

# USER MANUAL FOR ATLAS HO DUAL-MODE 4-FUNCTION DCC DECODER (ITEM #342)

By Dual Mode™, we mean that the Atlas' #342 HO 4-function decoder has a jumper plug that allows the modeler to select between DC-only operation or DCC and DC operation. With the plug in the DC-only position, a decoder equipped locomotive runs on a standard DC powered (analog) layout with no speed differential when compared to a similar non-decoder-equipped locomotive.

The #342 HO Dual-Mode™ 4-function decoder can be used with all popular NMRA-compliant DCC systems. This decoder is in full conformance with all NMRA Standards and Recommended Practices and has been augmented to work well with all major DCC systems on the market.

It can be installed in most Atlas HO scale engines with a motor-mounted lighting board produced since 1985 except for the S-series Alco switchers and the AEM-7/ALP-44 locomotives and may also be installed in a number of locomotives from other manufacturers. Please note that this decoder does NOT fit into Atlas HO Silver Series locomotives. Atlas Silver Series locomotives are the DCC-ready counterparts of DCC-and-sound-equipped Gold Series locomotives. The reason why it does not fit is that the #342 decoder is too long to fit into the opening in an Atlas HO Silver Series chassis.

Although the #342 decoder has been discontinued and is no longer available from Atlas, this document is being re-issued to provide modelers who have older Atlas HO Master Series HO locomotives equipped with 342 decoders with an up to date user manual.

As substitutes for the no longer available #342, Atlas recommends either the NCE DA-SR or the TCS A4X. Both of these decoders are drop-in replacements for the #342 decoder, and both the DA-SR decoder and the A4X decoders have many more features than the #342 decoder had.



Item #342 (**DISCONTINUED**)  
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The Atlas 4-function decoder has most of the features that you would expect from a modern high-end DCC decoder:

- Dual Mode (DC-only or DCC-and-DC) Operation
- Two on/off DCC function outputs with a current rating of 100 mA each that can be configured for directional or independent (Rule 17) lighting. This lighting is dimmable with DCC function keys. Moreover, each output may optionally be configured as a Gyro light, Mars light, single pulse Strobe light, or double-pulse Strobe light.
- Two additional function outputs that may be configured for independent operation or as *Ditch Lights* with an adjustable blink rate. These outputs may be controlled via DCC functions 1 through 8.
- Supports both short (2-digit) and long (4-digit) addressing.
- Advanced consist control (operating and controlling several locomotives as if they were a single entity by sending speed and direction commands to a common consist address that is stored in the decoder of every locomotive in the consist (i.e., *Advanced Consisting*).
- Support for all forms of programming described in NMRA RP 9.2.3, including *Operations Mode* programming (programming on the main line).
- Full support for all the various motor speed-step modes, including the 128 speed-step mode.
- Choice of *Silent Drive* or *Precision Glide* motor control.
- Operation on conventional DC layouts while the decoder is in DCC Mode may be disabled.
- Decoder provides 1A continuous motor current.
- Size: 2.88" L x 0.68 W" x 0.26" H (40.5mm L x 17mm W x 3.3mm H).

### ANALOG/DCC JUMPER PLUG

The position of the jumper plug determines the mode of the decoder. (See the figure on page 4.) To operate the decoder the *Analog (DC only) mode*, move the jumper plug to the four holes closest to the *end of the decoder marked "Rear"* in the figure on page 4. Conversely, to operate the decoder in *Digital Mode* (either DCC or DC), move the jumper plug to the four holes in the PC board that are closest to the *center of the locomotive*, as also shown in the figure on page 4. Make certain that the 8-pin plug is firmly inserted into all four holes in the locomotive PC board.

## Preparing to Install the Dual-Mode 4-Function Decoder

Before installing the #342 decoder in your locomotive, it is necessary to test (and adjust, if necessary) the locomotive for proper operation on conventional DC power. Replace any worn-out parts, such as brushes. Also clean any dirt or oxidation from the wheels and pickups to in order to insure that electrical contact is good. Now is also a good time to lubricate your locomotive. A locomotive that runs well under conventional DC will also run exceptionally well under DCC.

## Precautions to Take When Installing the Decoder

### Decoder Output Current Draw

An internal rectifier supplies the current for all the decoder outputs and has a maximum current rating of 1.2 amps (motor plus function outputs). Moreover, each individual function output is limited to a maximum of 100 ma. Although summing up the individual current limits leads to a number larger than 1.2 amps, the sum of all currents to the motor and the four function outputs cannot exceed this limit of 1.2 amps.

#### **Example:**

The motor may require as much as 1.0 Amp, continuously. Hence, the current draw of all function outputs combined must not exceed 0.2 A. For example, if a directional front headlight on Function A requires 50 mA, then the load on Functions B, C and D must not exceed 150 ma.

### Function Output Voltage

The voltage at the four function outputs is about two volts less than the DCC track voltage or about 12 to 13 volts with a nominal 14.5 volts on the track. The light bulbs or LEDs that are factory-installed in Atlas locomotives already take this voltage into account. However, any time you connect an after-market LED

to one of these function outputs, you must make sure there is a 1000 ohm resistor in series with one lead of this LED.

**IMPORTANT WARNINGS!** Although the #342 decoder has many internal safeguards to prevent damage, please follow these guidelines:

1. **DO NOT allow any metal part of the locomotive to touch any metallic part on the #342 decoder PC board.** This action could cause a direct internal short circuit, and the decoder will be destroyed.
2. **DO NOT WRAP the decoder with electrical tape or shrink-wrap!** Doing so will impede air circulation and degrade the performance of the decoder. Instead, put Kapton tape (preferably) or electrical tape over any part of the locomotive frame or body that might touch metal parts on the decoder. This method of insulation will prevent short circuits without 'suffocating' the decoder.
3. **After removing all connections from the original light board, there must be no electrical connection between the motor and the rail pickups.**
4. If you need to extend any wires leads, use 26 gauge stranded insulated wire; Solder the splice; and insulate all soldered connections with very thin heat-shrink tubing.
5. Solder using a **low** (20 to 25 watts max) wattage or temperature controlled soldering iron with a very fine tip, any wires you need to connect to the four function FC and function FD soldering tabs on the 4-function decoder

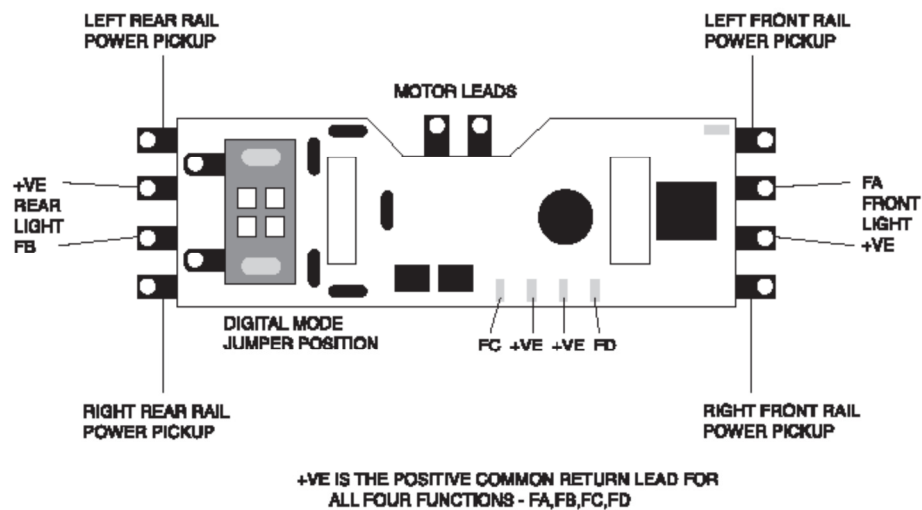
## Step by Step Installation

The #342 4-function DCC decoder is designed to be installed in locomotives that have a motor-mounted light board (except for Atlas Silver Series locomotives). It may also be installed in locomotives without a motor-mounted light board by connecting 26 gauge or finer wire leads to the decoder terminals using the supplied wire retainers.

The following steps are for installation in Atlas decoder-ready HO locomotives (except for Atlas Silver Series locomotives). The steps for installation into other manufacturer's locomotives may vary.

1. Remove the shell from your locomotive. (Refer to the locomotive manufacturer's instructions.)
2. Remove the weights to allow access to the wire retainers. (See your locomotive parts diagram for location of weights.)
3. **NOTE THE POSITION OF THE RED & BLACK MOTOR WIRE LEADS** (left vs. right). You will need to connect these wires to the decoder in the same positions as they were connected to the light board.
4. Remove the 10 wire retainers from the terminals on the light board. Then remove the wires from the light board.
5. Remove the light board by pushing one of the black motor mount extensions toward the center of the light board, and lift the light board off the motor mount. Remove the light board from the other motor mount.
6. Locate the front of the Dual Mode Decoder and position the decoder over the locomotive. Place one of the holes in the DMD over one motor mount and pull towards the other motor mount. Then lower the 4-function decoder in place.
7. Insert the two wires from the front and from the rear headlights through the holes in the center pair of terminals on the front and rear ends of the decoder. If the lights are LEDs, refer to the diagram on page 4 for the proper polarity. (Reversed polarity causes no harm, but the LED will not light.) Install wire retainers over each terminal to hold the associated wire in place.
8. Connect the four wires from the trucks to the four terminals on the four corners of the decoder and install wire retainers over each terminal.
9. Connect the motor wires to the terminals on the side of the decoder in the same positions as they were on the light board, and install wire retainers over each terminal.
10. NOTE: The wire retainers should be installed with the notched side up.

11. Place the locomotive (without its body shell) on your DCC programming track, and read back the locomotive's address from the decoder. (Refer to your DCC system's instructions.) If the decoder is properly installed, you will be able to read back the factory pre-set address "3." If your DCC system does not support reading decoder properties, observe carefully the decoder's behavior while the locomotive is on an isolated programming track. Each time you try to program the decoder, you should see the acknowledgement that is sent by the decoder in the form of a brief and minor jerk of the locomotive. A successful acknowledgement means that you have installed the decoder correctly. If the decoder is installed correctly, you may program the address and other parameters as desired.
12. If the decoder has been installed incorrectly, you will receive an error code. Remove the locomotive from the programming track, and correct any installation errors.
13. Once you have successfully programmed the decoder, reinstall the weights and the body shell. Then test the locomotive on the mainline. Be sure to test all functions. If this test is successful, the locomotive is ready to use.



**Top View of Atlas #342 4-Function Decoder Showing Locations of the Function Outputs**

## Programming the Dual-Mode 4-Function Decoder

Many characteristics of the #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder can be programmed to customize the decoder to its locomotive. Please read *The Configuration Variables and their Definitions* section for details on the configuration variables supported by the 4-function DMD. The 4-function #342 decoder supports all forms of programming described in NMRA Recommended Practice 9.2.3, including both the user-friendly *Direct Mode* on the program track and *Operations Mode* on the main line. For example, you can operate the decoder with the factory-default speed curve, or you may specify your own customized speed curve. You can also set which end of the locomotive is to be the forward end. You can also decide whether or not you want to be able to operate the locomotive on conventional DC layouts. If your DCC system supports *Operations Mode* programming, you can change the values of all CVs while the

locomotive is on the main line **except for the locomotive's 2- and 4-digit addresses which are stored in CV1, CV17, and CV18.**

The customized properties you set with CVs are saved in non-volatile memory locations on the decoder so that they will retain their values even after power has been removed. All parameter values are set electronically, which means that the locomotive does not need to be disassembled again after the decoder has been installed in order to read or modify the values of these Configuration Variables (CVs). The #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder has a total of 128 CVs.

Any NMRA-compliant DCC Command Station can be used to program the #3422 dual-mode 4-function decoder. With several entry-level DCC systems, only CV #1 (the 2-digit locomotive address) can be set unless you use a separate DCC programmer. More advanced DCC systems support the ability to set many more CVs. The #342 decoder supports all programming modes and can be programmed by all NMRA-compliant DCC systems. **Remember that the locomotive's 2- and 4-digit addresses stored in CV1, CV17, and CV18 cannot be programmed in Operations Mode.** Instructions for reading and writing CVs are given in the user manual of your DCC system.

**Note: In order for newly programmed CV values to take effect after service mode programming (programming on the program track) the decoder must go through a power reset. If your DCC command station does not support automatic power reset, simply rock one side of the locomotive off the track after completing your programming.** One easy way to do a power reset is:

- Tip the locomotive to one side so that all the wheels on the opposite side are off the rail,
- Hold the locomotive in this tipped position for 5 to 10 seconds,
- Slowly lower the locomotive back down until all wheels are once again on the program track rails.

This power cycling is **extremely** important; do **not** omit it.

## Configuration Variables and their Definitions

The #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder supports many features, which are activated by setting Configuration Variables. All CVs are numbered. These numbers are used during programming and are identical for all decoders that conform to NMRA standards, regardless of the decoder manufacturer. The following table lists the CVs supported in the #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder. *Some CVs (such as CV29) have specific meanings for each bit. In order to conform to the NMRA convention for bit numbering, the CV bit assignments shown in this table use the North American bit-numbering scheme of 0 to 7.*

**Table 1: Configuration Variables (CVs) for the #342 Dual-Mode 4-Function Decoder**

CV	Description	Range	Default Value**	Decimal Equivalent Of Binary "1s"
1	<b>Short address:</b> This is the number that you enter into your DCC system to tell it the locomotive you wish to run with a short (2-digit) address.	1-127	3	
2	<b>Start voltage:</b> This is the voltage applied to the motor in speed step 1. Set this value so that the locomotive just starts moving in speed step 1.	1-15	8	
3	<b>Acceleration Momentum:</b> Determines the rate of change of speed upon acceleration. A higher value leads to a slower acceleration	1-31	1	
4	<b>Deceleration (Brake) Momentum:</b> Determines the rate of change of speed upon braking. A higher value leads to longer braking distances	1-31	1	
-	<b>Contains CV29 (see definition of CV29 below)</b>	0-55	6	
-	<b>Page Register:</b> Normally this Register is not modified directly by a user. For correct operation, CV6 should be set to have the value "1" after any use.	0-127	1	
7	<b>Version Number:</b> This location stores the version number of the decoder. This CV is read-only.	-	46	

CV	Description	Range	Default Value**	Decimal Equivalent Of Binary "1s"
8	<b>Manufacturer's Identification:</b> This value is the manufacturer ID of the decoder. (Atlas=127). <b>Writing the decimal number "33" to CV8 AND DOING A POWER RESET will reset all CVs in the decoder to their factory-default values EXCEPT FOR the speed step settings in CV67 to CV94.</b>	-	127	
17	<b>Long Address, High Byte</b> The long (also called extended) address, if used, is contained in CV17 and CV18.	192 231		0
18	<b>Long Address, Low Byte</b>	0-255	0	
19	<b>Advanced Consist Address</b> The Advanced Consist address, if used, is stored in CV19.	0-255	0	
23	<b>Acceleration Trim</b> This CV contains additional acceleration rate information that will be added to (or subtracted from) the base value contained in CV3.	0-255	255	
24	<b>Deceleration Trim</b> This CV contains additional braking rate information that will be added to (or subtracted from) the base value contained in CV4.	0-255	255	
29	<b>Decoder Configuration, Byte 1:</b> Several decoder properties are set with CV29. If your DCC system supports <i>Binary Mode</i> , changes are easiest if done in binary mode, but the changes can also be done by adding together the decimal values (shown in parenthesis) for all the desired features and writing the total into CV29. (For an example, see the section <i>Converting Binary Values of Individual Bits within a Configuration Variable into the Equivalent Decimal Value of the Entire CV</i> on page 10.) The definitions for the individual bits of CV29 are given below.	0-55	6	
29	Bit 0 <b>Locomotive direction:</b> This bit sets the direction that the locomotive will move when told to move forward in digital (DCC) mode 0 = locomotive's direction is normal 1 = locomotive's direction is reversed	0,1	0	(1)
29	Bit 1 <b>Headlight mode:</b> 0 = Operation with 14 or 27 speed-step DCC systems. This setting must be selected when the locomotive decoder is used with any DCC system that does not support the 28 speed-step mode. If the headlights turn on and off as the speed is increased, the DCC command station is configured for 28 speed-steps, and the decoder is set for 14 speed-steps. 1 = Operation with 28, 55 or 128 speed steps. If you use this setting, the Command Station must also be configured to use either the 28 speed-step mode or the 128 speed-step mode; otherwise, the headlights cannot be controlled.	0,1	1	(2)
29	Bit 2 <b>Usage on conventional DC layouts:</b> 0 = locomotive operates only in digital (DCC) mode 1 = locomotive can operate in either analog (conventional DC) or digital (DCC) mode	0,1	1	(4)
29	Bit 3 Always 0	0	0	
29	Bit 4 <b>Speed curve:</b> 0 = Factory-default speed curve is used 1 = User-defined speed curve is used. Please enter the appropriate values into CVs 67 to 94 before setting this bit.	0,1 (16)	0	(16)

CV	Bit #	Description	Range	Default Value**	Decimal Equivalent Of Binary "1s"
29	Bit 5	<b>2-digit or 4-digit Addressing:</b> 0= Short (2-digit) address used 1= Long (4-digit) address used	0,1	0	(32)
29	Bit 6	Bit 6 always 0	0	0	
29	Bit 7	Bit 7 always 0	0	0	
50	<b>50 Decoder Configuration, Byte 2:</b> CV50 is similar to CV29, but CV50 is used to set other properties. The definitions for the individual bits of CV50 are given below.		0 - 15	1	
50	Bit 0	Not used	0,1	1	
50	Bit 1	0 = CV23 and CV24 are not active 1 = CV23 & CV24 are active and contain acceleration and deceleration trim values that are added to (or subtracted from) CV3 and CV4, respectively.	0	0,1	(2)
50	Bit 2	<b>Brake momentum on DC operation.</b> Used to achieve prototypical braking at red signal indications if conventional DC control is disabled. (CV29.2 = 0*) 0 = locomotive proceeds with track-voltage dependent speed inside the conventional. DC section. 1 = locomotive brakes in the conventional DC section with a pre-set brake momentum.	0,1	0	(4)
50	Bit 3	<b>Motor Drive Selection</b> 0=Precision Glide Control 1=Silent Drive	0,1	0	(8)
50	Bits 4-7	Not used			
51	<b>Lighting Effects for Output A (front headlight)</b> <u>Note:</u> Bits 4-7 of are CV51 effective only if bit 0 is set. If more than one bit is set, the highest bit is effective.			0	
51	Bit 0	<b>Directional or Independent Headlights:</b> CV51.0=0: Headlights are directional. CV51.0=1: Headlights are independent per Rule 17, with F0 controlling front headlight and F1 controlling rear headlight.	0,1	0	(1)
51	Bit 1	<b>Front Headlight Dimming Control:</b> If CV51.2=1, the value in CV52 is used for front headlight dimming with the dimming controlled as follows: CV51.1=0: Front headlight always dimmed CV51.1=1: Dimming controllable as described under CV51.2.	0,1	0	(2)
51	Bit 2	<b>Dimming of Front Headlight:</b> CV51.2=0: Front headlight cannot be dimmed CV51.2=1: If CV51.1=1, the value in CV52 is used for front headlight dimming with the dimming controlled as follows: If CV51.0=0 (Dimming and directional headlights both active), function F1 dims front headlight. If CV51.0=1 (Dimming and Rule 17 both active), function F4 dims front headlight.	0,1	0	(4)

CV	Bit #	Description	Range	Default Value**	Decimal Equivalent Of Binary "1s"
51	Bit 3	Not used	0,1	0	
51	Bit 4	1= Front headlight functions as Gyro light	0,1	0	(16)
51	Bit 5	1= Front headlight functions as Mars light	0,1	0	(32)
51	Bit 6	1= Front headlight functions as single-pulse Strobe light	0,1	0	(64)
51	Bit 7	1= Front headlight functions as double-pulse Strobe light	0,1	0	(128)
52		<b>The value of CV52 is used for front headlight dimming.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using the value 0 for this CV results in a completely dark front headlight, when it is dimmed.</li> <li>- Using the value 255 for this CV keeps the front headlight at its maximum possible brightness, even when dimmed.</li> </ul>	0-255	64	
53		<b>Lighting Effects for Outputs C and D</b>			
53	Bit 0	Output C blinks when turned on	0,1	0	(1)
53	Bit 1	Output D blinks when turned on	0,1	0	(2)
53	Bit 2	Outputs C and D function as ditch lights (flash alternately) when turned on	0,1	0	(4)
53	Bits 3-7	Not used		0	
54		<b>Function Mapping for Output C</b> (If CV53 set for ditch lights, this function controls both Outputs C and D)	0-255	1	
54	Bit 0	1= Output C controlled by F1	0,1	0	(1)
54	Bit 1	1= Output C controlled by F2	0,1	0	(2)
54	Bit 2	1= Output C controlled by F3	0,1	0	(4)
54	Bit 3	1= Output C controlled by F4	0,1	0	(8)
54	Bit 4	1= Output C controlled by F5	0,1	0	(16)
54	Bit 5	1= Output C controlled by F6	0,1	0	(32)
54	Bit 6	1= Output C controlled by F7	0,1	0	(64)
54	Bit 7	1= Output C controlled by F8	0,1	0	(128)
55		<b>Function Mapping for Output D</b> Same as CV54, except effective on Output D		2	
56		<b>Blinking rate for Outputs C and D</b> Frequency in Hz = $1/0.016 * (1 + CV56)$	0-255	15	
57		<b>Lighting Effects for Output B (rear headlight)</b>		0	
57	Bit 0	Not Used			
57	Bit 1	<b>Rear Headlight Dimming Control:</b> If CV57.2=1, the value in CV58 is used for rear headlight dimming with the dimming controlled as follows: CV57.1=0: Rear headlight always dimmed CV57.1=1: Dimming controllable as described under CV57.2.	0,1	0	(2)
57	Bit 2	<b>Dimming of Rear Headlight:</b> CV57.2=0: Rear headlight cannot be dimmed CV57.2=1: If CV57.1=1, the value in CV58 is used for rear headlight dimming with the dimming controlled as follows: If CV51.0=0 (Dimming and directional headlights both active), function F1 dims rear headlight. If CV51.0=1 (Dimming and Rule 17 both active), function F4 dims rear headlight.	0,1	0	(4)
57	Bit 3	Not used	0,1	0	



CV	Bit #	Description	Range	Default Value**	Decimal Equivalent Of Binary "1s"
57	Bit 4	1= Front headlight functions as Gyro light	0,1	0	(16)
57	Bit 5	1= Front headlight functions as Mars light	0,1	0	(32)
57	Bit 6	1= Front headlight functions as single pulse Strobe light	0,1	0	(64)
57	Bit 7	1= Front headlight functions as double pulse Strobe light	0,1	0	(128)
		<u>Note:</u> Bits 4-7 of CV57 effective only if bit 0 is set. If more than one bit is set, the highest bit is effective.			
58		<b>The value of CV58 is used for rear headlight dimming.</b> Using the value 0 for this CV results in a completely dark rear headlight, when dimmed. Using the value 255 for this CV keeps the Rear headlight at its maximum possible brightness, even when dimmed,	0-255	64	
67 to 94		<b>Speed Step Values for Customized Speed Curve</b> These CVs are used to specify the speed step values for a customized speed curve. The factory default values for these CVs are specified in Table 2 on page 11. Refer to <i>Creating a Customized Speed Curve</i>	0-255	<b>Factory Default Speed Step Values</b>	
105		<b>User Identification #1</b>	0-255	255	
106		<b>User Identification #1</b>	0-255	255	
128		<b>Decoder Software Version –read only</b>		02	

\* The notation CVx.y = z means that bit y of CVx has the value "z". For example, CV29.2 = 0 means that bit 2 of CV29 has the value "0."

\*\* In the Default Value field, the numbers shown in parenthesis ( ) are the decimal values that must be written into a CV for the specified bit of that CV to have the binary value "1".

## Converting Binary Values of Individual Bits within a Configuration Variable into the Equivalent Decimal Value of the Entire CV

### ***Reasons for Setting and Clearing the Individual Bits of a Configuration Variable***

In order to make a DCC decoder perform in the manner that you wish it to perform, you must sometimes set or clear individual bits of a CV. To program a DCC decoder using a DCC system that allows only the writing of decimal values into CVs [such as the (discontinued) Atlas Master Commander and others], it is first necessary to convert the values of all the individual bits of that CV that are to be set to the binary value 1 into their equivalent decimal values. It is then necessary to add together all of these equivalent decimal values.

### ***Procedure for Converting Individual CV Bit Values into a Decimal Equivalent Value for the CV***

The following table illustrates how to calculate the decimal value that must be written into a CV in order to set and/or clear a specified set of individual bits within that CV.

Each bit of a CV that is to be set to the binary value "1" can be represented by the equivalent decimal number shown in the second column of this table. To determine the equivalent decimal value to be written into the CV, first write (as shown) in column 4 of this table the decimal equivalent values of all the bits of the CV that are to be set to a binary 1. Write nothing in column 4 for each bit of the CV that is to be cleared, i.e., set to a binary 0. Then add up all the numbers that you have written in column 34. The sum that you get is the equivalent decimal value that you need to write into the CV.	Bit Number	Decimal Equivalent	Decimal Values for CV Calculation
	0	1	
	1	2	
	2	4	
	3	8	
	4	16	
	5	32	
	6	64	
	7	128	
		<b>SUM:</b>	

### ***Example: Calculating the Default Value for CV29***

From the definition of CV29 given in Table 1, we see that the default values of bits 1 and 2 are binary 1s; whereas, all other bits in CV29 have a default value of binary 0. In order to compute the decimal equivalent default value of CV29, simply write in the rightmost column of this table the decimal number "2" for bit 1 and the decimal number "4" for bit 2. Then add up all the non-zero numbers that you have entered into this rightmost column. Since the sum of these two numbers is 6, the decimal number to be programmed into CV29 is 6.	Bit Number	Decimal Equivalent	Decimal Values for CV Calculation
	0	1	
	1	2	2
	2	4	4
	3	8	
	4	16	
	5	32	
	6	64	
	7	128	
		<b>SUM</b>	5

## Creating a Customized Speed Curve

Common reasons for specifying a customized speed curve for a DCC-equipped locomotive are to:

1. Insure that dissimilar locomotives have the same performance characteristics,
2. Have model locomotives perform more prototypically.

In this example of creating a customized speed curve, we will assume that the #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder has been properly installed and tested. We also assume that you are familiar with the general process of programming CVs using your DCC system.

The first step in creating a customized (non-default) speed curve is to assign a value to each internal speed step. This assignment is done by specifying a value for each of the CVs from CV67 to CV94 using a table such as that below, but substituting your desired speed step settings for the default CV values given in the *Internal Speed Step Value* column of this table. This assignment of values to the 28 speed steps is MUCH easier if you use a computer program like *Decoder Pro*.

The second step is to write the value listed in the *Internal Speed Step Value* column into the CV corresponding to that speed step.

The third and final step is to activate your customized speed curve by writing the binary value “1” into bit 4 of CV29 (i.e., CV29.4 =1). Unless this bit in CV29 has been set to a binary 1, the default speed curve that was preset into the decoder at the factory will be used instead of the custom speed curve that you intended to use.

**Table 2: Default Speed Step Values for Atlas #342 Dual-Mode, 4-Function Decoder**

Speed Step in 14/27 Step Mode	Speed Step in 28 Step Mode	Internal Speed Step Value (defaults shown)	CV
1	1	4	67
	2	6	68
2	3	12	69
4	16	70	70
3	5	20	71
6	26	72	72
4	7	32	73
8	38	74	74
5	9	44	75
10	50	76	76
6	11	58	77
12	66	78	78
7	13	74	79
14	82	80	80
8	15	90	81
16	100	82	82
9	17	110	83
18	120	84	84
10	19	130	85
20	140	86	86
11	21	152	87
22	164	88	88
12	23	174	89
24	186	90	90
13	25	200	91
26	216	92	92
14	27	234	93
28	254	94	94

In order to calculate the correct speed-step value for the 128 speed-step mode, the dual-mode 4-function decoder will internally average the values for 28 speed steps that were specified in (CVs 67 to 94)

## Troubleshooting Decoder Programming Problems

Fault	Cause and solution
Locomotive does not move when you address it on DCC system.	Check to see if you have selected the correct address for that locomotive.
Locomotive does not move when DCC system is set to the address in CV1, even though this address can be read from CV1, and DCC functions can be activated when the DCC system is set to the address in CV1	Check whether to see if an advanced consist address has been programmed into CV19, i.e., check to see whether or not CV19 has a value greater than 0. If CV19 has a non-zero value, you must either use this advanced consist address to operate the locomotive or else program the value 0 into CV19.
DCC functions can be activated when the DCC system is set to the locomotive address, but the locomotive does not move.	Decoder is set to use a customized speed curve (CV29.4 = 1), but you entered zero values into CVs 67 to 94. Either clear bit 4 of CV29 or else enter suitable non-zero speed step values into CVs 67 to 94.
The locomotive does not appear to be using the customized speed curve values that you have entered into CVs 67 to 94.	Bit 4 of CV29 is not set to "1."
Function 0 (lighting) cannot be switched on and off.	Matching of speed steps is incorrect. The decoder has been set to 28/128 speed steps, but the DCC system has been set to 14/27 speed steps. Either set the DCC system to 28/128 speed steps, <b>or</b> change the decoder speed step setting to 14/27 speed steps. (CV29.1 = 0).
Locomotive headlights are only illuminated when the locomotive speed is increased or decreased; the locomotive headlights go on and off as the locomotive speed changes.	Matching of speed steps is incorrect: The decoder has been set to 14/27 speed steps, but the DCC system has been set to 28/128 speed steps. Either set the DCC system to 14/27 speed steps <b>or</b> change the decoder speed step setting to 28/128 speed steps (CV29.1 = 1).

### Atlas Limited One-Year DCC Decoder Warranty

Please fill out and mail the Warranty card, within 30 days of purchase. Atlas Model Railroad Company, Inc. warrants that this decoder will be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of purchase. If the decoder fails during the warranty period, uninstall it from the locomotive, and *carefully pack the uninstalled decoder in its original Atlas packaging*. Also send a **copy** of the dated sales receipt, and return to:

**Atlas Model Railroad Company, Attn. HO/N Repair, 378 Florence Avenue, Hillside, NJ 07205.**

Defects due to misuse, improper maintenance and/or abuse are not covered by the warranty. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

### For Technical Assistance

[www.atlasrr.com](http://www.atlasrr.com)

[dcc@atlasrr.com](mailto:dcc@atlasrr.com)

This equipment complies with Part 15 of FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference,
- (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

### Please Save this Manual for Future Reference.

Lenz GmbH manufactured the #342 dual-mode 4-function decoder for Atlas Model Railroad Co., Inc.