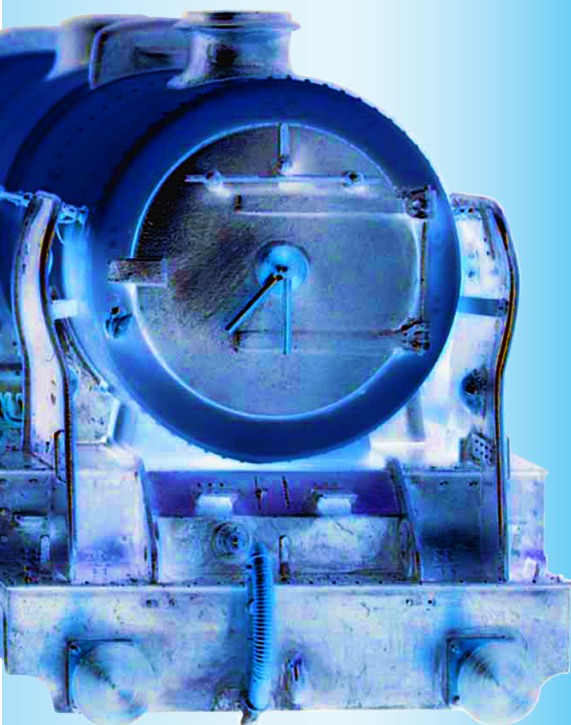




DCCconcepts Weathering Powders

Hints & tips on how to use them



Weathering Powders – Instructions

Weathering your model railway – locos and rolling stock, trackwork or the buildings and scenery – both takes away the toyshop look and, because it harmonises all aspects of the scene, it can help to create a truly realistic and “believable” result.

Texture really matters

While many choose to pick up an airbrush, that is only one aspect of weathering.

Think about it... a black loco is largely black in most areas, but the smokebox is a much grainer texture than the boiler, parts wiped or touched by hands are largely shiny, the cab roof and boiler top have sooty deposits, the brake area has lumpy muck around it and the rods are also black-ish with an oily sheen.

Yes - all varying blacks with other hues thrown in - but all very different in texture! The same applies to track and buildings but it is really very obvious on rolling stock.

So - texture is an important for weathering and weathering powders, used in careful combination with other approaches, will add a very important dimension, increasing the realism of all weathering jobs.

DCCconcepts weathering powders

DCCconcepts powders are extremely fine so they will stay where they are put.

This is because the fine particles embed into the texture of matt paint with very little need for added fixatives, so the result is natural, and that all-important texture is not lost with an overspray.

Preparation and Notes

Where possible, thoroughly clean the item to be weathered first as we want to start the process with a clean base. No dust, grease or finger traces as these will pick up the powders quite differently.

Practice before you start your first job as our weathering powder is far stronger in use than you can imagine! Work in good light so things stand out.

Application

Little is best. Start by picking up just a little with a swab or brush - but then tap it onto a paper towel until the brush looks almost empty. Only then should you apply the brush to the model, using the “tapped off” powder to re-load again.

Practice with a least favourite model - or one bought cheaply as a sacrificial “test bed”.

Experiment and learn

You CAN experiment with confidence as most mistakes can simply be washed off with soap and water or “diluted or made quite subtle” with a wet or damp cotton bud.

Try different application methods

We provide you with a range of brushes and applicators to experiment with. Each will give a different result.

Apply with one & “brush out” with another. Experiment with different tones and using different application methods.

Work the powders into crevices – and clean off parts that would not see much heavy weathering – for example handrails and walkways – or perhaps loco buffer beams where grime remains around rivets while the red is relatively clean.

Try dampening cotton buds or applicators with water or gentle thinners and drag the powders to show how the dirt flows on the real thing because of weather.

You could also try using “other stuff” such as low cost eye makeup as a fixative base as it can contain oils to help the makeup colours stick - and add our powders on top. (We do strongly recommend that you buy your own though - borrowing some from the lady of the house may well cause problems)

Even dilute PVA or very thin varnish may give you a useful surface to work with!

Remember, as you work - texture matters a lot - for example frame or driving wheel areas on the chassis that are close to brakes can be caked with muck so how about dabbing on a little glue first, adding powders while its damp for a “lumpy” look!

Preservation

The powders are all ultra-fine so they can actually bed into the paint with no real need of overspray to fix them – however if you must use a fixative, add it first, NOT later.

You could consider a thin spraying with 5 to 10% varnish, 90 to 95% thinners before you apply them, followed by a later re-working with brushes or cotton buds dampened with thinners. DO go gently if you do this. It's easier to add more than remove too much.

Once weathered, handle things carefully. No matter what you do, weathered surfaces by ANY method will always be worn away by too many fingers!

Finally - read and research. There are MANY great weathering guides out there to read.



Research and look at photographs!

Steam Locomotives

A typical method is to use a wide selection of weathering pigments, from black to dark and light browns and tans/rusts in varying mixes.... plus whites for hard water deposits

Do not forget to brush the powders out in the direction of weathering in the real world – are they moved by rain for example?

- are they the whitish “hard water” leaks that move downwards with gravity?
- are they rods that may be oily AND dirty?

DO Look at photographs continuously!

Diesel Locomotives

Both Diesels and passenger carriages often have noticeably weathered roofs and of course underframes – but try to avoid over-weathering on the sides unless you have a photo as they are rarely all that dirty (in practice, they are cleaned quite often).

With diesels, do try to find a prototype photo of the specific loco class to guide you.

Wagons of all types

They will vary a lot depending on where they run and what they carry. They will also tend to weather and age differently, depending on what they are made of.

Research is the key here - and **DO** notice too that, while they may not be as well looked after as passenger stock (so are often more heavily weathered), their all-important data plates and numbers are often kept clean!

Trackwork

The weathering of track is often neglected, but it really adds a lot to the realism of the layout as it harmonises the entire scene.

The sleepers, chairs and the rail itself will all deserve your close attention, one at a time. Remember too - because each passing train creates quite a strong wind and some heavy vibrations, the track weathering effects will also tend to subtly blend into each other!

Need help or advice? You are welcome to email us at:
(Northern hemisphere) salesuk@dccconcepts.com
(Southern hemisphere) salesau@dccconcepts.com

Or visit us at our DCCconcepts website at:
www.dccconcepts.com

Buildings

As with all modelling, look at (and photograph) the prototype – if you can, observe it directly, subject to safety and trespass rules!

Don't forget the “season” that your model is set in either – tints and colours in winter are often darker due to moisture, and mould and muck increase when things are wet!

As previously mentioned: we recommend that you do **NOT** add over-spray after adding powders as it will significantly change tint levels, also changing colours in unexpected ways – as well as taking away all that very important texture difference.

Handling weathered models

Once any item is weathered, handle it with care. Handling affects weathered surfaces.

(It is worth considering “drive on-drive off” loco storage such as the DCCconcepts MPD once your prize locomotive is weathered.)

Precautions

DCCconcepts weathering powders are very fine but contain nothing harmful to humans.

However, take the same precautions that you should with with any other fine or dusty product, particularly around young children. (unless you want the model bench to look like a 1960s steam locomotive depot)

Storage

They are supplied to you sealed with tape. This is because the powders are so fine they can migrate between threaded pot and cap!

They are best opened on an easy-to-clean surface such as a disposable paper kitchen towel (to absorb stray bits of powder). The powders should also be stored in a dry place.

If you spill powder, the best way to remove is with a damp disposable towel. However, the best plan is to carefully avoid the need to clean up! An old newspaper can also make a great disposable tablecloth.

References and more guidance

We can only include the basics here, but Google and the other web search engines are your friend. Search the web. Also try to obtain and read some of the fine weathering magazines available - they won't disappoint!

Of course there are also books on weathering model railways... but be sure to look outside the model railway hobby as well, because modellers of military equipment and aircraft have some really nice examples to show you!

Some other DCCconcepts products

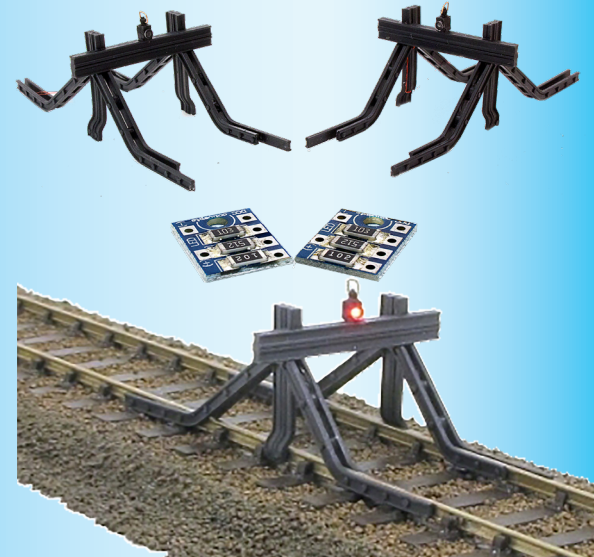
DML-MBS rail-built buffer stop

Beautifully scaled and ready to install, these buffer stops are sold in a pack of two.

Each of the buffer stops is fitted with a ready to use scale sized working red lamp (The lamp is very fine and even has a hinged handle).

They are provided with a small PCB that has three different resistor values so that it is easy to adjust the lamp light level to suit.

(Also available as a simple kit without the cross beam installed for EM & P4 modellers)



Legacy Ballast

Perfectly sized and artfully blended.

LB-4BB OO/HO Brown aged ballast blend

LB-4SE OO/HO Shed and Steam Era blend

LB-4LG OO/HO Grey newer ballast blend

LB-2BB N~2mm Brown aged ballast blend

LB-2SE N~2mm Shed and Steam Era blend

LB-2LG N~2mm Grey newer ballast blend

