

Program Track Wiring For Safety

It is always best to have your track near your programming device (Command Station, SPROG, or Computer). For greater flexibility the track should be part of the layout trackage. The reason for this is to minimise handling of the fine detailed locos on your layout. To prevent a running loco from accidentally shorting the program track I have wired my section of track as shown in Fig. 1. The programming section needs to be 50% longer than your longest loco and the isolating section needs to be longer than your longest loco.

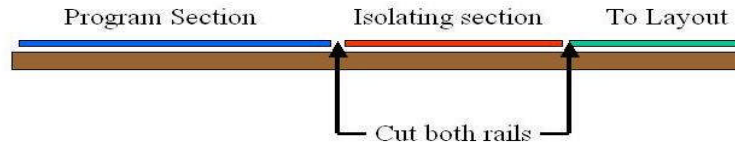


Fig 1.

Fig 2 shows how I connect the 4PDT (4 pole, double throw) switch to the track. When the switch is in the up position both sections of the track are connect to the layout and act as part of the layout. When the switch is down, the program track (BLUE) is connected to the program device and the Isolating section (RED) is totally disconnected and the LED turns on. The red LED can be a signal near the track, or mounted between the track, or on the front of the facia.

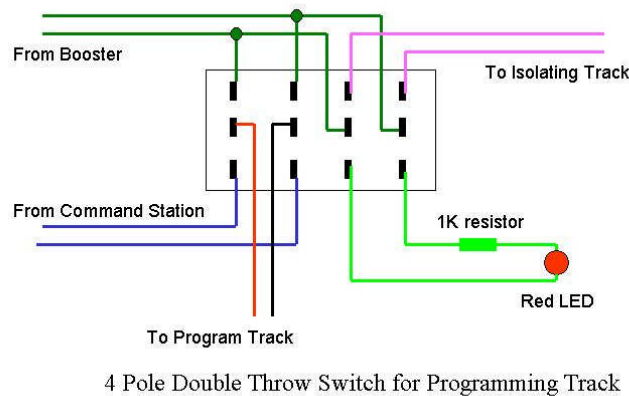


Fig 2.

Fig 3 shows how the switch is wired when using a Power Pax or Tsunami Booster

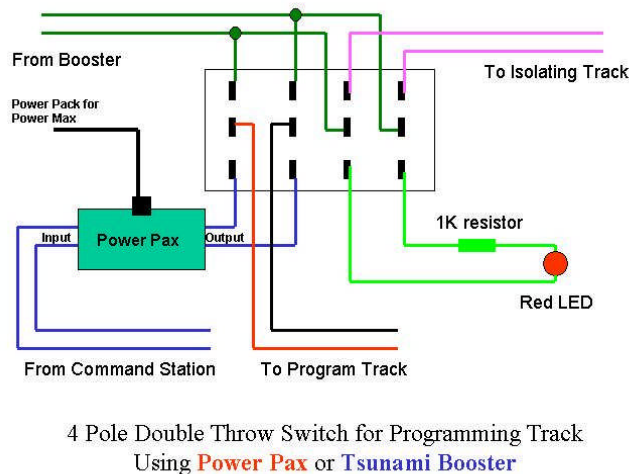


Fig 3