Low Battery with MyLocoSound ?

Your MyLocoSound board requires a backup battery for use with track power. It continues to power the sound card when your loco stops and there is no track power. If the train is running at sufficient speed (track voltage), the battery will recharge. If the battery is not fully charged, your MyLocoSound board will not produce any sound until the track voltage is greater than about 6V. The most common problem with low batteries is running trains at slow speeds for long periods of time.

Note: You CANNOT use non-rechargeable 9V batteries. It will damage both the battery and the sound board.

The Low Battery Problem
A “9 volt” Ni-Mh battery is actually an 8.4V battery composed of 7 nominal 1.2V Ni-Mh cells. During normal operation, a battery charged to about 8.4V, battery charging will start at about 9.4V. So if your normal running speed is greater than 9.4V, no problem. But if you run at slower speeds, this 250 mah battery will be drained in about 5 hours of run time.

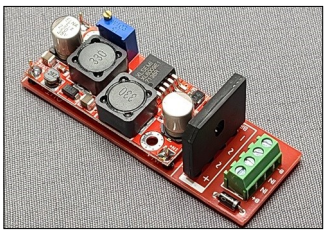
How to Charge Your Battery
Run your train at a track voltage of around 11V for as long as possible. It can take up to 10 hours to recharge a dead 9V battery. Of course this is not always practical. If you have the means to turn off the motor, turn it off, mute the sound, and set the track voltage for 11V overnight. You can also remove the battery and charge it on an external battery charger designed to work with 9V Ni-Mh batteries.

An Alternative
This problem can be improved somewhat by replacing the 9V battery with a 7.2V, 800mah Ni-Mh battery. At the nominal 7.2V, charging will now start at speeds greater than 8.2V. Not a huge improvement, but it may be enough. The other benefit is the 800mah capacity, which means you can now run for about 16 hours at slow speeds.

The latest “Black” MyLocoSound boards allow you to program the battery size for either 9V or 7.2V. You cannot use 7.2V on the older versions.

We don’t stock 7.2V Ni-Mh batteries, since they are readily available on Amazon, usually with free shipping. Search for “7.2V Ni-Mh 800 mah battery”. Note, they are a bit larger at 0.8 x 1.2 x 1.8 inches

A Solution
Another way to solve the problem if you have space available, is to add the “Battery Booster” board in parallel with your 9V or 7.2V battery. The Battery Booster will start charging the battery at 5.0V track voltage, ensuring your battery will always be charged, even with continuous slow running speeds.



Battery Configurtion	Charging starts at track voltage of
9V battery	11.0V
7.2V battery	8.2V
9V or 7.2V battery with Battery Booster	5.0V