



DCCconcepts Alpha Mimic ground signals

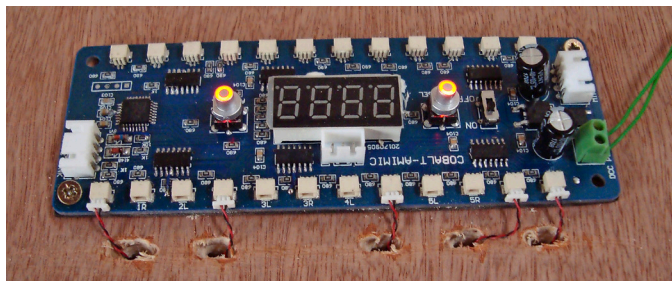
◆ SCALE 4mm:1ft ◆ MODEL DCCconcepts DCD-MGS-BR with 12 x BR three-aspect ground signals ◆ PRICE £99.95 ◆ AVAILABILITY DCCconcepts stockists or www.dccconcepts.com

DCCconcepts has a reputation for developing new model railway technology, and these new Alpha Mimic ground signals are typical of the innovative gadgets for which it's become known.

Ground signals give protection to points without a corresponding main signal. DCCconcepts' colour light

ground signals come in three main LMS/BR types - two, three and four-aspect. In addition, there is a pack of two-aspect US signals in 'HO'.

It's the word 'mimic' that differentiates these signals from other colour light offerings. The idea is that they are wired to your existing points and become a visual indication of their position. They are not a set of



Left: The Mimic board, mounted on top of the base-board. The ground signals reached the board easily while the three to the right needed extending.

Above: We received two packs of Alpha Mimic signals. One contains the Mimic board and British-style ground signals. The second pack contains alternative ground signals and two-aspect green/red signals, ideal for trains exiting sidings.



To the left is the British-style ground position signal, while the simple two-aspect signals control the exits to the yard sidings.

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signals to be switched independently - they are only switched by the movement of the points.

You might think that such a system would be incredibly complicated to install and set up, but it's not, because everything is pre-wired. You simply plug the ground signal into the corresponding socket on the control unit, and it works.

SOLDER-FREE OPTION

If your point is further away from the control unit, then you might need to extend the wires with a bit of soldering. DCCconcepts can sell you the correct wire if you want to do this yourself, but it also offers wire extension packs and connectors for those who hide under the table at the mere mention of the words 'soldering iron'.

There really is no need to be afraid of the wiring. It's very straightforward and the signals are simple to install.

Firstly, decide on the best position for the Mimic control unit. It's best situated on the front face of the baseboard, or on the surface if you have the room, as you will need access to it if you want to change any of the numbers. The pack includes comprehensive instructions that explain all the moves, and show

you how to alter the numbers you can allocate to different signals that correspond to your existing point numbers.

Once you have decided on the position, you can start planting signals.

Drill a hole in the desired area (imagine you're the driver looking for the signal), thread the signal wire through the hole, take it back to the panel and plug it in. There is provision for 12 signals per unit but additional panels can be added if need be.

To make the panel live, simply attach two wires to your bus-bar supply voltage and it instantly comes alive. Check the number that your point operates to, plug the signal into the corresponding socket, change the point and the signal changes.

Overall, this is another excellent addition to the DCCconcepts range and a must for anyone who wants to bring some realistic, and easy, operation to their layout. **(DL)**

REVIEW VERDICT

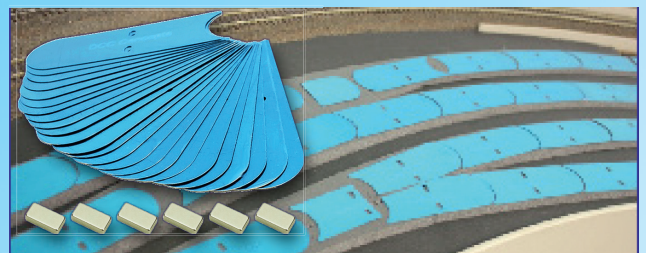
PROS. Easy to install, effective, brings extra realism to your layout.
CONS. Nothing of note.

DCCconcepts thinking outside the square

Are you building a new layout or are there running problems with the one you have? For far less time, cost & effort than you may imagine, DCCconcepts PowerBase will improve performance.

DCCconcepts PowerBase Guarantee

Add PowerBase under all of your track, install it all correctly and we promise everything will work better. **GREATLY REDUCED** need for track cleaning... for all model railway layouts, big & small, simple or complex. **IMPROVED** quality of loco performance, with smoother running and tracking, especially for your smaller locos. **SIGNIFICANTLY** better power pickup consistency for all locomotives and stock with lighting or power needs. **MASSIVE** pulling power improvements... on gradients and on the flat - often doubling usable train length with no slipping to a stop irrespective of the locomotive type.



Starting with PowerBase

PowerBase is very low cost, and enough for all track on the average layout will cost less than most locos.

Once you're ready to go, it is a simple 3-step process: **INSTALL** PowerBase plates on to the track-bed... a simple job using only glue, some weights & a little time.

LAY your track normally... place the track on top of the PowerBase plates, fixing it with glue (or pins if you wish).

ADD the PowerBase Magnets... to your locomotives, so that they are as close as is possible to the rail-head. You will not even have to take the top of the loco off to do it and installation can often be done in less than two minutes!

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We welcome modellers & knowledgeable, specialised dealers who care about their customers from all around the world.

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