



First Things First...

Due to the latest regulations imposed to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, we have made some changes at our Settle offices to protect our staff whilst continuing to provide you with the world-class service for which we are famous.

Each of our buildings will now only be able to support one member of staff, with others working from home – so when you call us, don't be surprised if you hear household sounds in the background!

Our telephones will still be answered, anything you purchase on the website will still be processed and we are still here to help you with your questions about our products. Don't forget you can also find help from our community on our forum (www.dccconceptsforum.com)!

If you need to return anything to us for service, we will need you to first contact our customer service team. That way we can ensure your item passes as smoothly as possible through our system, especially as this will take a little longer at the moment. Our contact details can be found [HERE](#).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding. We will aim to dispatch orders as quickly as we possibly can and we will continue to strive to provide you, our customers, with the best service possible.

WEBSITE – OPEN

FORUM – OPEN

TELEPHONE HELPLINES – OPEN

RETAIL SHOP – CLOSED



So - What about Weathering?

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.



Weathering pigments



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 grainier 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 blackish 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 obvious on rolling stock.

So - texture is 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.

Weathering Powders - Instructions
Weathering your model railway - locomotives and scenery - both takes away the 'toyish' look and, because it harmonises all aspects of the scene, it can help to create a truly realistic and 'believable' result.

Texture really matters
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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.

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 powder 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 'subtle' and water 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 rest 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 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 thinner. 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 greys, and sometimes its varying and light greys, and brown and water deposits and rivets... plus water for hard water deposits.

Do not forget to brush the powder into the direction of weathering in the model - are they moving by rail for example? - and they the main "hand" makes that new equipment will be shiny AND dry? - are they tools that may be oily AND dry? - in practice, they are cleaned quite often!

Diesel Locomotives
Both Diesels and passenger carriages often have noticeably weathered roofs and are of course underbody - 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.

Whigons of all types
They will vary a lot depending on where they are used 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 but are often more heavily weathered! - 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).

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 - time and colours in winter are often darker due to moisture, and mould and mildew - plus water for hard water deposits.

As previously mentioned, we recommend that you do NOT add over-spray after adding powders as it will significantly change the 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' storage such as the DCCconcepts MPO once your prized 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 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 bags. 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.

As 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 good 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 modelers of military equipment and aircraft have some really nice examples to show you!

Some other DCCconcepts products
DCCconcepts rail-built buffer stop
Beautifully scaled and ready to install, these buffer stops are just in a pack of two. Each of the buffer stops is fitted with a ready to use scale road working and 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 insulator for EM & P4 modelers)

Legacy Ballast
Perfectly sized and artfully blended.
LB-488 OO/HO Brown aged ballast blend
LB-45E OO/HO Shed and Steam Era blend
LB-4L Grey newer ballast blend
LB-28B N-2mm Brown aged ballast blend
LB-28E N-2mm Shed and Steam Era blend
LB-3LQ N-2mm Grey newer ballast blend



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

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Weathering The Storm

Locomotive and Wagon Weathering



DCW-LRD - Weathering Set - Locos and Wagons

This pack contains all the colours you'd find most useful when weathering wagons and locos. From creating rust areas to general grime you'd find on a well used Wagon.

Trackwork Weathering



DCW-TRK - Weathering Set - Track and Environs

The weathering of trackwork is often neglected, but it adds a lot to the realism of the layout as it harmonises the entire scene. This pack contains all the colours you'll find most useful to weather the track & surrounding areas.

Building and Infrastructure Weathering



DCW-MIX - Weathering Set - Infrastructure

As with all modelling, look at (and photograph) the prototype - if you can, observe it directly, subject to safety and trespass rules! This pack is ideal for weathering buildings and other infrastructure around your layout.

General Scenic Weathering



DCW-GLW - Weathering Set - Layout/General

Don't forget the season that your model is set in either, tints and colours in winter are often darker due to moisture. Mould and muck also increase when things are wet! This pack contains the four most useful colours to weather your layout and scenic areas.

4 Shades of Grey



DCW-GRY - Weathering Set - Shades of Grey

Not to be confused with other shades of grey... this pack contains colours which can be useful in all areas of your model railway!



➤ **Reviews**

Have a look at this video to see our weathering powders in use...

[Weathering a coach using DCC Concepts Weathering Powders](#) - Liam at New Mills Model Railway

➤ **Where can I buy DCCconcepts Weathering Powders?**

Our weathering powders are available direct on www.dccconcepts.com, but don't forget that our products are also available from our network of specialist retailers. You can find a map of these by clicking the Google Maps link below:



➤ **That's it for now...**

Happy New Year from all of us here in Settle - we hope that 2021 allows some of you to come and visit, where the kettle is always hot and the welcome always warm!

Did you enjoy the contents—please let us know.

Don't be shy: We invite you to email us and discuss any changes you might like to see and welcome ideas for any "style" changes or additions we could consider to make more interesting reading.

Of course, if you have a specific subject that you would like us to cover, we will listen. Please email us at web@dccconcepts.com and we will see what we can do.

Until then, thank you for sharing your valuable hobby time with us.

Richard Johnson