



There are some things that have just never happened in the hobby, because they are seen as just too hard to manufacture.

That's never really bothered us, as we love to think laterally and like to be different. We also feel that adding a little inspiration (and the occasional challenge) for those in the hobby that like to work with their hands to make something special is well worth doing.

**Working Point Rodding that's ready to go is one of those things we just had to try for!**

Sure, there are etches and crank kits you can assemble if you have nimble fingers and lots of patience, as well as very good eyesight. You also need literally weeks of time, because the kit parts are fiddly to prepare and assemble, and rod stools made from whitemetal etc need a huge level of cleaning up before use - and you need dozens of them! Then there's the job of actually connecting it together.

**So - The challenge was to create point rodding with real usability that is able to be assembled by the average modeller with a basic tool kit.**

It needed to be close to scale to look right, but of course, the cranks had to be a tiny bit larger than scale because the most common pointwork used in the hobby has a huge gap between point blades and stock rails compared to the real thing and so slightly longer crank arms are needed.



Even then, the parts we had to create to make the cranks are, to say the least... TINY.

This small photo tells the story: the rivet sitting on the coin is less than 2mm long and it is less than 0.6 mm across its narrowest point (which itself has a 0.25mm hole in it). Just one one of the many thousands of shouldered or "stepped" rivets that we had to create in order to assemble the rod cranks (it is used to hold the rod pockets onto the cranks).

Then of course it was necessary to actually assemble the cranks to the crank posts with another rivet that was nearly as small - and then of course set them accurately every time. ANYONE with less than perfect vision certainly need not apply for that job!

By the way - the rivet is sitting on a UK 5P coin (US/Au equivalent 5c).

**Of course - rodding is far more than just the cranks...** all of the rest also needs to be delicate and durable too.

The rods need to be square, fine, accurate and strong. The rod stools are actually very small in real life, but they need to be realistic in model form AND strong.... They also need to allow prototypical spacing of rod stools and so lots of them are needed- and because so many are needed they need to be perfect rather than approximate or needing lots of clean-up, like every other cottage-industry attempt at creating them - but they cannot be too expensive either.

Of course... not everyone is comfortable with soldering - so we also needed to be practical. Therefore, while soldering can be (and is) a great way to connect things, it also needs to be an option for some, and most importantly, taking care of the worst of the "hair shirt" parts and tasks by pre-assembling the cranks and making the hard-to-get-right connection of rods and cranks easy was also essential.

There was another motivation for this project too: it was the creation and instant success of the small, silent DCCconcepts Cobalt-SS motor, so making a system that would allow this tiny turnout motor to actually drive the rodding to change the turnout was a must.

FINALLY - we also used the cranks as part of a simple to use "distant mounting Kit" for Cobalt-SS, so that box can now be ticked too.

*Rather than expand on this introduction, I'm now going to add some of the instruction manual content for DCCconcepts rodding here.*

**DCCconcepts products are imagined, designed and manufactured by DCCconcepts Ltd  
Our showroom and offices are located in Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9RP, England  
Phone: +44 (0) 1729 821 080 \* [sales@dccconcepts.com](mailto:sales@dccconcepts.com) \* [www.dccconcepts.com](http://www.dccconcepts.com)**