

DCC concepts thinking outside the square

DIGITAL ENLIGHTENMENT

DCCconcepts goes Zen

DCCconcepts has rolled out a complete new family of DCC decoders, including the world's smallest direct plug-in unit. Grouped together under the 'Zen' brand, the decoders range from the tiny six- and eight-pin 'Zen Nano' to the 'Buddha' – a small but powerful six-function, 3Amp motor drive decoder aimed at the larger scale market.

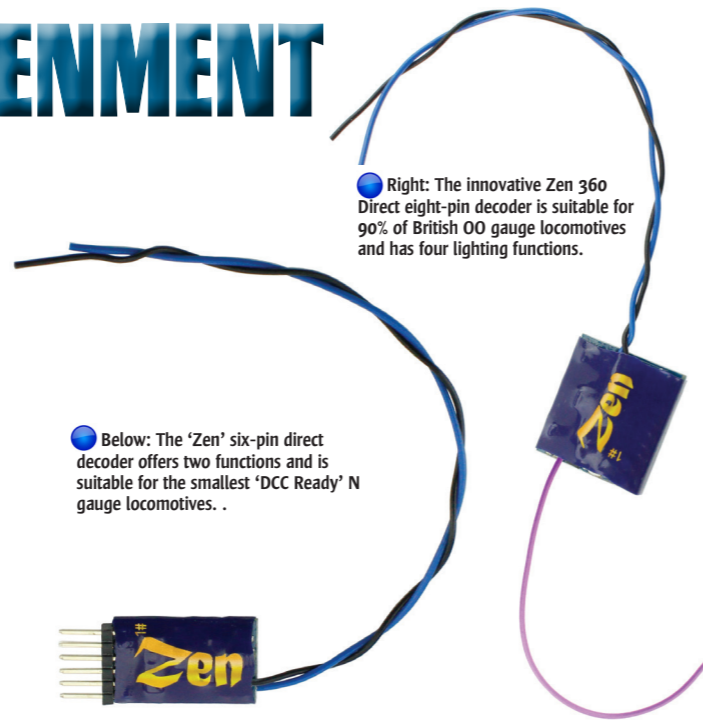
One of the most important new developments is the inclusion of a slimline, but more powerful 'Stay Alive' capacitor discharge unit (CDU) with every decoder, providing uninterrupted power supply for even the smallest locomotives. In a couple of cases, the direct plug-in decoders are smaller than the

blanking plates provided by manufacturers. This means they should squeeze into even the smallest locomotives 'DCC Ready' models.

For the N scale market, and the smallest OO/HO locomotives, the Zen six-pin Direct and six-pin Versatile (with eight-pin harness) will fit a wide range of models. The four-function Zen 360 Direct is designed to fit into 90% of British OO gauge locomotives, whether the space available is long and narrow or short and wide.

DCCconcepts' Richard Johnson says: "It's not hard to design a good decoder, but so much effort is often put into software that the practical things can be lost when it comes to physical design.

"It has become increasingly clear as we talked to users across the world that some issues were almost ignored, and that some prototypes, built to a smaller loading gauge can give modellers a real headache



Below: The 'Zen' six-pin direct decoder offers two functions and is suitable for the smallest 'DCC Ready' N gauge locomotives.

Right: The innovative Zen 360 Direct eight-pin decoder is suitable for 90% of British OO gauge locomotives and has four lighting functions.

when it comes to installing a decoder.

"We've focused on delivering big performance in small spaces, fewer wires and less wiring, super-smooth loco drive, reliability, affordability, enough light functions to do the job and, importantly, higher quality yet

smaller 'Stay Alives'."

The first batches of 'Zen' decoders are arriving in the UK now and are available individually or in packs of five direct from Gaugemaster or DCCconcepts stockists nationwide. See www.gaugemaster.com and www.dccconcepts.com

MEET THE TEAM: NEW 'ZEN' DECODERS

Decoder	Dimensions	Continuous	Max	Functions
ZN8D: Zen Nano 8-pin Direct	15mm x 7mm x 5mm	750mA	1.1Amp	4
ZN8H: Zen Nano 8-pin wired	15mm x 7mm x 2.7mm	750mA	1.1Amp	2
ZN6D: Zen 6-pin Direct	13.5mm x 8.5mm x 3mm	750mA	1.1Amp	2
ZN68: Zen 6-pin Versatile	13.5mm x 8.5mm x 3mm	750mA	1.1Amp	2
Z360: Zen 360 Direct 8-pin	14.2mm x 12.5mm x 3.5mm	750mA	1.1Amp	4
Z218: Zen 218 8/21-pin	22mm x 16mm x 4mm	750mA	1.1Amp	4
ZBHP: Zen Buddha	40mm x 25mm x 10mm	3Amp	5Amp	6

LEGACY: BRITISH OO TRACK AND GAUGES

Not content with its activities in digital and electronics, DCCconcepts has announced its first moves into the realm of UK prototype track.

'Legacy' will be a new range of heritage products, starting with track and pointwork kits aimed at encouraging modellers to take a first step into the adoption of more visually appealing and prototypical trackwork. The track features pre-etched and tinned sleepers, cast brass chairs and high-grade stainless steel rails that, in theory, should never need cleaning!

Starting initially with point kits later this year, the range is planned to expand into lengths of ready-made plain track and eventually to the first-ever range of truly British outline bullhead track, points and crossings. The range will also include precision track gauges. We hope to bring you more on this exciting development later in the year.

DCC PRODUCT UPDATE

DCCconcepts is also pushing ahead with several other additions to its range and existing product lines. Redesigned versions of its popular Cobalt point/accessory motor - Cobalt Omega - will shortly be available. Three options; 'Classic' for entry level analogue users, 'Intelligent Power' with the ability to accept AC or DC supply between 9V and 23V and drawing very little power and 'iP Digital' - the top of the range drawing minimal current and designed with the ability to 'learn' addresses. DCCconcepts says it has sought to address ever question it has ever been asked about point motors and solenoids.

ADS-FX is a new solenoid accessory decoder with eight outputs for point motors, panel light outputs and frog polarity switching, all for a UK price of less than £50.

Also coming soon are several extensions to the company's lighting

range, including an overhead line/third-rail 'flash' device and sensors to activate six random arcing effects for less than £20; modern 'end of train' flashing lamps with two flash speeds; lamps for steam era shunting locomotives with nano-LEDs and modern table lamps for Mk 3/Mk4 coaches.

Stationary sound decoders with pre-installed station announcements are also planned, with an expected price of less than £15.

Finally, DCCconcepts has commissioned what it believes to be the "first true high-quality scale ruler" for railway modellers. The chromed steel ruler doubles as a handrail bending jig thanks to laser cut holes along the edge. All these items and more will feature on the company's revamped website which should go live shortly at:

[W www.dccconcepts.com](http://www.dccconcepts.com)

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DIARY DATES

12

19/20

25-27

Things to SEE & DO in JULY

VINTAGE TRAIN SHOW

The Train Collectors Society annual Vintage & Collectors Train Show features a range of operating toy train displays in many different gauges and manufactured over the last 80 years. Many specialist toy train traders and toy train clubs in attendance. Opening times: 1030-1700. Address The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8JB T 07801 818764 W N/A

FESTIVAL OF TRAMWAYS

Now in its 26th year, the Festival features model tramway layouts and displays, sales stands and a competition, with a trophy given for the best model tram of the show. Free heritage bus shuttle from Manchester Victoria station (Stop NU). Address Museum of Transport, Boyle Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester M8 8UW W www.tramwayinfo.com/Deffest.htm

50 YEARS OF CLASS 14

A special diesel gala celebrating the 'Teddy Bears' - BR Class 14! Pay tribute to the short-lived career of these diesel-hydraulics with an intensive timetable worked exclusively by '14s', a display charting the history of the class and models from N to 7.25" gauge. Address East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street, Bury BL9 0EY T 0161 764 7790 W www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk

BR LOCOMOTIVE ALLOCATIONS

If you're modelling the 1948-68 period, this comprehensive new guide to the BR steam locomotive fleet and its allocation history will be an indispensable reference. Published by Ian Allan and available from all good railway bookshops for £40.00 (ISBN 978 0 86093 661 9), it contains an extraordinary amount of detail about allocations, shedcodes, names and withdrawal dates for the historian and modeller.



SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS

5 NEW ITEMS FOR YOUR LAYOUT



'DRAIN' TRAIN FROM RADLEY

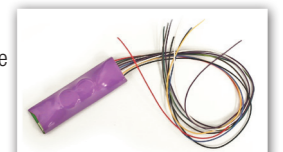
London Transport specialist Radley Models has added a resin kit of the Southern/English Electric Waterloo & City Class 487 driving motor car to its O gauge range. Priced at £169.00, the kit has been

produced in limited numbers and requires motor, gearbox, wheels and paint/transfers to complete.

[W: www.radleymodels.com](http://www.radleymodels.com)

2 SOUNDS FOR WAGONS!

US company SoundTraxx has released the first 16-bit DCC decoder that replicates rolling stock sounds for any of the major RTR scales. The SoundCar includes



a variety of specific recordings, such as the clickety-clack, flange squeal, generator, brake cylinders, coupling and uncoupling, as well as a selection of user-adjustable horns, bells and whistles. Additionally, the SoundCar has four outputs for interior and exterior lights. For more information and a demonstration video of the SoundCar, go to the company's website.

[W: www.soundtraxx.com/dsd/soundcar/soundcar.php](http://www.soundtraxx.com/dsd/soundcar/soundcar.php)



HIGSONS HOPPER FOR PENNINE

Pennine Wagons has just taken delivery of its latest special commission Dapol wagon. The newest addition to the range is an N gauge 20-ton bulk grain hopper in the yellow livery of Higgs

Brewery of Liverpool. The wagons cost £12.95 each or £35.25 for a rake of three (prices include P&P within the UK). Contact: Pennine Wagons, 34 Leith Court, Dewsbury WF12 0QP. Further details, plus information on how to order online, can be found at [W: www.penninewagons.co.uk](http://www.penninewagons.co.uk)

4 GROTTY WORKSHOP

ModelRailwayScenery.com has just released a new kit based on a real backstreet workshop in the Midlands. The kit features heavily weathered, photo-realistic textures and a detailed interior.



An N gauge version is planned too. The 4mm scale kit is available for just £2.79 at <http://www.modelrailwayscenery.com/2014/05/the-old-workshop-oo-4mm-176/> or pre-printed complete with card base layers for £6.49 via <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Model-Railway-Scenery>

5 WILDER PAINTS & POWDERS

Wildier is a Russian company producing tools, paints and powders for military and railway modellers. Amongst its latest batch of new products are useful materials such as 'textured earth' paints in various shades, gunpowder pigments, 'NitroLine' enamel weathering washes and 'filters' - thin transparent layers of paint applied over a surface to alter the tone of the base coat. Wildier has also recently released a selection of five high-quality stainless steel tweezers. For more information on the range, contact UK importer The Airbrush Company. [W: www.airbrushes.com](http://www.airbrushes.com) T: 01903 767800

