

# Control Panel Design Guidelines





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## Introduction

This document contains the procedures, rules and guidelines for designing and ordering your Control Panel solution from *Control Panel Designs*.

Before your control panel can be manufactured you need to illustrate to *Control Panel Designs* what track schematic you would like manufactured on the fascia of the control panel, along with any text or labels that you require. If you experience difficulty doing this simply email us at [sales@controlpaneldesigns.com](mailto:sales@controlpaneldesigns.com) with your information and receive help with creating your design.

When manufactured, your control panel will include push button switches which are aligned with the track schematic to allow you to control turnouts on your model railroad layout. By drawing your track schematic according to the procedure below the location of those switches can be correctly positioned on your control panel.

Designs can be submitted to *Control Panel Designs* for FREE and without obligation to purchase. You may elect to design only one control panel to start with, or you may design all of the required panels at one time.

After reviewing your design we will advise the terms and conditions for ordering your solution, what peripheral modules are required, as well as providing a quotation for the solution.

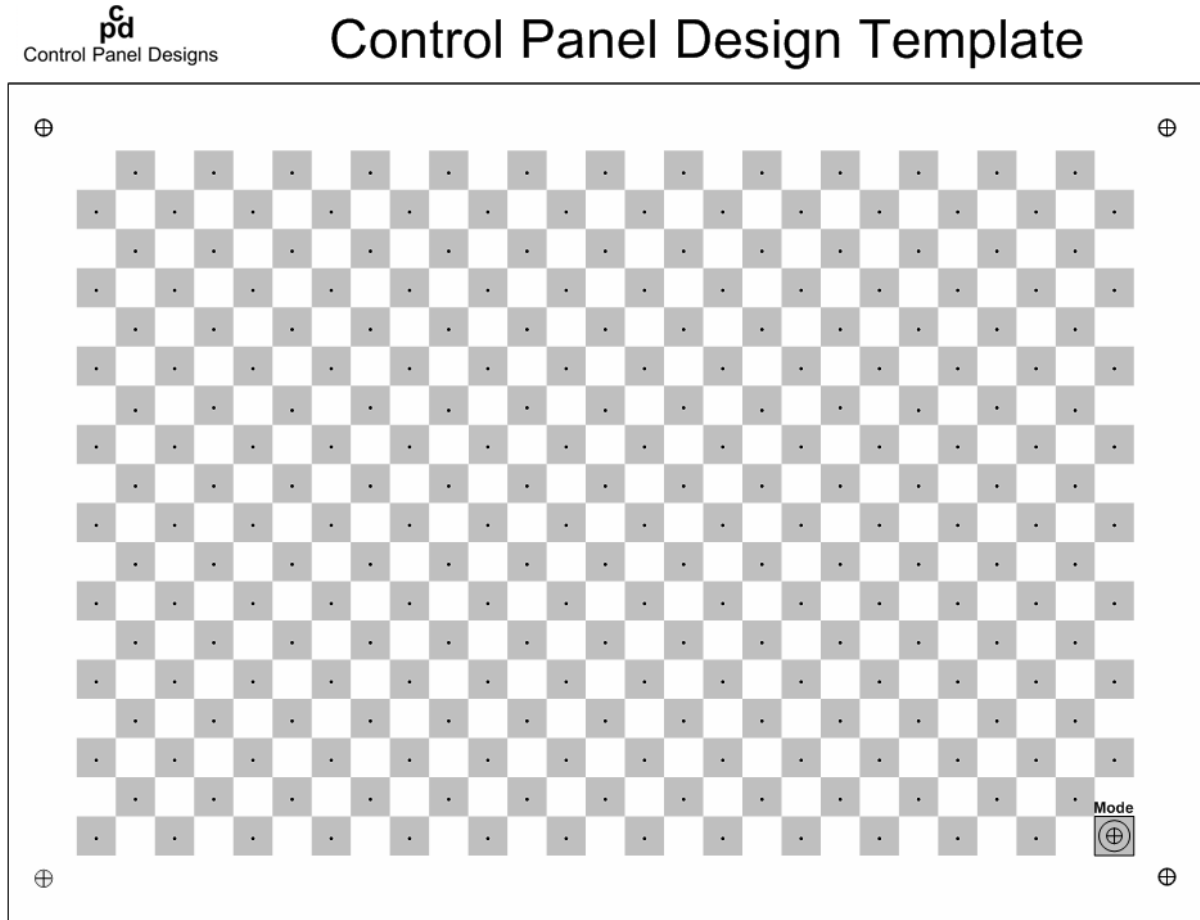
Example designs are posted on the Control Panel Designs web site.

[http://www.controlpaneldesigns.com/index\\_files/design.htm](http://www.controlpaneldesigns.com/index_files/design.htm)

# Procedure for Designing a Control Panel

## Step 1 – Open Template

Open the *Control Panel Design Template* from the *Control Panel Designs* Website. To do this, go to <http://www.controlpaneldesigns.com> and click on "Design Your Panels". On the "Design Your Panels" web page is a link to the template which is in PDF format. Open the PDF document in your web browser by clicking on the link. You can save a copy of the template to your own PC if necessary.



**If you are experiencing difficulties creating your design do not despair. Simply email us with as much information as you can gather and we will assist with you with your design.**

Figure 1 Blank Control Panel Design Template

## Step 2 – Print Template

Print a copy of the template for each control panel you wish to design. If you make a mistake, or want to improve your design you can always print an additional copy. You will be able to draw your track schematic on the design template. It is recommended that you use a pencil to start with so that lines can be erased and re-drawn where necessary. You can always trace over the pencil lines with dark coloured pen at a later stage.

### Step 3 – Review Template

Familiarise yourself with the design template. You will note that the template is effectively a grid with squares and dots drawn on it. You will notice that the configuration (Mode) switch is illustrated in the template as well as the location of screws used to fix the control panel fascia to the control panel enclosure.

The dots are a grid illustrating where tracks can be drawn. The darkened squares illustrate all possible locations for the tactile switches used to control turnouts.

### Step 4 – Design your Panel

Review the following rules for drawing your track schematic on the template:

- Track lines are drawn with a pen or pencil by joining the dots on the template.
- It is recommended that a ruler be used to draw all lines.
- Track lines can ONLY be drawn horizontal, vertical or at 45 degrees.
- Track lines can ONLY be joined together on a dot that is located over a ‘shaded square’.
- All lines must start and finish on a dot.
- The end of a track must join another track, or be terminated with an arrow or a terminator symbol.
- Track lines cannot be drawn over the Mode switch position.
- Tracks can cross other tracks. Use a ‘cross over’ or ‘fly over’ to denote the correct type of crossing.
- Labels or text can be placed anywhere within the design area.
- Switch positions are automatically placed by *Control Panel Designs*. However, you may draw circles to represent switch positions on your design with a “circle” if you wish.
- Switches can only be located on the shaded squares in the design template.

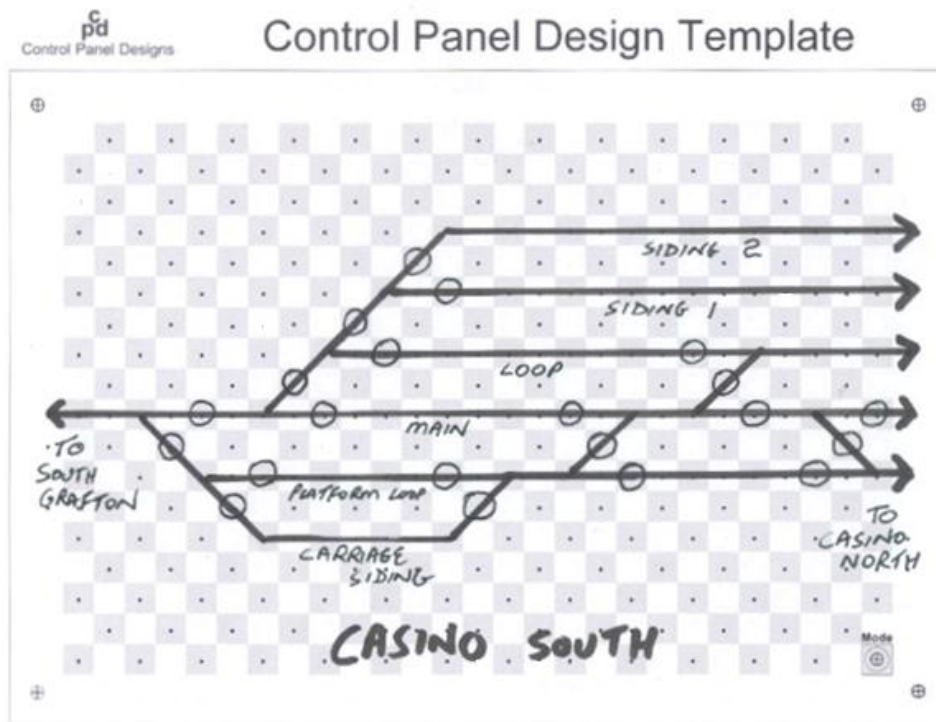


Figure 2 Example of completed Design Template



## Step 5 – Review your Design

Review your design before faxing or emailing it to Control Panel Designs. Questions to ask whilst reviewing the design are:

- Is my design aesthetically pleasing?
- Is my design centred in the design area?
- Are labels and other text positioned correctly?
- Do I have a 'Panel Name? Do I need a 'Panel Name'?
- Should I make the horizontal lines further apart to reduce white space and make the design more attractive?
- Does the design represent a schematic of your track plan accurately?

**If you are experiencing difficulties creating your design do not despair. Simply email us with as much information as you can gather and we will assist with you with your design.**



## Submitting your Design

You can submit your design for an obligation FREE quote in two ways:

1. Fax
2. eMail

You must include a cover page with information about yourself, and one additional page for each control panel to be manufactured. *Control Panel Designs* will review your submission, transform the design using electronic design software, and return the design in PDF format for your review.

### Fax submission

Complete the design cover page with the required information and fax both the cover page and the design to +61 8 6316 3322. You can submit as many designs as you like with the one fax. An email or fax will then be sent by *Control Panel Designs* confirming receipt of your design.

### eMail submission

You may also submit your design via email if required. To do this complete the cover page with the required information and scan it, along with each design page, into electronic format before attaching to a email message.

Address your email to [sales@controlpaneldesigns.com](mailto:sales@controlpaneldesigns.com). An email will then be sent by *Control Panel Designs* confirming receipt of your design.

## Ordering your Control Panel

After submitting your design(s) *Control Panel Designs* will review the material and transform the design into a PDF file. The PDF copy of your design will be sent to you via email for your review, along with a quotation and an order form.

The steps for ordering your Control Panel manufacture are:

### Step 1 – Review Design

Review the PDF design document that has been sent to you. Check it for completeness and accuracy.

**Ensure you are completely happy with the design before ordering your Control Panels.**

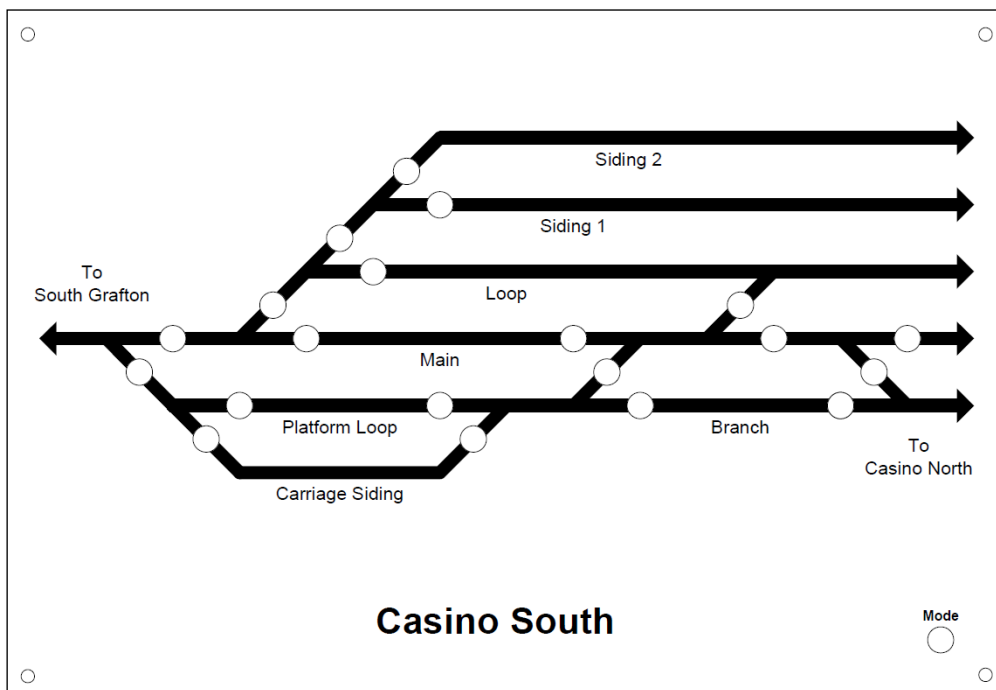


Figure 3 Example of PDF Design provided by Control Panel Designs

### Step 2 – Print Order Form

Print the Order Form that was supplied with your PDF design.

### Step 3 – Complete and Sign Order Form

Complete and sign the order form. By signing the order form you are accepting the terms and conditions for supply of your control panels.

### Step 3 – Submit Order

Fax the order form to +61 8 6316 3322, or email a scanned order form to [sales@controlpaneldesigns.com](mailto:sales@controlpaneldesigns.com).