work like that:

We create real things that we keep to ourselves until we are sure they are ready to talk about... and never make “Vapourware” announcements... so every item below really is imminent, and will happen on or close to the day we plan.

Cobalt REX:

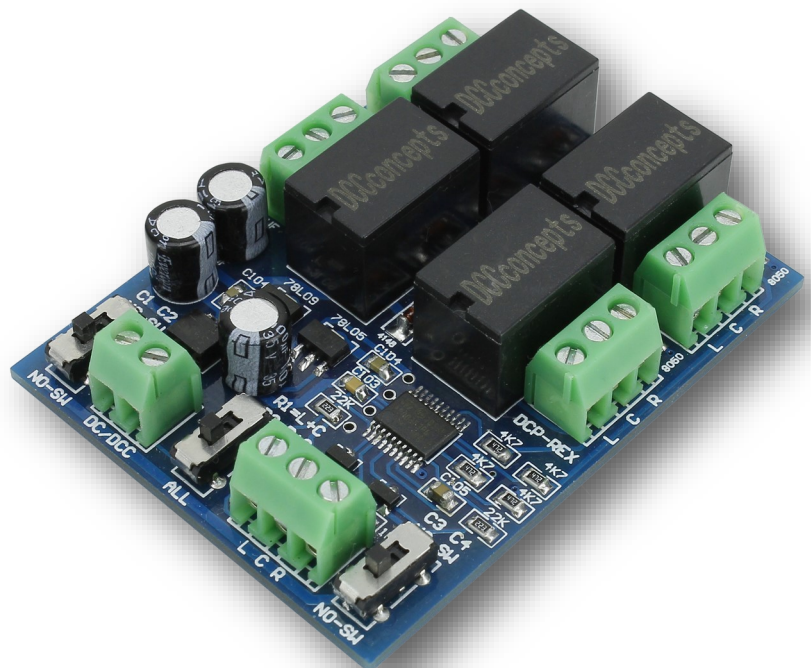
REX stands for “Relay Extension”. Not very exciting words we admit, but it does have the “X” factor for modellers who are trying to do interesting things with layout wiring!

The versatile control abilities of this neat little device will make it a firm favourite of many modellers. Added to ANY situation, it massively increases your ability to control things around the layout! Incorporating 4 changeover switches, it is really easy to use and it has a versatility of control never ever seen before.

Incredibly easy to set up (simple switches and no “CV’s or programming) the change-over switches can be operated all at once or in pairs. Each output can be controlled by momentary or on-off switches or devices, including detectors.

It still meets our “keep it simple” approach too! All of the adjustments can be done or changed at will just by using three simple on-board switches with no need for programming or complicated wiring.

Even better, for those using detector or pushbutton operations... It has power-off memory built in.



Cobalt α Alpha:

Alpha is a paradigm shift in the creation of control panels for both DC and DCC modellers. Cobalt Alpha is shipping now, it's various 'still in production' extensions that will make this the most versatile and sophisticated control device ever offered are being released progressively during the rest of 2015.

Each Cobalt Alpha takes the outputs from a dozen or more Analog switches of ANY type and converts their output to a digital command.

When we say ANY type of switch we mean it too... whether it's a Cobalt-S Lever, a conventional switch, a push-button, a 'Diode Matrix' or even an older type "stud-and-probe" panel, Cobalt Alpha will interface with it and give the potential to massively simplify the control panels interface to your layout!

And – Alpha gives "One wire connection to the layout!" – fulfilling the DCC promise for the first time!

The Cobalt α Alpha Box:

It's a simple name but a great new product to extend the use of Cobalt Alpha.

- Use it as the base for a digital accessory power bus for DC or DCC layouts.
- Use it to extend the power of an NCE Power-Cab to 5 amps by direct connection of Power-Cab RJ12 lead.
- Use it to increase the power of ANY entry level DCC system to 5 amps by direct connection of that systems track bus outputs to the high power input terminals.
- Use it to add sophisticated overload protection to any entry level DCC system... it has both audio and visual warning of track shorts!
- Use it a power booster with any DCC System.
- Users of Z21 and ESU ECoS or similar products with "sniffer ports" can connect it to the sniffer ports to directly interface their systems with Cobalt Alpha too.



Cobalt intelligent Power Supply:

Again, this is something totally new... and quite unique.

Modellers tend to think of power supplies as something to anchor wires to and seldom think about how much they load them as they don't understand the current draw of many of the accessories they connect to them.

We deplore the habitual use of unregulated power sources such as (all brands of) inaccurately labelled model railway transformer/controllers, bare AC transformers or in fact use of AC of any kind in this digital world, and this new product is one more nail in the coffin of poor quality power delivery!

So: this all-new world-approved power supply will integrate totally separate and perfectly regulated 9+9v and 18v DC outputs for accessory and DC or DCC use into a very accurate, extremely sophisticated, fully overload protected power supply with simple connections and high levels of protection.

Overload and short circuit protection can be reset and it's indication of problems is both audible and visual. Indicators on the panel top will tell the user when they get to 25%, 50% and 75% loading and the piezo warning buzzer will tell them immediately if they make a wiring mistake or have a problem!

Built to specifications that insisted on a 33% tolerance to ensure long life, world-approved and suitable for 100~270v AC household power connections, the Cobalt Intelligent Power Supply will be a real winner as it will also be extremely well priced for such a sophisticated unit.

The Cobalt α Alpha Central:

It simply cannot get easier than this! Alpha Central integrates Cobalt Alpha and TWO Alpha-Switch-D sets into one sophisticated pre-assembled control box. Housed in a beautifully finished aluminium case the instructions can be summed up as below....

- *Open the box*
- *Plug it into the accessory power bus*
- *Set the turnout addresses*
- *Press the buttons!*

It really IS going to be that easy. No added power supply, no soldering, not even a single screw terminal to worry about.

It just works - Total plug and play in accessory control... for the first time ever!

The wires are in the box, there is nothing else to buy and we even supply it complete with a set of etched stainless steel numbers that sit neatly in milled recesses in the really nice aluminium case.

Those with more than 12 points can of course series-connect lots of them – also with just ONE simple “plug and play” linking wire that is supplied with each Alpha Central.

Even better, if you add connection points ready for it, the panel can be plugged and unplugged at will, so you can move it to where it's needed – front of layout, back of layout... anywhere in fact!



Cobalt α Alpha-Switch DCC-Brand Interfaces:

Already underway, these small protocol adapters or “dongles” in computer-speak... just plug into Cobalt Alpha to harmonise Cobalt Alpha digital outputs to Gaugemaster/MRC, Digitrax, Express-Net (Lenz, Roco and others), ESU and other DCC brands. The GM interface will be the first of them.

(These have unfortunately taken longer than we expected, sorry, but with the first of these due within a few weeks now, the rest will follow late 2015 or early 2016).

Cobalt α Alpha-Switch D:

The D stands for Digital.... Because these switches interface with digital products. Building on the “Keep the wiring simple” potential of Cobalt Alpha, this new switch range integrates LED and switch in a really elegant way, simultaneously reducing the wiring of each switch/LED combination from many wires that need soldering to just ONE small ribbon wire and connector.

To put that in perspective... Each 12-switch pack has just 12 plugs to insert into the (included) control PCB, replacing all of the effort needed for the wiring of 12 switches and 12 LEDs which would normally need 48 or more wires to be cut, stripped, connected, soldered and loomed tidily.

Cobalt α Alpha-Switch D isn't only for use with Cobalt α Alpha either... It will connect directly to Cobalt iP Digital and also work really well with ANY brand of DCC-digital Accessory decoder that has a 2-button 3-wire Interface, such as Cobalt digital, Cobalt AD or AD-S decoders and of course similar products made by other brands.

Now Cobalt Alpha-Switch D is available, you are able to create an entire control panel, with tidy wiring in 1/5th of the time... without the need for soldering anything!

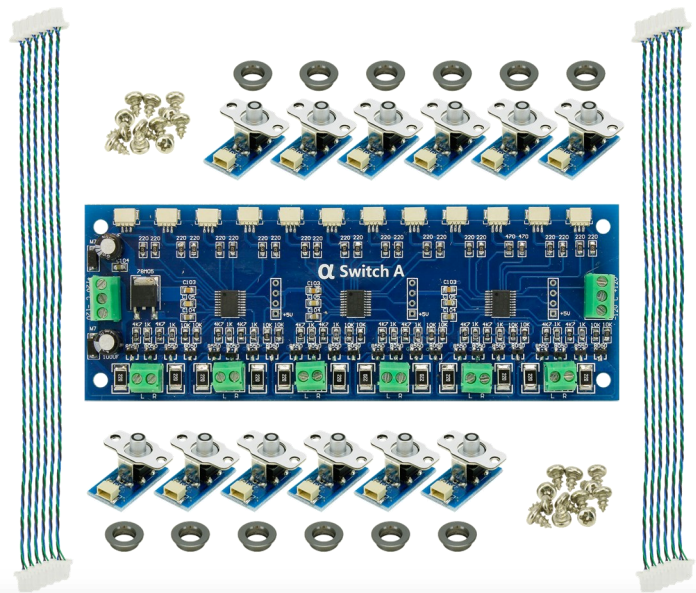
Cobalt α Alpha-Switch A:

The A stands for Analog.... And Cobalt Alpha-Switch A has an output that is 2-wire reversible DC.

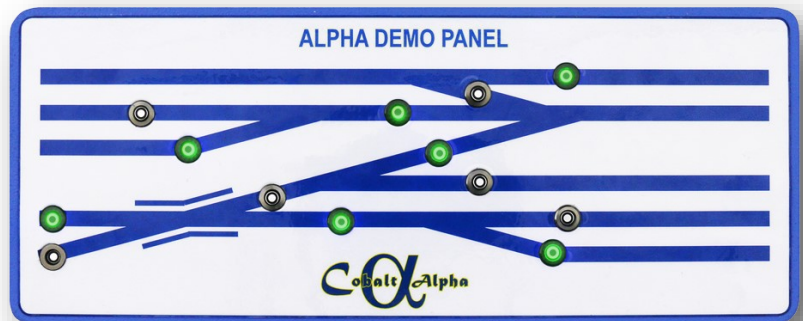
Perfect for powering Cobalt iP Analog or Omega turnout motors, Cobalt Alpha-Switch A can of course also be used with other products needing this form of control, such as Tortoise & some Euro-designed point motors.

To keep power input wiring simple & guarantee “best results always” with Alpha-Switch-A, we are also creating an economical but quite unique 3-wire power supply for Alpha-Switch-A, (adopting the same (+) (+/-) (-) split-rail power supply approach of our Cobalt PSU-2 power supply but at quite a low cost)

This new power supply will be world-approved too, so will be usable wherever you live!



This image shows a simple Alpha panel. NO soldering, everything plug-n-play. As easy as assembling Lego—there is simply nothing to go wrong! and all of the Alpha-Switch parts took less than ten minutes to install!



ALL of the above is still to come in 2015...

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## But what of 2016 and the Cobalt range?

It's all underway already of course. When it is completed and released, Cobalt really WILL be “everything to do with the control of track”

- Expect something really neat to extend the Cobalt motor line....
  - Expect a new way to uncouple ANY brand of coupler
  - Expect a new way to clean track...
  - Expect a new and very sophisticated “route managing” product that looks fantastic too!
- and to top it all off....
- Expect the best and most sophisticated (but still easy to use) detector range ever released.

More on all of these exciting 2016 products sometime soon.

Regards, Richard

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**USE OF THIS INFORMATION:** Use common sense please. ASK before any additional circulation/use. Many items are already on the website / public. Others, such as the **Cobalt Alpha Central & Alpha-box** shown in the opening page are there as a pre-release “Heads-up” for you as an “insider”... and will probably be released for the first time in November ~ at Warley Show in UK. **Advanced information is just that... please treat it with respect!**