Cork Roadbed

Our cork roadbed is made from high-quality natural cork and is available in rolls, beveled strips, sheets, and pads in 3 or 6mm thicknesses to fit N, HO, and O scales. Rolls are somewhat unique as they allow long, flowing stretches of roadbed to be created.

You should unbox the cork and place it in your layout room for at least 24-hours prior to installing to allow it to acclimate to the temperature and humidity in the room. For rolls – remove the pin that secures the end and run your finger through the coils to help it "relax" – this will make it easier to lay flat.

We recommend using a good quality wood glue, such as TiteBond I, to secure the cork to your base – either plywood, wood spline, or foam. Apply a thin layer to the surface and press the cork securely into the glue, then secure with T-pins and/or weights. Wood glue will give you about 10 minutes of working time to fine-tune the position and will set up in about an hour, with full cure in 24-hours. Lay one side of cork first, aligning it to the track centerline. Work in sections 6 to 8 feet long, pinning or weighting before continuing. Once the first strip glue sets, apply glue to the base for the next strip and to the side of the first strip. It's always best to overlap your joints by at least 6-8" to maintain a smooth flow.

Cork rolls are unique – they represent half of the roadbed in HO and O scales. Lay one side, then the other. Either use one roll for each half of the roadbed or two rolls side by side for faster installation. For N scale, a single roll supports the full width of the track!

Pads and **Sheets** can be ordered from RR Craftsman for situations where individual roadbed strips would require more work. These are single pieces of cork available in various sizes – Pads are 2.25" wide and 6 to 15" long for use under a turnout or crossover and Sheets are 6x36" – ideal for yards and terminals.

Ballast Profile

Rolled cork and sheets have a square edge. Once the cork is glued down, apply a bead of caulk to each edge and feather it into the base to establish the profile. Use a heavy bead and a shallow angle for secondary track that has settled, and use a light bead with a sharp angle for well-maintained track. Once the caulk dries, apply ballast as you normally would.

Ballast

Use your favorite ballast media. I personally use Walnut Shell Blast Media that I wash with thinned paint to the desired color. Blast Media is available in specific grades that effectively represent rocks from 2.2 to 3.8 scale inches. Other forms of crushed walnut used for pet birds may not be as regulated in size.

Spray the track/roadbed with a mixture of water and either alcohol or a few drops of dish detergent ("wet water"), then sprinkle the ballast in place. Use a large, soft brush to distribute it, keeping ballast off the ties. Spray again with the Wet Water, then apply the adhesive – thinned white glue or matte medium, again with a small amount of alcohol or dish detergent. The alcohol or dish detergent breaks the surface tension of the water and prevents the ballast from "beading up" or "floating away".

RR Craftsman Products

Like you, I am a model railroader. The products that I provide fill a niche requirement. I offer the products that I create to solve specific challenges on my layout, from roadbed to ballast and 3D printed structures.

Products available at store.rrcraftsman.com:

Cork Roadbed – 3 and 6mm thick for multiple scales

- Rolls – economical to buy and ship, allows long flowing curves!
- Strips – traditional 36" strips with bevel edges, fully compatible with other brands.
- Sheets, and pads. Use for yards, turnouts and other large, flat areas.

Ballast

- Properly sized for HO and O in Oxide Red, Brown, Tan, and Gray. 2 and 4 pound bags.

3D Printed "stuff" of all types can be provided as standard products or semi-custom solutions.

- Mounts for Digitrax Throttles (with integrated power connector!) and UP panels.
- Mounts for Digitrax command stations and boosters with integrated cooling fans.
- Mounts and custom panels with embedded text (power control, turnout control, wiring mgmt, etc.).
- Deck and through-plate girder bridges in custom lengths/angles, including tie strips, walkways, handrails, and abutments.
- Custom bridge abutments and piers – designed and printed to your specifications.
- Structures, vehicles, and detail parts.
- Free and low-cost STL files to print your own parts.

Modeling Resources at www.rrcraftsman.com

- Listings of clubs, historical societies, and manufacturers of unique and specialty products.
- Modeler Resources such as LED Resistor calculations, Floquil to Vallejo paint mapping table, scale conversion table, AAR Car Type table, and a 3D-Printer Part Generator.
- Blog articles to share ideas and experiences with others.
- Information about the progress of my layout – see RR Craftsman products in use!

Questions about the products? Email support@rrcraftsman.com

Have a specific need? Email SalesTeam@rrcraftsman.com with your requirements.

Need to order more?

Save $$ and order direct at https://store.rrcraftsman.com

Have Fun!