STEAM TENDER PROGRAMMING Q&A

To clarify any confusion regarding whether the larger tender circuit board is a decoder, this Q&A aims to resolve potential issues when programming your Fox Valley Models steam locomotive by ScaleTrains.com.

Q: Does the tender of my Fox Valley Models steam locomotive have its own decoder?
A: Yes. The tender is equipped with a basic decoder specifically for controlling its lighting. This is a function-only decoder that operates via DCC function commands. The tender decoder should have the same address as the locomotive.

Q: How do I program the decoder in my locomotive's tender?
A: You can program the decoder either on the main track or on a programming track. To minimize programming issues, it is recommended to program the tender separately from the locomotive. The programming process and CV addresses used for the tender decoder are the same as those for the locomotive.

Q: How do I reset the tender decoder?
A: To reset the decoder, place the tender alone on the programming track of your DCC system and set CV8 = 8. This restores the tender to its default settings. If using a LokProgrammer, reset the decoder by manually setting CV8 = 8 using individual CV programming. Do not use the drop-down menu option under "Programmer > Reset Decoder"–this may introduce incorrect values that require correction before the decoder functions properly.

Q: What are the default CV values for the tender decoder?
A: The tender decoder uses the same programming structure as the locomotive's decoder for setting short (CV1) and long (CV17 & 18) addresses. However, because the tender does not require advanced motor control, its CV29 values differ:

- Short address: CV29 = 6 (default)
- Long address: CV29 = 38

Q: What if I used the LokProgrammer drop-down menu and my decoder no longer has the correct factory settings?
A: If this happens, you can download the OEM tender file (file number 12698) from our website under the J-class model Product Support section. If a programmer is unavailable, manually reset the decoder using the default CV29 setting and the appropriate short or long address on your DCC programming track. The CV1, CV17 and CV18 settings below for the locomotive are the same default settings for the tender. Only CV29 is different in the tender and locomotive.

This Q&A focuses on the J-class tender decoder, it's also helpful to have the default addressing CVs for the locomotive.

J-class Locomotive Default Address Settings:

- CV1 = 3
- CV17 = 192
- CV18 = 128
- CV29 = 14

Refer to pages 13 and 14 of the J-class manual for programming the V5 decoder inside the locomotive. **The tender does not need to be on the programming track when programming the locomotive.**

For further assistance, contact our Customer Support team at: **support@scaletrains.com**