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**DIGITALZENTRALE**



Digitalzentrale

Digital control centre

User Manuel

Z21 ist eine Innovation von ***Roco*** & ***Fleischmann***.

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# Digital Control Centre

## Legal Notice

Please note the following cautions before using your Z21 Digital System:

- ▶ When combining ROCO or Fleischmann components with third-party products, the warranty for damage or malfunctions lapses.
- ▶ Any warranty claim lapses if the casings of the Z21 Digital Centre and Router are opened.
- ▶ Carry out all cabling works only when the power is switched off !
- ▶ Work carefully and make sure that no shortcircuits can occur when connecting the track system to the mains! Incorrect wiring can destroy the digital components. If necessary, consult your dealer.
- ▶ Positively do not connect an analogue transformer or other digital systems or centres to the same power circuit or neighbouring power circuits in parallel to digital control. This can result in the destruction of the Z21 Digital Centre!
- ▶ Do not use the Z21 Digital Centre with current ROCO amplifiers (e.g. Art. Nos. 10761 and 10764).



<https://www.moba.cc/de/legal/index.html>

## Imprint

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**Thank you for buying the Z21 Digital System of ROCO and Fleischmann!**

With the Z21 Digital System, model railway control is as easy and exciting as never before: locomotives, switches and digital components of ROCO and Fleischmann can be controlled easily and conveniently from your smartphone or tablet PC – ensuring maximum driving fun from the first moment! The Z21 Digital System is made up of three

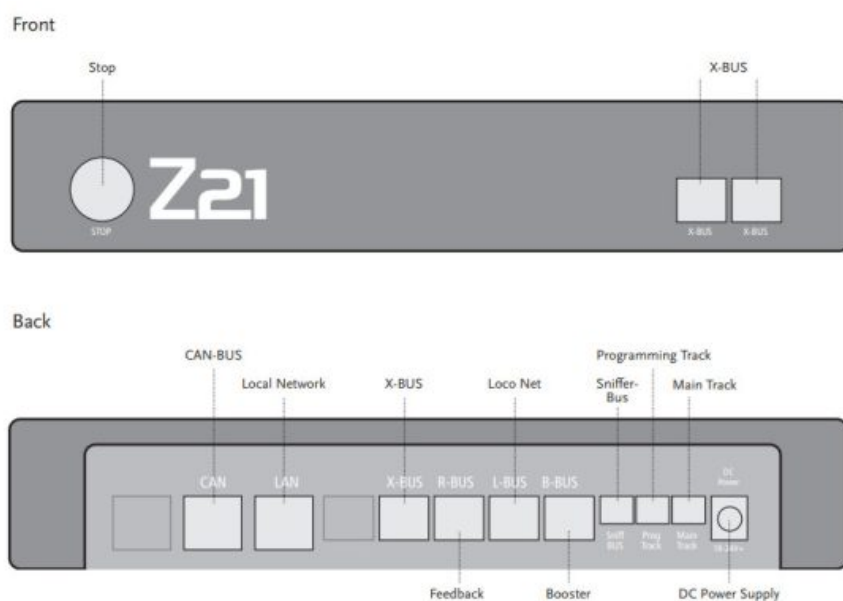
modules:

- The Z21 Digital Centre is a high-performing state-of-the-art multi-protocol centre. It integrates perfectly into your model layout and allows controlling locomotives and digital components easily and conveniently by smartphone, tablet PC or multiMAUS.
- The Z21 mobile app is a universal control software for Android and iOS-based smartphones and tablet PCs. With this app, you can control all locomotives with DCC or Motorola decoders and program loco libraries, entire locomotives, loco functions and digital components.
- The Z21 driver stands are apps with detailed reproductions of actual locomotive driver stands. Become a virtual loco driver – and run your favourite locomotive with your tablet PC from an exact virtual driver stand.

The following pages will explain everything you need to know to connect and operate the Z21 Digital System to your layout. In addition, the manual contains many practical tips for digital operation and you will learn which digital components of ROCO and Fleischmann can be combined with the Z21 Digital System.

You can see: We still have a lot to do. So let's go!

## Z21 Digital Centre Connections



## Unpack, Connect and Go

This manual shows you how to operate your Z21 Digital System and control your layout using the Z21 mobile and driver stand apps. Please prepare the following items:

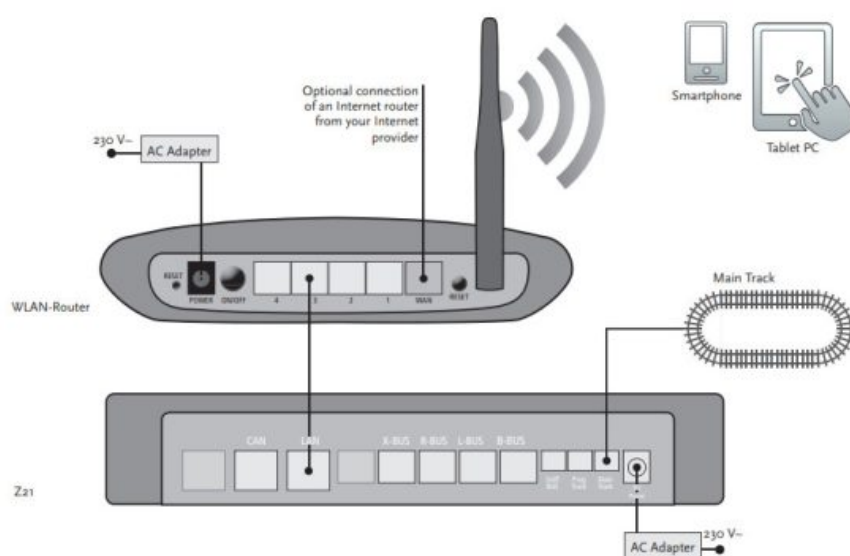
- the Z21 Digital Centre and the supplied AC adaptor

- the supplied WLAN router and the supplied AC adaptor
- the supplied network cable
- your smartphone or tablet PC with Internet access, optionally or additionally the multiMAUS (Art. No. 10810)

In addition, you will also need access to your ROCO and Fleischmann layout, ideally prepared with a powered track without capacitor, as e.g. Art. No. 61190 (geoLine), Art. No. 42517 (ROCOLine), Art. No. 22217 (Fleischmann N) or Art. No. 6430 (Fleischmann H0).

## 1.1 How to Connect Your Z21 Digital System

1. Place the Z21 Digital Centre into your system for good accessibility.
2. Connect the supplied clamping terminal to the powered track. Ensure good contact.
3. Plug the cable of your powered track into the track socket “Main Track” of the Z21 Digital Centre.
4. Connect the switching adaptor to the DC power socket “DC Power”.
5. Connect the switching adaptor of the Z21 Digital Centre to the mains power outlet.



Refer to pages 16 and following on what other ROCO and Fleischmann components can be used with the Z21 Digital Centre.

Z21 mobile app system requirements:

- iPad as of v1.3
- iPhone and iPod as of iOS 4.2
- Android devices as of v2.3

## 1.2 How to Start Your WLAN Router

Connect the Z21 Digital Centre to the supplied WLAN router to allow operating your

layout using external peripherals such as a smartphone or tablet PC.

1. Place the WLAN router on top of or next to the controller. Select a location to ensure a trouble-free connection between router and smartphone or tablet PC.
2. Connect the LAN port of the Digital Centre to a LAN port of the WLAN router using the supplied network cable.
3. If you have an Internet connection, you can optionally cable the WLAN router via a WAN port to the router of your Internet provider. This allows accessing the existing connection to the Internet from your smartphone or tablet PC to download updates or information.

Ready! Your Z21 Digital System is now ready for use. Next, you will learn how to install the Z21 mobile control app on your smartphone and how to connect your smartphone or tablet PC with the Z21 Digital Centre.

### **1.3 How to Install the Z21 Mobile App**

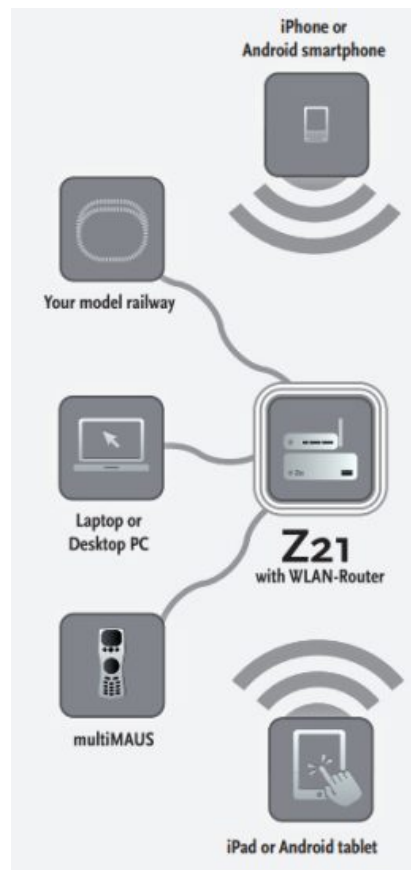
- ▶ Make sure that your smartphone or tablet PC is connected to the Internet.
- ▶ Register the smartphone or tablet PC with the Z21 WLAN. To register with Android or iOS systems, consult the manual of your peripheral device.
- ▶ When using an iPad (as of version 1.3) or an iPhone or iPod (as of iOS 4.2), use the AppStore.
- ▶ When using an android smartphone or tablet (as of version 2.3) phone, change to Google Play.
- ▶ Use the search function to look for the “Z21 Mobile”. Install the app.
- ▶ Start the app. The start-up screen displays. Let’s go!
- ▶ More on the operation of the Z21 Mobile App, see Pages 50 and following.

## **Z21 Digital Centre**

Start out into the future of model railway control with ROCO and Fleischmann: with the Z21 Digital Centre, you can control your layout from your smartphone or tablet PC with utmost convenience – maximum driving fun and uncompromising faithfulness to the original.

The state-of-the-art multiprotocol centre is the ideal control system for locos with DCC or Motorola decoder and the perfect control for your digital components. The Centre connects your layout and digital locos by WLAN with your smartphone or tablet PC and

the control apps installed in them, or optionally with one of our digital driver stand or the Z21 Mobile App.



- ▶ Controls up to 9,999 DCC loco decoders
- ▶ Controls up to 2,048 DCC switch decoders
- ▶ Adjustable, rectified track voltage (12-24 V, 3A) for smooth driving operation
- ▶ Compatible with multiMAUS models and Lokmaus 2
- ▶ Separate programming track connection with ZIMO decoder update
- ▶ Automatic loco detection and feedback via RailCom©
- ▶ Many interfaces: LAN, three X buses, loco feedback, Loco Net, CAN and Booster Bus, Sniffer Bus
- ▶ Software and sound updates via smartphone



**Warning:** Positively do not connect an analogue transformer to the power circuit of your digital system! Destruction of the Z21 Digital Centre would be the result!

## 2.1 Connection of Additional Control Devices

You will probably prefer to control your Z21 Digital System from your smartphone or tablet PC. But if you want to share control with others or do not have your smartphone at hand, you can also connect your current multiMAUS or local mouse control devices to the X Bus sockets of the Z21 Digital Centre.

Each of these control devices can interface with all locos and digital components. This allows controlling at any time locos controlled by other devices by selecting any function of the corresponding loco or the loco controller from your Z21 mobile app.

## 2.2 Compatibility with ROCO and Fleischmann Components

The Z21 Digital Centre can be connected without problem to all ROCO and Fleischmann digital devices, based on the ROCONet or the X Bus protocol. These include:

- ▶ multiMAUS, Lokmaus 2 and Lokmaus R3 (Art. No. 10760, 10790, 10860 and 10792)
- ▶ Keyboard (Art. No. 10770) and RouteControl (Art. No. 10772)
- ▶ ROCO booster (not RailCom© compatible, Art. No. 10762 and 10765)
- ▶ For further information on compatibility, see online [www.Z21.eu](http://www.Z21.eu).

## 2.3 Power Supply for the Z21 Digital Centre

As a power supply for the Z21 Digital Centre, please use exclusively the supplied AC adaptor (Art. No. 10851). Positively do not use a wound-core transformer!

With the Z21 Digital System, you can modify the voltage applied to your system at any time by software.

For this purpose, change to the menu “Z21 Settings” in the Z21 mobile app. Always make sure to stay in 11 to 23 V range. Typical voltage ranges are from 14 to 18 V (for the gauges H0 and TT) and approx. 12 V (for the gauge N).

Maximum input voltage for the Z21 Digital System is 24 V. The maximum track voltage is always 1 V below the input voltage.

The Z21 Digital Centre is designed for loads of up to 3.2 A. If frequent power cuts occur in the system due to overloads, please install a booster (see Page 46).

**Note:** To find out the current power consumption of your system, check the menu point “Power Centre” in the “Z21 Settings” menu of the Z21 mobile app.



**Warning:** Positively do not connect the Z21 Digital Centre to ROCO amplifiers Art. Nos. 10761 and 10764! Use these components only on electrically separate layout parts connected only by transition tracks.



**Note:** How to compute the power consumption of an H0 system:

- ▶ Stationary locos with light: approx. 100 mA
- ▶ Travelling locos depending on size and load: 300 – 600 mA
- ▶ Illuminated coaches: approx. 30 mA per minibulb (expect considerable fluctuations!)
- ▶ Digital coupling or smoke generator: approx. 100 mA
- ▶ Digital switch drive or switch decoder: approx. 500 mA as reserve



**Note:** Easy programming of your loco decoder

- ▶ Place loco onto programming track
- ▶ Start the Z21 mobile app
- ▶ Switch to programming mode
- ▶ Enter the new parameters
- ▶ Ready!

## **2.4 Operation of Digital Locomotives**

The Z21 Digital System is suitable for the control of all locomotives using ROCO loco decoders or any DCC-compatible decoders. Your Z21 Digital System can administer up to 9,999 loco decoders. The preconfiguration by the factory of all ROCO and Fleischmann locos is decoder address 3. If you use several locos on your system simultaneously, you need to assign a separate decoder address to each one.

With the Z21 Digital System, this is very simple: put the locomotive as the only loco onto the programming track. Select the locomotive on Z21 mobile app and give it a name and decoder address not yet assigned in the programming mode. That's it!

All magnetic items (switches, decoupling tracks, signal decoders) equipped with a digital decoder can be programmed and controlled with the Z21 mobile app just as easily.

## **2.5 Upgrading of Analogue Locomotives**

Locomotives and components without decoder cannot be used in the Z21 Digital System.

Due to the entirely different voltage supply, the use of a non-decoder loco results in a highly irritating high-frequency noise. In addition, there is a risk that the motors will be damaged.

However, many analogue models can be refitted with loco decoders and so made suitable for use on your Z21 layout. With locomotives with a free slot and an operational digital interface, this is very simple and easy because as a rule, the decoder merely needs to be plugged into a free socket.

## **2.6 Resetting the Z21 Digital Centre**

If your digital system no longer operates flawlessly, please reset your Z21 Digital Centre to the factory setting as follows:

- ▶ Press the stop key on the front of the unit.
- ▶ Keep the key depressed for 5 seconds. The LED light starts flashing in purple.

This shows the Z21 Digital Centre has been reset to the factory setting. If the digital system still does not operate flawlessly, contact your dealer.



## 2.7 Update of Z21 Digital Centre

When your smartphone or tablet PC is connected to the Internet, you can search for apps and the Z21 firmware in the “Updates” section of software updates at the AppStore and Google Play.



**Note:** You can have your locomotives converted in a professional workshop.

For a list of recommended suppliers, see [www.ROCO.cc/en/service-partner](http://www.ROCO.cc/en/service-partner).



**Warning:** Locomotives and components without decoder cannot be used on the Z21 Digital System.



**Note:** The firmware of your Zimo loco decoder can be updated very conveniently via the programming track. For this purpose, simply drive the respective locomotive to the programming track. In the Z21 mobile app, switch to programming mode and select the menu item “Decoder Update.”



**Warning:** Only one loco can be read out and/or programmed at the same time.



**Note:** When setting the length of the programming track, take the longer tenders of steam locomotives into account!

## 2.8 Programming and Read-Out Track

As long as you wish to program one single loco decoder, you can program it directly on the main track. For this purpose, simply mark the loco in the Z21 mobile app, switch to programming mode and change the desired parameters.

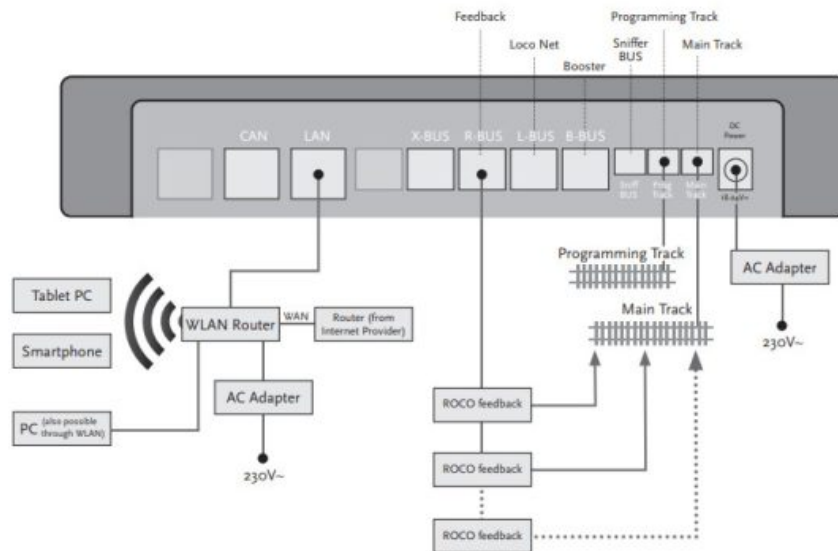
If you want to read the decoder settings or do not know the decoder address anymore, we recommend the use of a separate programming track.

You can use any partial section of your layout as a programming track – simply isolate it on both ends with insulated rail connectors (Art. Nos. 42611, 61192, 6433 or 9403) or separator rails and then connect it to a power supply element (Art. No. 61190) at the “Prog Track” socket of the Digital Centre.

To program a loco, simply drive it to the corresponding track section. Then change your Z21 mobile app to programming mode (for details, see [www.z21.eu](http://www.z21.eu)). The Z21 Digital Centre now switches the track automatically into programming and read mode.

You can now read the decoder data of the locomotive in the Z21 mobile app via RailCom© and set new CV values for the locomotive. For details, also see [www.z21.eu](http://www.z21.eu).

## 2.9 Feedback at Programming and Main Track



⚠ If power consumption exceeds 2.5 A, the section is overloaded and must be divided.

⚠ **Warning:** The booster and the Z21 Digital Centre must not be operated with the same transformer or AC adaptor!

⚠ Make sure that at the change-over turnouts, the tracks have the same polarity to avoid shortcircuits when driving over the separating turnouts. Make sure that powered tracks have no capacitors.

## Driving with a Booster

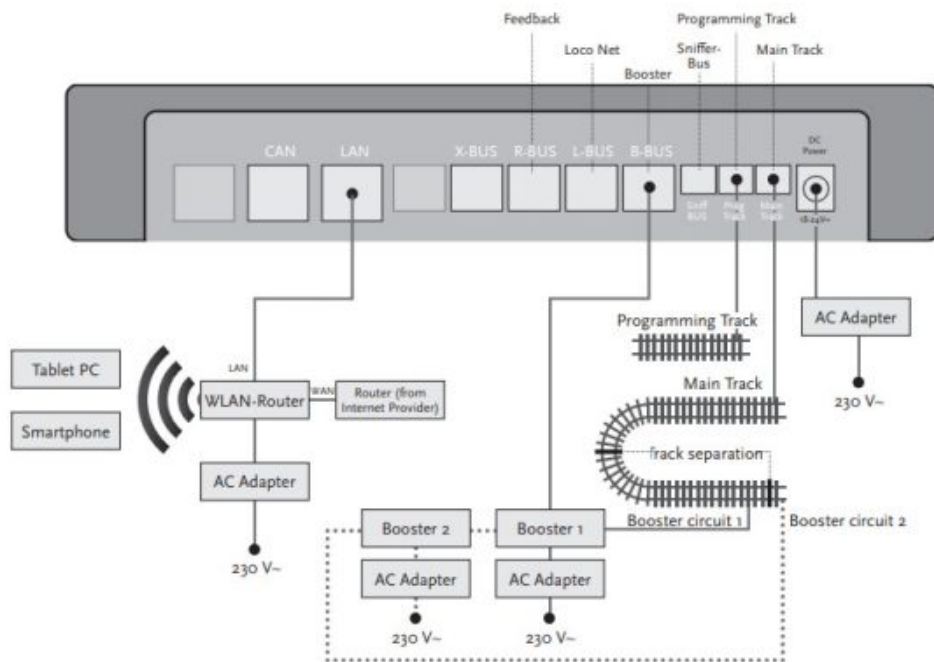
When your system turns off frequently without a loco or coach having derailed or in the absence of a wiring error, as a rule this suggests an overload due too many power consumers. In this case, a booster (Art. No. 10765) which supplies extra power to the layout via an extra transformer (Art. No. 10718, 10725 or 10850) will help.

Installation is simple:

- ▶ Subdivide your system into two supply sections having approximately the same power consumption. Separate the tracks on both sides using insulated rail connectors (Art. No. 42611, 61192, 6433 or 9403) or separator tracks.
- ▶ Attach a power supply element to the new supply section (e.g. geoLine Art. No. 61190) or another separator track and connect it to the “Track Out” socket of the booster.
- ▶ Now connect the booster to its transformer.
- ▶ Connect the “Booster In” socket on the booster with the “B Bus” socket of the Z21 Digital Centre. Use the dedicated cable supplied with the booster for this purpose. A

detailed cabling diagram is found on Page 47.

You can connect up to three more boosters to the “Booster Out” socket of the booster when necessary. If more than four boosters are needed for your layout, a brake generator (Art. No. 10779) must be connected in place of the fourth booster. Up to four more boosters can then be connected to the “Booster Out” socket.



Note: To make sure that the loop module responds quickly enough, the sensitivity must be set prior to operation using the potentiometer visible at the side. Observe operating instructions.

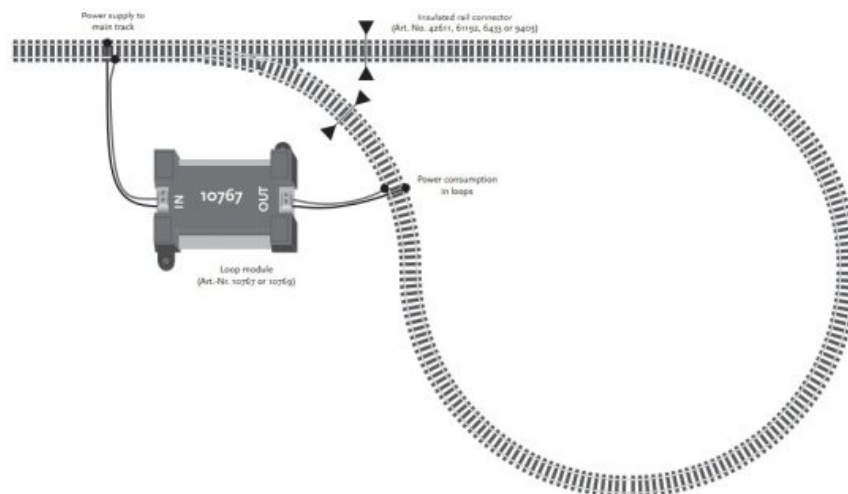
## Loops in Digital Operation

Every DC railway enthusiast knows the following problem: if after a loop, the left rail profile meets the right one, a shortcircuit occurs without the appropriate wiring.

With our loop modules (Art. No. 10767 or 10769), this switching problem in digital operation is elegantly taken care of: simply separate the loop on both sides on two poles and insulate the rest using insulated connectors (Art. No. 42611, 61192, 6433 or 9403) electrically from the remainder of the layout (see Page 49). The separated layout portion within the loop must be longer than the longest train which is to drive through the loop. The power to the loop is supplied by the loop module which is connected either to the track outside the loop or to the Z21 Digital Centre.

And this is how the loop module works: as soon as a train enters the loop regardless of the direction, shortcircuit detection occurs in the module. The polarity in the loop is automatically changed before the shortcircuit detection of the Digital Centre is aware of it

or before the train slows down. The polarity reversal is repeated when the train leaves the loop. Thus, the train can pass through a loop without stopping or operator intervention.



**Note:** You can get a Z21 Mobile App free of charge in the AppStore from Apple or from Google Play. System requirements:

- ▶ iPad v1.3 or later
- ▶ iPhone and iPod iOS 4.2 or later
- ▶ Android devices v2.3 or later



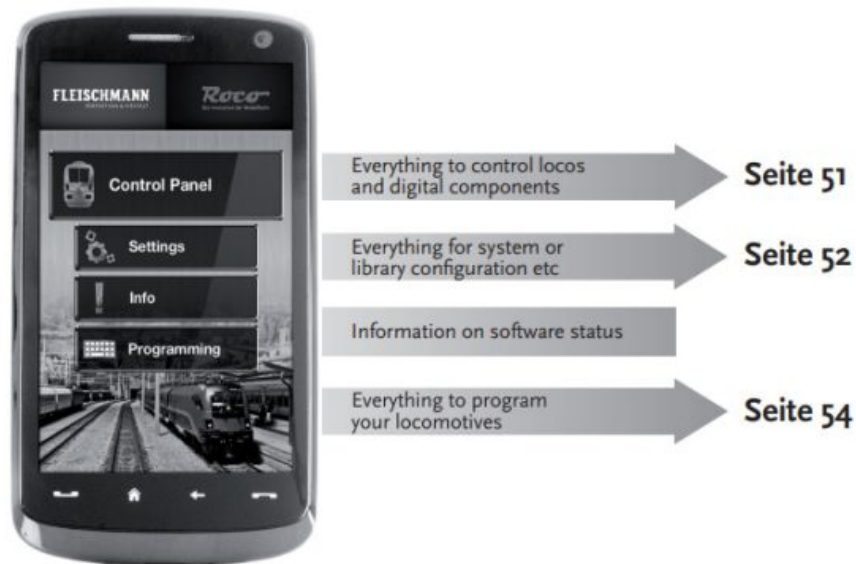
**Note:** Illustrations may vary depending on display size or updates!



**Note:** The function selection of apps is constantly extended by regular updates!

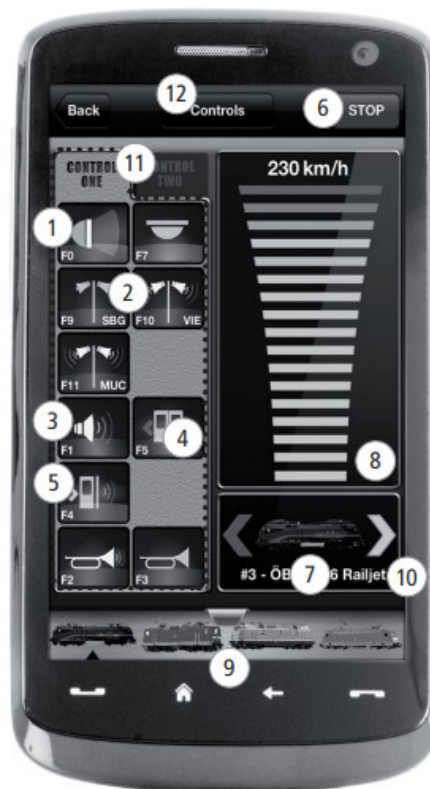
## Z21 Mobile App: First Steps

On the following pages, you will learn everything you need to know to control your digital locomotives using the Z21 Mobile App via your smartphone or tablet PC. When you start the Z21 Mobile App, you see the following start-up screen



## 5.1 Controls

The registry card “Controls” of the Z21 Mobile App allows controlling all digital locomotives of your layout conveniently by touch. The surface is designed for unambiguous and intuitively comprehensible ergonomically laid out icons:



### Functions (loco-specific):

1. Front lights on/off
2. Station announcements
3. Locomotive sound on/off
4. Doors opening
5. Door noise

6. Emergency stop
7. Selected loco
8. Speed display
9. Loco library fast access
10. Direction indication/change
11. Function panel
12. Driver stand



### Highlights:

- ▶ Universal control for all digital locomotives
- ▶ Convenient access to all loco functions
- ▶ Quick exchange of locomotives
- ▶ Precise speed control



### Highlights:

- ▶ All important system parameters at a glance
- ▶ Customized configuration of Apps and Z21 Digital Centre
- ▶ Clear intuitive user-friendly service
- ▶ Flexible import and export options

## 5.2 Settings

This register card allows entering all major settings into your Z21 Digital System, from basic system configuration via Z21 centre settings up to the definition of customized parameters for your loco library.



## 5.3 Locomotive Library

Build yourself a complete library of your locomotives in the Z21 Mobile App. This makes it easy to change trains and guarantees an optimal control of your collection at all times.



### Highlights:

- Clearly arranged library of all your digital models
- Supports an unlimited number of entries
- Assigns individual names and/or nicknames
- Deposit your own loco images for an optimal overview



### Highlights:

- Clear access to major loco settings
- Quick assignment of loco addresses
- Easy orientation for new model railway fans



**Note:** To store any changes, touch the button “Store”. To undo any changes, touch the button “Locomotives” at the top left.

## 5.4 Programming Loco Settings

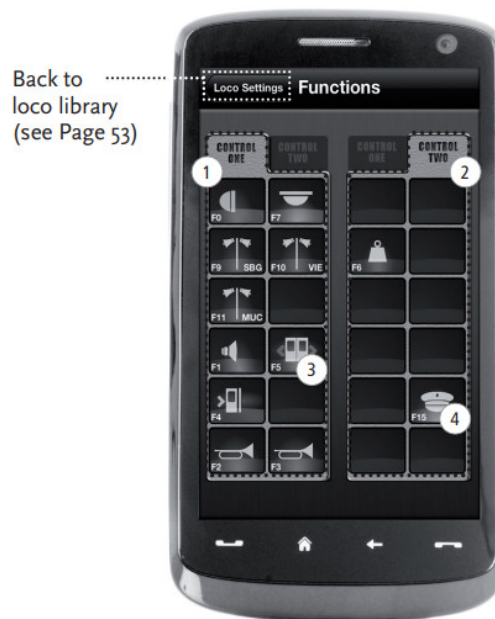
You can lay down the basic settings for each of your locomotives in the register card “Loco Settings”. Only the most important parameters are given here. This allows even beginners to quickly find their way.





## 5.5 Access to Loco Functions

Through the register card “Functions”, you can access the digital functions of your locomotives easily and quickly. Instead of having to input complicated codes, just touch the unambiguous icons – makes driving trains twice the fun.



### Loco Functions:

1. Function Panel 1
2. Function Panel 2
3. Function icon
4. Function name



### Highlights:

- Quick access to all digital functions of your locos
- Activation by touch



- ▶ Intuitive icons ensure easy handling
- ▶ Customized arrangement of icons on two panels
- ▶ Configurable function names help keeping track



### Notes on Operation:

- ▶ To create a new function, touch an empty field in the panel.
- ▶ To relocate functions, drag over to the desired field.
- ▶ To delete a function, keep it depressed until “X” appears, then touch the “X”.



### Highlights:

- ▶ Fast access to key function parameters
- ▶ Customized locomotive configuration
- ▶ Easy programming by touch
- ▶ Support of individual functions

## 5.6 Assignment of Digital Functions

This allows you to assign, name and program the digital functions of your locomotives in a few steps.



## 5.7 Setting and Handling of Magnetic Items

With this menu, you can set up and switch digital magnetized items on the layout quickly and conveniently.

Switches, signals and other digital components can be controlled easily with your fingertips.



Back to  
settings  
(see Page 52)

1. Create background image
2. Create new article
3. Change size
4. Rotate
5. Delete
6. Briefly tap touch magnetized items to configure. Touch magnetized items longer to change sizes and angles.



### Highlights:

- Easy control of all magnetized articles on the layout
- Switch management by touch
- Visualization with customized background images
- For switches, signals and all other digital components



### Highlights

- Reproduction of historical driver stands for maximum driving fun
- Select the desired speed for every kind of drive, from beginner to pro
- Fade out your own background images and slideshows to create the perfect atmosphere
- Download current driving data from the decoder via RailCom©

- ▶ Steam, diesel and E-loco driving stands available in the AppStore and from Google Play (as of July 2012)
- ▶ Further apps on major new products and long-term favourites in preparation
- ▶ For iPads v1.3 and over and Android tablets v2.3 or over

## View from the Driver Stand

Get aboard and control your loco from an exactly reproduced virtual loco stand. Maximum driving fun guaranteed!

The model-specific driver stand apps are controlled by simply touching the clearly laid out operating elements. Slide your finger over the virtual accelerator and the locomotive starts putting on speed. Touch the signal horn and the characteristic locomotive sound will appear. The headlights, interior illumination and all other digital functions of our assortment can be operated just as easily.

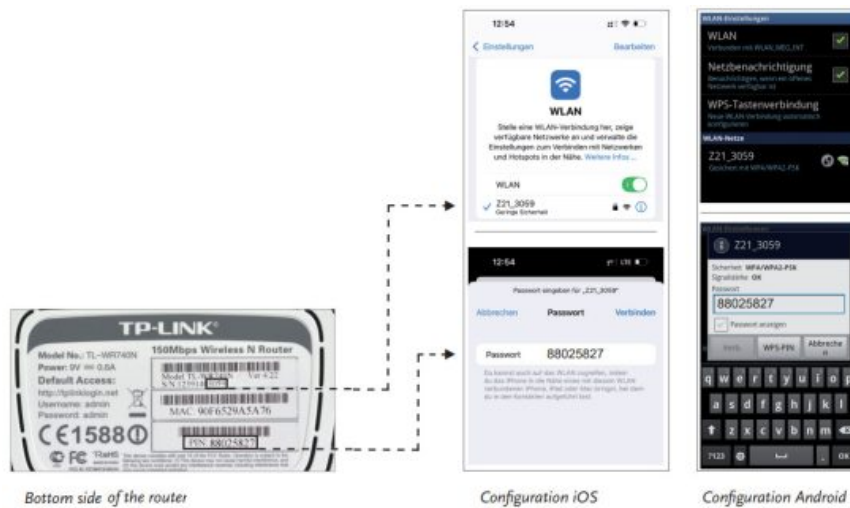
Photo-realistic driver stands are available in the AppStore or from Google Play. Further driver stand apps will soon follow – for many favourites of our assortment and for all major current novelties.



## Connect to WLAN

In order to control your Z21 Digital System via smartphone or tablet PC, connect your device to the supplied WLAN router:

- ▶ Connect the Z21 Digital Centre and the router as described in the Quick Start Guide.
- ▶ The Z21 WLAN network appears in the list of all available networks.
- ▶ The Z21 network is named “Z21\_wxyz”, with “wxyz” being the final four digits of the serial number of your router (as stated at the bottom side of the router, within the “S/N” box).
- ▶ Tap the network name.
- ▶ Enter the PIN to join the network.
- ▶ Find the PIN at the bottom side of the router, within the “PIN” box.
- ▶ Done!



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<https://www.z21.eu/de/impressum>

International: +43 820 200 668

local tariff for landline, mobile phone max. 0,42€/min. incl. VAT

8010820920 I/2025

We reserve the right to change the construction and design!



[www.z21.eu](http://www.z21.eu)



Alter/Age

14+

## Documents / Resources



[Z21 Digital Control Centre \[pdf\]](#) User Manual

8010820920-i-2025, 8010820920 I\_2025, Digital Control Centre, Control Centre, Centre

## References

- [User Manual](#)

8010820920 I\_2025, 8010820920-i-2025, Centre, Control Centre, Digital Control Centre,

Z21 Z21

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