

Relay Training Boards Help Students Prepare For Access Control Lab



The Northern California Sound and Communications JATC has built new relay trainer boards to help students conceptualize how an access control system works. The new door lock relay boards act as a supplement to the full-scale access control labs and offer students additional practice wiring components together using relays.

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Journeyman Wayne Knifton, works on the new relay trainer boards which help students conceptualize how an access control system works.

PHOTO BY NORCAL JATC

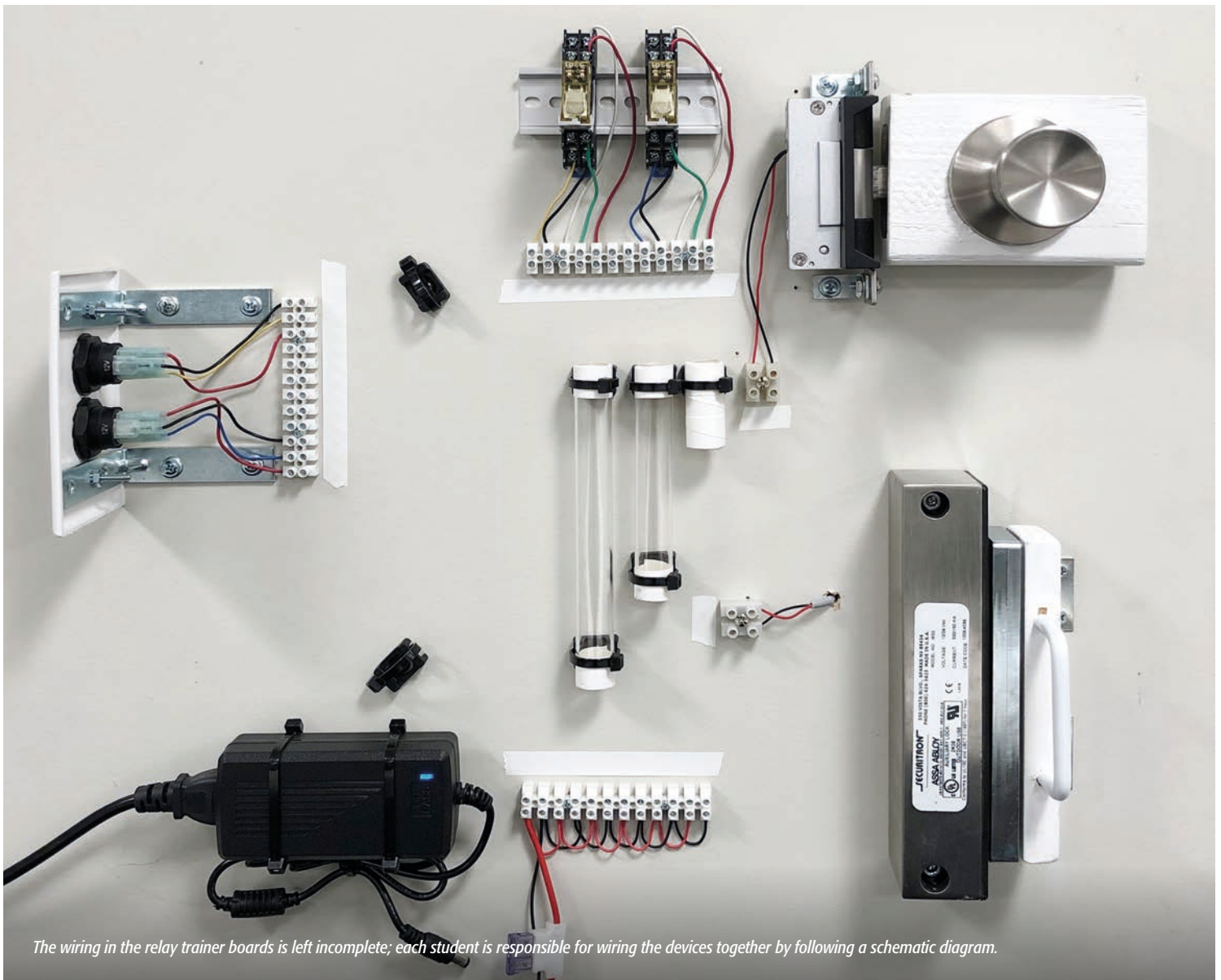
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The wiring in the relay trainer boards is left incomplete; each student is responsible for wiring the devices together by following a schematic diagram.

PHOTO BY NORCAL JATC

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The modular relay trainers are designed to hang from z-channel clips in any classroom and include relays, push button switches, a magnetic lock and an electric door strike.

The wiring in the relay trainer boards is left incomplete; each student is responsible for wiring the devices together by following a schematic diagram. The lab procedure also includes the use of a multimeter to reinforce proper meter use.

The relay trainers isolate the key components that live at the core of an access control module and reinforce relay control fundamentals.

“When installing a traditional access control system, everything is wired

to the door control module,” said Senior Instructor Thomas Frenzel. “All of the components that activate and control the access system are built into the module, including the relays that are activated by the system.”

Frenzel said Sound and Communication instructors wanted to simplify this concept by letting the student wire door controls without the circuitry of a traditional system.

“These new relay boards will reinforce concepts from previous classes and help students prepare for their upcoming access control lab,” Frenzel added. “We strive to tie core concepts together between classes. These boards are another opportunity for the students to see familiar equipment being used in an entirely different system.”



IBEW Pension Death Benefits Outline (Conclusion)

This is the conclusion of a three-part series in the DATA outlining the IBEW pension death benefits. These questions and answers are taken from a general explanatory guide by the International Executive Council (I.E.C.), who compiled them.

Q: How is a claim made for death benefits?

A: When a member eligible for the death benefits dies, those claiming death benefits shall present to the L.U. a copy of an official death certificate or a certificate of facts concerning the death from a reputable physician or proper authorities located in the city or town where such death occurred or nearest to it, and it shall then be forwarded by the L. U. Financial Secretary to the I.S.T. with all papers required. If a claim by the beneficiary is not received by the I.S.T. within ninety (90) days following the date of the member's death, the death benefit may be paid to the next eligible beneficiary. In case of application for accidental death benefits, the I.S.T. may require such additional information in support of the claim as may be deemed necessary. The I.S.T. has also been given the authority to make final determinations on death benefit claims.

Q: What is meant by "continuous good standing"?

A: Any period used in determining eligibility or in computing pension benefits, shall include only consecutive years of "A" membership in good standing in the I.B.E.W., except that years of membership when a pension benefit shall not be counted. There is one exception: if a member who has retired from the electrical industry and was granted a pension benefit and subsequently returns to the electrical industry and "A" membership, a benefit based on his subsequent service will be added to the existing pension benefit.

Q: For pension and death benefit purposes, how does an "A" member interrupt "continuous good standing"?

A: Under the following circumstances, an "A" member shall not be considered in continuous good standing: when an "A" member transfers to "BA" status; when an "A" member is dropped from membership for nonpayment of dues; or when an "A" member accepts honorary withdrawal card status. In addition, an "A" member shall not be eligible for pension approval while he has an outstanding L. U. trial board assessment. "A" members forfeit any rights to a pension or death benefit upon expulsion from membership or upon resignation from membership before obtaining an approved vested pension benefit. "Finally, an "A" member in arrears in dues payments is ineligible for pension and death benefits unless and until the member is reinstated to membership pursuant to the I.B.E.W. Constitution.

Q: How is a year of good standing calculated?

A: A member earns a year of good standing by maintaining membership from one anniversary date up to his next anniversary date. The anniversary date is the first day of the month in which such member begins "A" membership. Thus an "A" member initiated in December must pay "A" membership dues through the following November to earn a year of good standing.

THE NORCAL SOUND & COMMUNICATION JATC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2019 GRADUATES:

"We would like to offer congratulations to the 2019 class of apprentices who have completed the Related Supplemental Instruction portion of the Apprenticeship program and are tentatively scheduled to graduate. Our industry thrives on a skilled, highly trained labor force and our apprentices are our future!"

LOCAL 595

Elijah Alvarez
Brandon Bugna
Brendan Gallagher
Ronald Karvi
Kevin Kroll
Carlos Martinez
Matthew Matheny
Pedro Omega
Daniel Parra
Nicolas Pasteur
Zoranco Pejovski
Nathaniel Perkins
Ronald Quintana, Jr
David Silva
Wei Chieh Tang
Mikael Waller
Lucas White

LOCAL 302

Michael Alvarez
Gary Cruz
Walter Duran
Lennathan Pak
Thomas Young

LOCAL 332

Alex Aguirre
Aaron Anderson
Manuel Andrade
Jonathan Armenta

Rigoberto Arteaga

Rocky Cao
Omar Cevallos
Jarred Chacon
Jason Chou
Daniel Dao
Alexis Diaz-Gonzalez
Donato Duran, Jr.
Eduardo Frias
Rory Fry
Alan Gonzalez
Alberto Gutierrez
Trevor Hickey
Karan Kuleen
Alexander Lapin
Carlos Leiva
Manuel Lopez
Nick Luu

Steven Mahowald
Hugo Martinez Moran

Victor Martinez
Nhut Nguyen
An Pham
Hector Ponce
Ramon Rangel
Robert Reid
Paul Rozman

Raymond Sanchez
Michael Sandoval
Michael Schwartz

Eugene Simpson
Trevor Williamson
Michael Ybarra
Kevin Zahiri

LOCAL 6

Alexander Azuma
Ernesto Martinez
Kelvin Martinez
Marlene Oviedo
Walter Parinas
Daniel Wong
Eric Wong

LOCAL 617

Marcus Brownlee
Richard Campbell
Vivek Dutta
Daniel Galvez
Jorge Santana

LOCAL 340

Julian Adair
Afzal Butt
Rex-William Curtis
Dominic Dube
Chalamar Elkridge
Guillermo Gomez
John Gross
Christopher Higuera
Jessica Jones

Belinda Kirkland
Dallas McLean
Michael Pacheco
Steven Pearl
Taylor Richey
Jacob Slinkard
Myranda Smith
Jeremy Swafford
Tam Tran
Ronny Tsutsui
Lemar Vaughn

LOCAL 234

Adrian Mendoza

LOCAL 551

Trevor Adamson
Jason Briggs
Wyatt Graves
Pablo Jimenez
Benjamin Kohler
Adrian Mendez
Manuel Paniagua Guzman
David Trejo

LOCAL 100

Lim Buntheng
Sabina Fabionar
Adrian Saenz
Giovanny Valenzuela
Skyler Walker

Thinking... About Your Future



Sound & Communications Educational Workshop Briefs Members on Pension, Health Plans & NEBF

The IBEW/NECA Sound and Communications Health & Welfare Trust Fund sponsored an educational workshop for all IBEW/NECA sound and communications members on June 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at the NORCAL Sound and Communication JATC. Around 100 members attended; Coffee and pastries were provided before the workshop and lunch was served afterwards.

Three classes were offered, including Social Security (review of benefits); NEBF (Defined Benefit Pension Plan); and the IBEW District 9 pension plan and the health and welfare plan. The health and welfare benefits include the medical plan options, HRA benefit, short term disability benefit and more. The health and welfare and IBEW District 9 pension plan class was taught by Sandy Stephenson, VP of Administration at United Administrative Services.

The NEBF class was taught by Michael Reed. It included a variety of information, including:

- Number of participants in the NEBF and the number receiving benefits
- Objectives of the investment program
- Net assets available
- How benefit service credits are calculated
- Early retirement benefits
- Disability benefits
- Additional NEBF plan features
- Online benefit features

Don't miss next year's IBEW/NECA educational workshop to be held in May or June of 2020! Look for your Save the Date Postcard!

At Decker Electric, A Comprehensive Safety Program Is Structured To Educate Management and Employees



PHOTO BY SCP DIGITAL

We spoke with Maria Del Arroz, Safety Director at Decker Electric, to discuss the company's safety program and commitment to a safe environment in the workplace.

Maria Del Arroz
Safety Director
Decker Electric, Inc.

Q: What is your official title, and how long have you worked there?

A: I am the Safety Director and have been with Decker Electric since April, 2019.

Q: Please describe the various components of your safety program and how it is administered.

A: The Decker Electric Safety Program has four critical elements: (1) management commitment; (2) employee involvement; (3) work site analysis; and (4) safety and health training. Our Decker Electric Safety Program consists of weekly safety toolbox topics; ongoing training; the involvement of our management team, and the Field Foreperson's enforcement that we follow all the proper safety procedures for a safe workplace. The safety program is administered through almost daily job site visits, while our field forepersons coach and encourage best practices with their crews.

Q: What is the initial safety training the Decker Electric employees go through?

A: We review our IIPP safety program at new employee orientation and give each of them a copy of the program for employee records. We also provide site-specific training. Ongoing safety training is job site administered through weekly toolbox training.

Q: How would you describe Decker Electric's process for implementing the safety program?

A: First, as a company we have committed to a safe environment in the workplace. We ensure that all employees are aware of the code of safe work ethics. We assess the risks in the workplace and identify hazards. Then we develop written program and procedures, and educate our employees.

Lastly, if there is an incident, we investigate it and then report back to management. Through field visits, we communicate with the employees so that they have awareness for the code of safe work practices and being involved with the hazards identification process.

Q: How has Decker Electric's program grown or changed over the past few years? What's new?

A: Including input from the field, in recent years the Decker Electric safety program has become more formally structured, focusing on hazards identification and safety training.

Q: How would you describe Decker Electric's safety philosophy?

A: We believe our employees are our most valuable resource—and no phase of business is more important than their personal safety. We believe that all accidents can be prevented and that safety is an integral part of everyone's job. We are responsible for demonstrating safety leadership, providing a safe work environment, and promoting safety as a value.

Q: What kind of administrative structure has Decker Electric put in place to support the safety program?

A: Decker Electric has brought on board a full-time safety director to oversee the program. The management team is also fully engaged in the program and we communicate directly with employees on a regular basis.

Q: Does Decker Electric have ongoing training opportunities for safety at a management level?

A: Yes, we provide online training courses and classroom style courses through various safety programs. We are planning a foreperson safety training program that is both job site facilitated and is also held in the main office.

Q: How do your customers view safety and do they see the value?

A: Our customers view safety at the workplace as an essential element and they are also committed to keeping an incident/accident free environment.

Q: If you had to use one sentence to sum up safety training at Decker Electric, what would it be?

A: Safety comes first. Workplace safety training is a process that aims to provide our employees with the knowledge and skills to perform their work in a way that is safe for them, their co-workers, and other trades.



PHOTO BY SCP DIGITAL

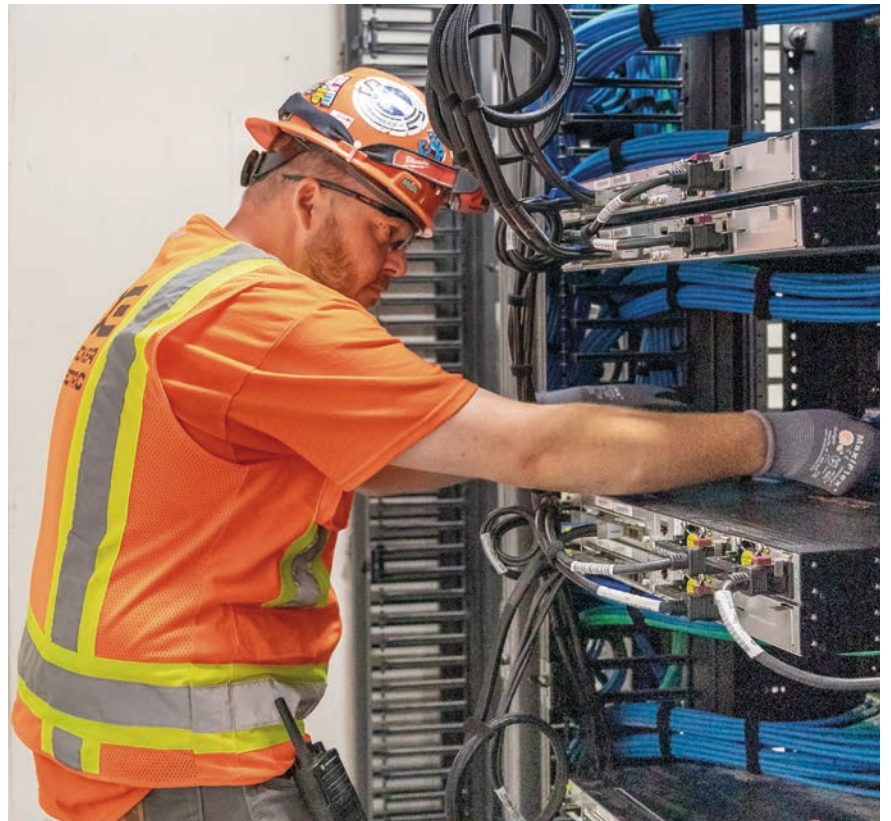


PHOTO BY SCP DIGITAL

Ray Malaspina, Decker Electric Sound and Communications Foreman, showcasing EMT straps.

Jimmy Brandt of Decker Electric snaps in Cat6a jack modules into a patch panel.



PHOTO BY SCP DIGITAL

Kris Basurto and Ray Malaspina of Decker Electric place patch cords from patch panels to the switches.

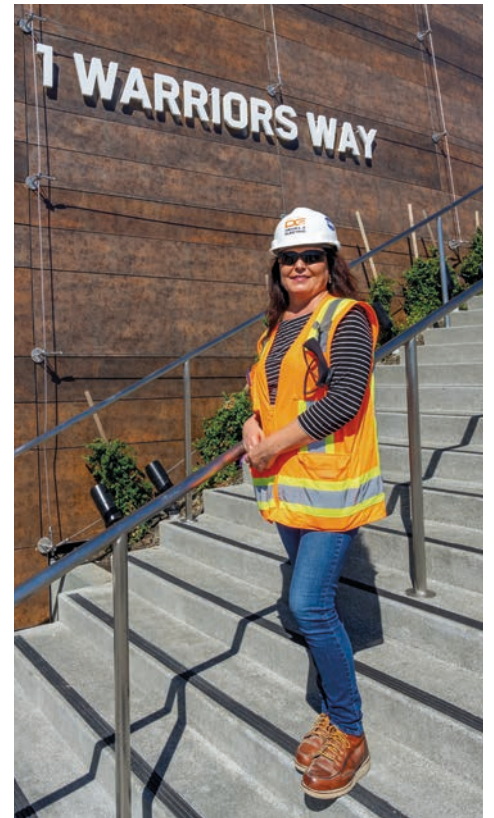


PHOTO BY SCP DIGITAL

Maria Del Arroz, Decker Electric Safety Director, outside the new Chase Center.

Your Health And Welfare Trust Fund Important Phone Numbers

Questions about eligibility for coverage, premiums, reserve accounts, and info booklets, call:

Plan Administrator - United Administrative Services
408.288.4400
Toll-Free 877.827.4239

Trust Self-Funded Medical And Dental Plan

Questions about claim payment, claim forms and benefit info:
408.288.4400
Toll-Free 877.827.4239

Anthem Blue Cross Medical PPO
www.anthem.com/ca
To locate a participating preferred provider physician, clinic, or hospital:
408.288.4400 or 800.541.8059
Refer to Group # 170016M001

Anthem Blue Cross Dental PPO
www.anthem.com/ca
To locate a participating preferred provider dentist:
408.288.4400 or 800.541.8059
Refer to Group # 170016M001

Kaiser Permanente
www.kaiserpermanente.org
Questions about benefit info and ID Cards:
Toll-Free 800.464.4000
Refer to Group # 919

Optum Health
www.OptumHealth.com
Questions about mental health and substance abuse benefits or the member assistance program: 800.888.2998
Group # 10000824-0001, 0002

Vision Service Plan
www.vsp.com
Questions about vision benefits and vision claims or to request a Vision Plan Provider Directory:
Toll-Free 800.877.7195

To order additional copies of The DATA contact
jfordley@hillzoog.com

Your Retirement Information Is Available To You 24 Hours A Day

**Do you want access to your pension account value?
Do you want to know how your retirement plan money is invested?
Do you want to learn about investment options under your plan?**

I.B.E.W. DISTRICT NO. 9 PENSION PLAN

(A Defined Contribution Pension Plan with Participant Directed Investment Accounts)

To contact your Retirement Service Center via Internet:

The retirement service center website offers updates on your pension. You can view your daily account values, personalized rates of return, investment performance information, and rebalance your investment mix online.

- Go to www.principal.com
- Select Log In and choose Personal
- Enter your username and password

If you are a first-time user, follow the instructions to Create an account.

To contact your Retirement Service Center via Telephone:

You can obtain the same information by telephone. The toll-free, interactive voice response system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Call 1-800-547-7754
- Select the desired option
- Follow the prompts. Have your Social Security Number and PIN number ready
- If you need assistance, please enter "0" to speak to a retirement specialist

To contact a retirement specialist at the center:

If you have questions or need additional information about your investment options, you can speak with a retirement specialist at the center. A retirement specialist can provide information (not advice) about general retirement planning and investment education.

- Call 1-800-547-7754
- Press "0" to speak to a retirement specialist. Have your Social Security Number ready
- The Client Contact Center is open Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 9 pm (Central Time)

Pension Account Member Services:

- 24/7 account access via internet and/or telephone
- View or hear your daily account values
- Obtain investment performance information
- Learn about investment options under the plan
- View or hear the latest investment news
- Transfer funds between investments
- Change where future contributions are invested
- Reinvest maturing funds
- Establish/change your PIN or username &/or password
- Rebalance your investment mix
- Calculate retirement needs

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