

PROTOSOUND 2.0 TROUBLESHOOTING

Start Up

Remedy

When I apply power to my DCS track my engine doesn't do anything. No lights, no sound, no nothing.

This is normal. You have to hit the start up button. Check to see if that section of track has power. Use a voltmeter or a lighted passenger car to test for power. Slide the engine a couple of feet in either direction; you may have a bad track section. Have you got that section electrically isolated with a toggle switch or other device?

I get an error when I hit Start-Up in DCS.

Have you recently changed the engine address?

Check if there is power on that section of track the engine is sitting on (there has to be power for the signal to get to the engine and for the engine to be able to "hear" the signal). If you have tow engines on the track they both may have the same address. Take one off the rails and try it again.

When I first turn the power on, the engine will not begin to run.

This is normal behavior. To prevent accidental high-speed start-ups, Protosound 2.0 is programmed to start up in neutral any time track power has been turned off for several seconds.

The engine will not start after I press the Direction button.

You may not be sending enough power to the track to power the engine. Press the throttle up for a few more seconds to increase track power.

Sound

Remedy

I have no sound from my engine, but my lights are on and it moves just fine.

If operating in DCS, you may have it turned off. Repeatedly press VOL+ to bring the Master Volume up. Did you turn off the ENG sounds? Press the ENG SND button on your DCS controller. Check that you haven't lowered any of the independent engine volume settings (ENG sounds, Bell, Whistle and Accent).

If running in AC or DC conventional power, check to be sure your Volume Pot (usually located on the underside of the engine) is turned all the way up.

When I press the Whistle Button on my DCS Remote or DCS Commander, the whistle doesn't blow.

Check if the playable whistle is active. On the DCS Commander there will be two dashes on the right side of the LCD if it's active. Press "A1" twice to ensure it's turned off. On your DCS Remote press the "SPW" button twice to ensure it's disabled.

When I press the Whistle/Horn button, the bell comes on instead (or vice-versa).

Reverse your transformer leads.

There's a crackling sound coming from my tender.

Check to see if a screw or some other material hasn't lodged itself in the underside of the tender.

My engine sounds are distorted or garbled.

The battery may have run down, especially if the engine has been in storage for some time. See the "Self-Charging Battery Back-Up" section of your operators' manual for instructions on how to test, recharge, and (if necessary) replace the battery.

When I run Doppler, I can hear the Doppler shift but then the engine sounds fade out and I can't get them back.

This is normal operating in DCS. You will need to press the Doppler button on again to turn Doppler off. Once Doppler is turned off, your engine sounds will return to their normal volume setting.

My engine isn't smoking at all.

Make sure you've got the smoke turned ON.

Press the smoke button: this will activate the smoke.

If you just added smoke fluid it may have formed a seal in the stack by forming a bubble. Gently blow into the stack to clear the air bubble.

Check the tender/boiler drawbar connection. They must be locked together in order for the smoke unit to function.

My engine barely smokes.

You may have set the smoke to Low. The smoke "volume" can be changed from Low to Med to High.

Check for an obstruction in the smoke stack.

Add 10 - 12 drops of smoke fluid.

Lights

Remedy

One of my lights is out.

Check that you haven't turned it off with the DCS controller. You have independent control over lights on your engine.

None of my lights are on.

See "One of my lights is out" from above.
Is the engine getting power? Check to see if there is voltage on the track or move the engine a few feet in either direction.
Check the tender/boiler drawbar connection. You've got to have them locked together in order for the engine functions to work.

Operation

Remedy

When I apply power and hit Start-Up in DCS, my engine starts up (lights and sound) but it won't move.

This is normal. Dial up the speed on your DCS Remote to make the engine move.

If you've increased the speed to the engine, check the tender/boiler drawbar connection on your steam engine.

You've got to have them locked together.

My engine hesitates at slow speeds.

An engine may do this right out of the box if it has not been lubricated. Follow the operator's manual lubrication instructions and then try running it again.

New engines, even after lubrication, may take a little while to get everything run-in. Be a little patient and let the engine run for a while at higher voltages.

Check to see if you have any kind of binding on the side

rods. There may be a piece of debris preventing the side rods from turning smoothly.

The engine won't lock into forward, neutral, or reverse.

Engine speed must be below 10 scale mph (approx. 10 volts or less in conventional mode).

My engine will not leave the initial neutral setting.

Check to be sure the battery is installed and fully charged. See the "Self-Charging Battery Back-Up" section of your operators' manual.

You might have locked your engine in neutral position. Follow the "Lock into a Direction" procedure in your operators' manual.

PFA

Remedy

When I enter PFA all that happens is the bell rings. What do I do?

Press the DIR button. Your engine will stop and begins the arrival sequence. Pressing the DIR button will cycle you through the next 3 PFA sequences.

The PSA sounds occasionally repeat themselves.

Protosound 2.0 has a built-in random number generator that randomly selects each sound clip to play. Due to the limited number of sound clips available in each PFA sequence, it is probable that some of these clips will be repeated from time to time.

Why does my engine run away all by itself after the PFA is over?

This is normal. The engine will leave the station at the same speed it entered (when hit the PFA button). The speed setting can be changed after the bell stops ringing.

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M.T.H. Customer Service

410-381-2580, Ext.#596
7020 Columbia Gateway Dr Columbia MD 21046
mthtrains.com