

Aspect Signaling with JMRI/PanelPro

Dick Bronson - RR-CirKits, Inc.

Clinics in this series:

Aspect Signaling with JMRI/PanelPro

4:00 PM, Tuesday, July 31st 7:00 PM, Friday, August 3rd

Automatic Train Stopping using the LNCP and JMRI
 7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 31st
 8:30 PM, Friday, August 3rd



Resources

Web Sites

Web Sites

http://www.rrsignalpix.com/index.html A site for Signals and rules. By Zachary Gillihan

http://www.ctcparts.com/ An excellent site for CTC information. By Michael Burgett

http://www.RR-CirKits.com/ Our web site for signal control hardware. By Dick Bronson



Signal System Types

Signal System types

There are two general methods of signaling in use for railroads. The first is 'Route' based, and the second is 'Speed' based.

• Route based signals:

Route based signals give a general indication of the route condition ahead of the train.

Speed based signals:

Speed based signals primarily give the target speed for the track ahead of the train.



Route based signals:

Route based signals in the USA give a general indication of the route condition ahead of the train. Some european route systems may give very specific information. Typically the western US railroads used route based signals. The long distances between signals leaves plenty of room for stopping in advance of signals with only one or two signals of advanced warning.

JMRI has supported Route Based signaling with SSL (Simple Signal Logic) for a number of years now. Some small amount of speed information may be combined with the route information by the use of flashing aspects.



UP Route signal near Barstow, CA

Signal System Types





Signal System Types

Speed based signals:

Speed based signals in the USA are usually found on the more congested eastern routes where the added cost of shorter blocks and more complex signal hardware is justified by the denser east coast traffic patterns.

Speed signaling requires many different aspects in order to indicate each combination of speeds that apply to the next section of track.

Support for speed signaling is now in JMRI and is called "Aspect Signaling". This capability is the topic of todays clinic.



Speed signal in Sauget, IL

Signal System Types





Setting the PanelPro Preferences

Setup your hardware according to the information found in the JMRI Help pages. Select 'Help' – 'General Help...' then navigate down to 'DecoderPro' – 'DecoderPro Manual' – 'Getting Started' – 'Setting Preferences'. On the web go to: http://www.jmri.org/help/en/manual/Getting_Started.shtml#Start

Note:

The setup options for PanelPro are saved in their own startup file, distinct from those in DecoderPro and DP3. Normally you will use the same settings for DecoderPro, DP3, and PanelPro.

Be sure to not try and run both PanelPro, DP3, or DecoderPro at the same time. They are essentially the same programs, so you have the full capabilities of each no matter how you initially start it running. You may only run them simultaniously if they use different ports for communicating.



Starting the Program



Use your own operating systems method for starting the program. In this demo we are running with Ubuntu Linux.



Starting the Program



- Use your own operating systems method for starting the program. In this demo we are running with Ubuntu Linux.
- Select the desired startup icon and single click.



Useful Information



The initial PanelPro window includes information about the version numbers of JMRI, Java, and also information about the computer interface. Include this information as well as your computer's operating system type in any support requests.



Opening a new panel



To get started on building a panel open the 'Panels' drop down list and select 'New Panel'

- This will open a selection between the 'Layout Editor' and 'Panel Editor'
- The 'Layout Editor' is a vector based way to create a drawing that follows your layout plan and which auto captures much of the information required for Signaling.



Opening a new panel



The 'Control Panel Editor' is a graphic editor similar to 'Panel Editor', but with a more integrated interface. You may switch between these two graphic interfaces.

The traditional 'Panel Editor' is a pure graphic based solution that is well suited to making classic CTC panels like we will create for this clinic. It uses a seperate control window during editing.



Opening a demo panel



• We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but with simple signals.



ABS Relationships



- We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but with simple signals.
- The relationships between the signals and the layout are simple. (Simple Signal Logic)
 - Block Occupied = Stop
 - Turnout not aligned = Stop
 - Next signal Stop = Approach
 - Next signal Approach = Flash
 - None of the above = Clear



CTC Overlay



- We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but with simple signals.
- The relationships between the signals and the layout are simple. (Simple Signal Logic)
 - Block Occupied = Stop
 - Turnout not aligned = Stop
 - Next signal Stop = Approach
 - Next signal Approach = Flash
 - None of the above = Clear
- There are a few added options for linking in CTC panels but basicly this is the extent of the complexity.



ABS (Automatic Block Signals)



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- The relationships between the signals and the layout are simple. (Simple Signal Logic)
 - Block Occupied = Stop
 - Turnout not aligned = Stop
 - Next signal Stop = Approach
 - Next signal Approach = Flash
 - None of the above = Clear
- There are a few added options for linking in CTC panels but basicly this is the extent of the complexity.
 - This is ABS Route Signaling.







ABS (Automatic Block Signals)

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ABS (Automatic Block Signals)

This is ABS Route Signaling.



- The occupied block is protected by a red (stop) signal.
- The stop signal is protected by a yellow (approach) signal. I.e. You are approaching" a stop signal.
- The approach signal may optionally be protected by a flashing yellow 'Advance Approach' signal. If not one of the previous, then Clear.



- Speed Signaling gives the engineer information regarding how fast his train must travel in the upcoming segment of track. In general there are two speed zones in a signal block.
- The first zone is that portion of a block when any part of the train is in an interlocking section. For example, as defined in the CSX rules; "through turnouts, crossovers, sidings, and over power routed switches."
- The second speed zone is the speed allowed for the duration of the block.
- The "Name" of the signal aspect reflects these two different pieces of speed information. For example "Medium Clear" indicates; 'Medium speed through turnouts, crossovers, sidings, and over power routed switches; then proceed. "Medium Approach" indicates; 'Medium speed through turnouts, crossovers, sidings, and over power routed switches; then proceed, prepared to stop at next signal.



Speed Signal Rules

• The Speed based signal rules may sometimes be a bit more complex.



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- In this CSX example, a "Stop" aspect may be 'protected' by any of three different aspects. Approach, Medium Approach, or Slow Approach.





Speed Signal Rules

- The Speed based signal rules may sometimes be a bit more complex.
- In this CSX example, a "Stop" aspect may be 'protected' by any of three different aspects. Approach, Medium Approach, or Slow Approach.

This is the reason that JMRI now supports aspect based signaling.





Opening a new panel



 We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but without any signals.



Opening a new panel



- We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but without any signals.
- WARNING! If you are reusing an existing panel, be sure to remove all traces of any SSL logic and/or Logix code that may have previously been used on this panel.



Manual Edit

Using your favorite text editor, NOT a word processor, search for "<signalelement " and remove each entry and all of its included data. (Example highlighted in red), Other instances to remove shown in green.

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Opening a new panel



- We will start out with a panel representing the demo layout, but without any signals.
- WARNING! If you are reusing an existing panel, be sure to remove all traces of any SSL logic and/or Logix code that may have previously been used on this panel.
- Once you have a panel with your required detection and turnouts you can add your signal masts.



Opening a new panel



I have spaced out the track images and lever spacing to allow the fitting of the signal masts onto this demo panel.
Normally a CTC panel does not include any actual signal information, but for our purposes it makes things easier to understand.



Opening a new panel



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- I have only included the turnout and signal direction levers for these two interlocking points.



Opening a new panel



- I have spaced out the track images and lever spacing to allow the fitting of the signal masts onto this demo panel. Normally a CTC panel does not include any actual signal information, but for our purposes it makes things easier to understand.
- I have included the turnout and signal direction levers for two interlocking points.
- I have also included a pair of "Call On" switches and indicators to enable "restricting" moves using Logix.



Opening a new panel



These two levers are used to simulate off panel traffic information. 'Toward the center' is traffic "onto the panel", 'center' is "occupied" and 'away from center' is traffic "off of the panel".



Adding Signal Heads

Signal Head table

- The current version of JMRI 3.0 has the capability to create masts from individual signal heads, or to drive the RR-CirKits LNCP directly using aspects. We expect more support for aspect aware hardware in the future.
- Due to these limitations, if you are not using the LNCP hardware, you must first build a signal head table using the hardware that you do have available. The following example table is for a Digitrax SE8c signal driver.

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Reporters	IH:SE8C:"16";"17"	LH16	Dark	8L Upper	Delete			Edit			
Memory Variables	IH:SE8C:"19";"20"	LH19	Dark	6R Upper	Delete			Edit			
LRoutes	IH:SE8C:"21";"22"	LH21	Dark	6R Middle	Delete			Edit			
Logix	IH:SE8C:"24";"25"	LH24	Dark	6L Siding	Delete	✓		Edit			
Sections	IH:SE8C:"26";"27"	LH26	Dark	6L Main	Delete	\checkmark		Edit			
Transits	IH:SE8C:"29";"30"	LH29	Dark	2L	Delete			Edit			
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Adding Signal Masts

Signal Mast basics

 The signal mast (aspect based) signaling capability in JMRI uses the signal types themselves to determine the necessary rules of operation. This greatly simplifies the implementation of any signal system, but especially one that is more complex than the ABS signals supported by SSL. The intent is that, like Decoder definitions are currently added to DecoderPro, signal definitions will be added for each prototype RR rule book.


Signal Mast basics CSX Rules



The rules that we are using are taken from the CSX-1998 Signal Rules – 281-298.



Signal Mast basics CSX Rules



- The rules that we are using are taken from the CSX-1998 Signal Rules – 281-298.
- Especially note that each mast configuration can only indicate some, but not all of the possible rules.



Signal Mast basics CSX Rules



- The rules that we are using are taken from the CSX-1998 Signal Rules – 281-298.
- Especially note that each mast configuration can only indicate some, but not all of the possible rules.
- Specificly lets use the example of a single head dwarf signal. It can only show three rules; Slow Clear, Slow Approach, and Stop.
- Using Aspect Signaling; on your model you would simply select the single head dwarf and JMRI will automatically choose the correct aspects to use.



Signal Mast basics CSX Rules



If your turnout number allowed for Medium Clear and Medium Approach speeds, then you would simply use a double head dwarf with a red upper marker or a high mast with red upper marker. JMRI will then adjust to these new available aspects in creating its rules.



Signal Mast basics CSX Rules



- If your turnout number allowed for Medium Clear and Medium Approach speeds, then you would simply use a double head dwarf with a red upper marker or a high mast with red upper marker. JMRI will then adjust to these new available aspects in creating its rules.
- The real beauty of all this is that each rule includes the speed information, both through the interlocking, and once the train has cleared the interlocking. The JMRI automated throttles will obey these different speeds as determined by the aspects shown.



Opening a new panel



Lets place our first mast at the first block boundry for east (right) bound traffic.



Opening a new panel





Adding a mast





Adding a mast

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- Lets place our first mast at the first block boundry for east (right) bound traffic.
- Open the 'Tools' and select 'Tables' - 'Signals' - 'Signal Masts'.
- This opens the Signal Masts window. Click on "Add..." to create our first mast.
 - We will name the mast 2R and select the Signal System 'CSX-1998'. Note: as of the 3.0 release many signal systems are incomplete. Be sure to download the latest version to obtain the most complete rules available.



Adding a mast

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After selecting the desired signal system you need to select the specific mast used at this location. We will use the simple three color light high signal mast. Your options are limited by the types of mast arrangements used by your prototype. Be sure to select the mast type that can display the required aspects for this location.



Adding a mast

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After selecting the desired signal system you need to select the specific mast used at this location. We will use the simple three color light high signal mast. Your options are limited by the types of mast arrangements used by your prototype. Be sure to select the mast type that can display the required aspects for this location.

Once you select the type of mast you will need to enter the ID of the head/s that make up the mast. (top to bottom) In this case it only requires one head, LH31, which is already located in our signal head table.

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Add ...

Using Panel Editor

Adding a mast

Continue to add your masts noting that some masts will require two even three heads to configure properly.							e or			
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Transits		IF\$shsm:CSX-1998:CLS-3-hi(LH33)	4L	Stop	•	TK4 Left	Delete	Edit Logic		L
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- Continue to add your masts noting that some masts will require two or even three heads to configure properly.
- Once the mast table is
 built we can add the actual masts to our panel. Remember this part is not prototypical, but rather an aid to understanding and configuration.



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- Continue to add your masts noting that some masts will require two or even three heads to configure properly.
- Once the mast table is built we can add the actual masts to our panel. Remember this part is not prototypical, but rather an aid to understanding and configuration.
- From the Panel Editor window select Add Icon – Signal Mast.





- Continue to add your masts noting that some masts will require two or even three heads to configure properly.
- Once the mast table is
 built we can add the
 actual masts to our
 panel. Remember this
 part is not prototypical,
 but rather an aid to
 understanding and
 configuration.
- From the Panel Editor window select Add Icon – Signal Mast.
- Select the '2R' mast from those that we added.



Adding masts to a panel



The mast will appear in the usual place.





- The mast will appear in the usual place.
- Move it into position.





- The mast will appear in the usual place.
- Move it into position.
- Then rotate it into position. (90 degrees)





- The mast will appear in the usual place.
- Move it into position.
- Then rotate it into position. (90 degrees)
 - Again remember that the classic CTC panels did not have any indications showing any of the actual signal aspects. They did often include small signal images indicating the location of interlocking signals. Intermediate blocks were not shown at all except for special circumstances.



Adding masts to a panel



Continue by placing the remaining signal masts on your panel. The position doesn't matter other than making it easy for you to understand their relationship to the blocks and turnouts.



Adding masts to a panel

- D CP Clinic Edit Marker Warrants Window Help
- Continue by placing the remaining signal masts on your panel. The position doesn't matter other than making it easy for you to understand their relationship to the blocks and turnouts.

These end masts do not appear on the layout. They just represent the 'next' signal masts. They are required by the Aspect Signal system because the logic is entered by pairs of masts. They may be 'Stop' or 'Restricting' virtual masts as appropriate for the track. (end or dark)





- Once the masts are 'installed' on your panel,
 - click on one to bring up its menu. Select 'Signal Mast Logic'.





- Once the masts are 'installed' on your panel, click on one to bring up its menu. Select 'Signal Mast Logic'.
- This opens a 'Signaling
 Pairs' window for '2R'.
 Click 'Add Signal Logic' to complete this pair.



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- Once the masts are 'installed' on your panel, click on one to bring up its menu. Select 'Signal Mast Logic'.
- This opens a 'Signaling Pairs' window for '2R'. Click 'Add Signal Logic' to complete this pair.
 - First choose the destination signal for this pair. In this case it is easy because there is only one option, '4R'.



Adding logic to your masts

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Please select Sensors to be checked	Syste User Name User N	Include State
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- Once the masts are 'installed' on your panel, click on one to bring up its menu. Select 'Signal Mast Logic'.
- This opens a 'Signaling Pairs' window for '2R'. Click 'Add Signal Logic' to complete this pair.
 - First choose the destination signal for this pair. In this case it is easy because there is only one option, '4R'.

Now select the 'Sensors' tab and place a check by 'IS9:TK' which is the BOD for this block.



Adding logic to your masts

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		Sals and the life

We have not defined any 'Blocks', and there are no turnouts nor crossing tracks with extra masts to watch, so we are finished. Click on 'Update Signal Logic'.



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Please select	IS6:LDGK		InActive	
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	Update Signal Logic			

- We have not defined any 'Blocks', and there are no turnouts nor crossing tracks with extra masts to watch, so we are finished. Click on 'Update Signal Logic'.
- Actually for this demo I have added two other sensors to watch. The first is 'IS0:RDGL'
 (Internal Sensor 0: Right Direction siGnal Lever). The other is 'IS6:LDGK'
 (Internal Sensor 6: Left Direction siGnal indicaKator). These let me interact with the mast from the panel.



Adding logic to your masts



The real power of the new Aspect Signaling shows up when the masts get complex.



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Mast '6R' has two other masts that form pairs, depending on the route through the interlocking. The first is mast 8R-S on the siding. The other is mast 8R-M on the main.

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Adding logic to your masts

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- Mast '6R' has two other masts that form pairs, depending on the route through the interlocking. The first is mast 8R-S on the siding. The other is mast 8R-M on the main.
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 'Turnouts' LT5 Thrown.

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- Looking at the siding pair we have added the 'Turnouts' LT5 Thrown.

For 'Sensors' we look at the OS, the Siding, and the direction of traffic.





Rules

😣 – 💷 CP Clinic Edit Marker Warrants Window Help HENRY 6R (IF\$shsm:CSX-1998:CLS-3-2-hi(LH19)(LH21)(LH23)) 😕 — 💷 🛛 aspects.xml (file:///usr/local/JMRI/xml/signals/CSX-1998/aspects.xml) - Bluefish 2.0.2 File Edit View Document Go Project Tools Tags Dialogs Help Q Q_{2} \times 5 3 5 3 Quick bar Standard bar Fonts Tables Frames Forms List CSS 🖾 🖾 <!--> H. - **10** C Apache DHTML DocBook HTML PHP+HTML PHP Replace SQL <aspect> 📄 file:///usr/local 💲 48 <name>Approach Limited</name> 49 <rule>Rule 281-B</rule> · 📄 / 50 <indication>Proceed approaching next signal not exceeding Limited Speed.</indication> Image: 51 <speed>Normal</speed> V 📄 usr 52 <speed2>Limited</speed2> 53 <route>Normal</route> Iocal 54 </aspect> V 📄 JMRI 55 🔻 📄 xml 2 56 <aspect> 57 <name>Limited Clear</name> 🔻 📄 signals 58 <rule>Rule 281-C</rule> CSX-19 59 <indication>Limited Speed through turnouts, crossovers, sidings and over power-operated switches; then 🙆 appe 60 <speed>Limited</speed> <speed2>Normal</speed2> 🖉 appe 61 62 <route>Diverging</route> 🖉 appe 63 </aspect> 🙆 appe 64 65 <aspect> 🖉 appe <name>Limited Approach</name> 66 🖉 appe 67 <rule>Rule 281-D</rule> 🖉 appe 68 <indication>Limited Speed through turnouts, crossovers, sidings and over power-operated switches; then proceed, prepared to stop 69 <speed>Limited</speed> 🖉 appe 76 <speed2>Normal</speed2> 🖉 appe 71 <route>Diverging</route> aspec 72 </aspect> aspects.xml 🕱

The setup for the main track is just as easy.

All the 'rules' are built into the JMRI signal mast tables, and automatically applied as required by your specific railroad's rule book. No more need to support the dead tree and ink industries to purchase thick signal manuals plus years of study in engineering and computer science just to understand how to write your Logix.

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INS XMI LITE-8


• 1) Setup your track diagram in the Panel Editor or Layout Editor.



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- 2) Identify the type of signaling system you're trying to create speed based, route based or a bit of both?



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- 5) Setup your masts in the Signal Mast table.
- 6) Place the masts onto your panel.
- 7) Create the signal pairings so the logic will propagate from mast to mast.



Wrap up

- What we have covered so far:
 - Getting started Panel Editor
 - Adding a background image
 - Adding heads
 - Adding masts
 - Adding mast logic



- What we have covered so far:
 - Getting started Panel Editor
 - Adding a background image
 - Adding heads
 - Adding masts
 - Adding mast logic
- Where we are going:
 - Exploring a hardware stopping option.
 - Using a mix of JMRI and hardware for logic.



Questions?

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