

## **PRODUCT NEWS - *EZGP+EZ05* - Kato N Scale GS4 Mars Light, Headlight, etc.**

Richmond Controls has two different modules for the Kato N Scale GS4: one for the locomotive and another for the tender.

The LOCOMOTIVE module has three high-brightness Golden White LEDs, one each for the Mars Light, Headlight and Train Number Indicators. The Mars Light is the standard Richmond Controls Mars Light. Golden White LEDs have no blue tint. The intensities of the bright lights are all independent of track voltage once that voltage exceeds 3 VDC, and the lights are on for forward motion only. The maximum input voltage for the standard module is 16 V PEAK, but higher voltages can be applied if a higher input voltage is requested (as for use with the higher voltage DCC systems). N Scale DCC voltages of 12, 14.5 and 15 V should be no problem.

Installation requires removing Kato's light module and light guides but retaining the clear plastic lens casting. The hard part of the installation is supergluing two Golden White surface mount LEDs to the inside tips of Kato's clear plastic lens assembly. This allows the headlight LED to illuminate the number boards. The EZGP module must then be attached to the ceiling of the boiler using double sided tape that is supplied. The Train Number Indicators are illuminated by a third Golden White LED attached to the top of the boiler with double sided tape. The lighting package is mounted COMPLETELY into the boiler and smokebox front. There are no wires or manually-mated connectors between the boiler and the chassis. Reinstalling the boiler on the chassis automatically connects power. Thus, the boiler can be completely removed for servicing the chassis with the lighting package intact, without having any wires connected to the chassis.

The TENDER module has a single Golden White LED in a special package made to fit the existing hole. The light intensity is independent of track voltage once that voltage exceeds 3 VDC, and the light is on only when the locomotive is backing. The same 16 V PEAK voltage rating applies.

Installation requires removing Kato's tender light lens, and then inserting the module's Golden White LED into the empty hole. Installation of the EZ05 module requires simply inserting its contacts between Kato's tender circuit board and weight assembly. This is the closest I can come to a true "drop-in" installation.

A detailed article covering this installation was written by Robert Hardy and published in the September/October 2008 issue of N Scale Railroading magazine. The article is lavishly illustrated.

The LOCOMOTIVE module is the EZGP-003, priced at \$36.00 each. The TENDER module is the EZ05-001, priced at \$24.00 each. Customers can install one or the other or both. For shipments to a Texas address, state tax is 8.25% of the price of the modules. Shipping is \$6.50 per order.