



a PART of the story

Making electronic parts for automata

by Brian Smith • Burlington, Ontario, Canada • Photos by the author

While doing some research on model trains, I came upon a free e-book, *Electronics for Model Railways*, by Davy Dick, (<https://www.merg.org.uk/content/ebook>), put out by MERG, Model Electronic Railway Group.

**The technology: knowledge
Purpose: basic electronics
for automata**

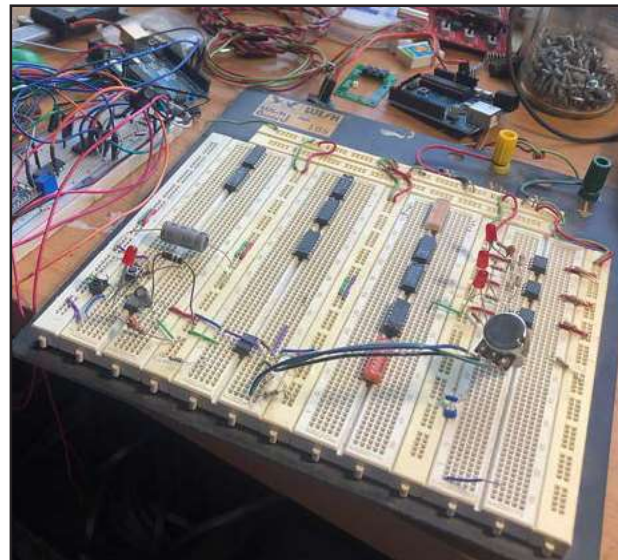
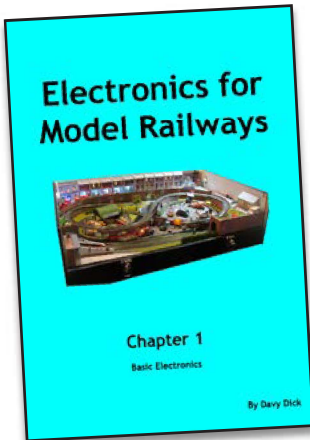
Animations, Construction Methods and many more. It is possible to simply download the chapters that are most pertinent.

MERG is a well established organization. If you have any questions or problems, you are welcome to join this group and get access to a community of experts. Many thanks to the author and MERG for making this book available. 📖

If you want to create an automaton that uses electronics, but do not know how, this book is for you. It is an excellent, cross discipline, how-to resource in electronics. It provides basic electronics knowledge and skills and covers a wide range of topics from basic circuit theory to more advanced concepts such as

microcontrollers and sensors. The fundamentals are well presented, and essential tools are given to continue building skills.

The book provides the knowledge and skills needed to build a wide variety of automata, and it can also serve as a source of inspiration. A sampling of chapters includes Basic Electronics, Motors and DC Controllers,



An electronics breadboard constructed by the author with help from the MERG book.

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Tell us about your projects, visits to places of automata interest, your collection, problems you have solved, or what-have-you. This fascinating field of endeavor encompasses all skill levels and you don't have to be an expert or fine craftsman to write an interesting story about your work. With automata, charm and concept are often as important as craftsmanship (sometimes more so!).

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