

# USERS' GUIDE

## Trackwork Installation

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## **Fast Tracks Trackwork Installation Guide**

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This users' guide was written to help you install trackwork that you have built using a Fast Tracks Assembly Fixture onto your layout.

The images shown in this document may not be your specific turnout trackwork, however these instructions are suitable for most pre-built turnouts.

The latest version of this users' guide is always available for download from the Fast Tracks website at <http://www.handlaidtrack.com/documents.html>

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## Installing A Fast Tracks Constructed Turnout Onto Your Layout

Now for the fun part!

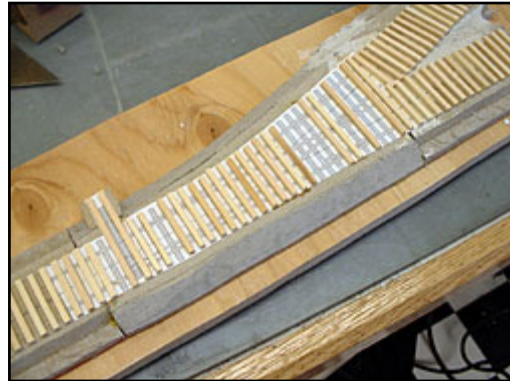
Once you have your turnout constructed you are ready to install it onto your layout. The step-by-step method that I described below is by no means the only way of installing turnouts, but they are techniques that have worked well for me and might work well for you too.

### **Step 1**

Print out a copy of the tie template that matches your turnout. Tie templates can be downloaded for free from the Fast Tracks website at <http://www.handlaidtrack.com/tie-templates.html>.

Cut out the template and glue it down to your roadbed with white glue. Using the template as a guide, glue the wooden ties directly onto the template. (Image 1)

Image 1



### **Step 2**

Using a long sanding block, sand all of the ties smooth and flat to ensure that you have a flat base to fasten the turnout to. (Image 2)

This is a very important! So spend some time on this step. Use a straight edge to confirm that the whole length of the turnout base is absolutely flat. (Image 3)

Image 2

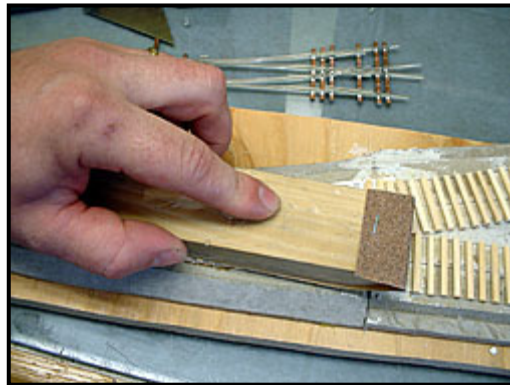


Image 3



### Step 3

To dull down the bright color of the ties, I prefer to stain them with a mixture of leather dye diluted with alcohol. Slop on the mixture with a soft brush. (Image 4)

Ultimately all of the ties will be painted with the rail, but staining them now will make painting a little easier later.

Image 4



### Step 4

If you plan on using an under-the-table mounted switch machine, drill the slot now for the wire. (Image 5)

I find that three closely spaced holes can be opened up quite nicely with a file to provide the slot. (Image 6) Be careful not to damage the ties!

You may find it easier to do this prior to gluing down the ties on subsequent installations.

Image 5



Image 6



## Step 5

Paint the ties and the turnout with the same color paint. (Image 7)

I use Floquil Weathered Black. Available online at Testors (<http://www.testors.com> Do a search for "floquil".)

Be sure to paint the areas in between the ties to hide the white of the template. Mist the ties with the same color as well. (Image 8)

Image 7



## Step 6

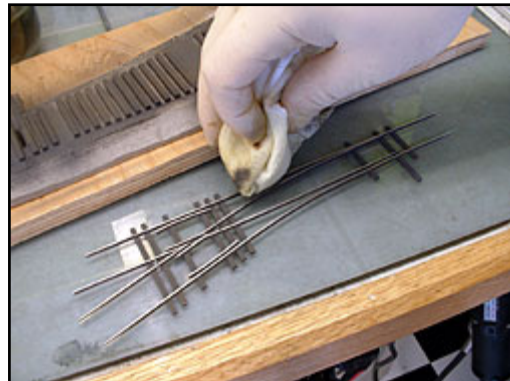
Clean the soft paint off of the railheads with a little lacquer thinner on a paper towel. Be careful not to wipe any paint from the PCB ties. (Image 9)

It will take a while before the paint fully cures on the copper cladding, so handle the track work with care for a few weeks.

Image 8



Image 9



## Step 7

Spread ballast between the ties. Use a brush to wipe away the ballast between the ties where the PCB ties will sit. (Image 10) After a turnout is installed you can go back and add some more ballast here.

Glue the ballast in place using white glue diluted with 50% water and a few drops of dish soap to act as a wetting agent.

I have found that applying some alcohol with an eyedropper or mister to the ballast prior to applying the glue helps a great deal in getting the glue solution to flow into the ballast.

Image 10



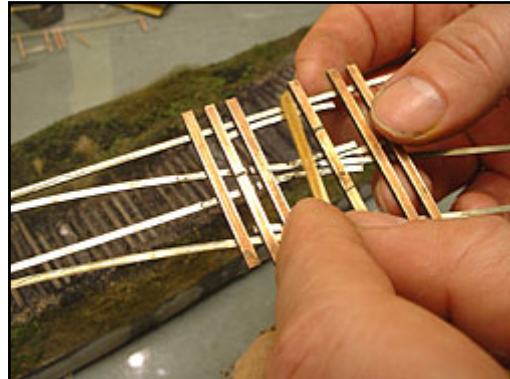
## Step 8

At this point I like to finish the area around the trackwork adding ground foam and other trackside details.

Using a 5-minute epoxy spread a layer of glue to the bottom of the rails with a scrap piece of wood. Apply the glue sparingly as too much will flow onto the ties. (Image 11)

Be very careful not to apply any glue to the moveable parts!

Image 11



### Step 9

Carefully place the turnout on the ties. Try not to move the turnout once in place or you may 'smear' the epoxy on the ties. (Image 12)

Add some weight to the turnout until the epoxy sets up - about 5-10 minutes. (Image 13)

### Step 10

Once the epoxy has cured top up and glue the ballast around the PCB ties and your turnout installation is finished! (Image 14)

At this point I like to "blend in" the turnout with the ties by misting the area with Weathered Black paint. Use it sparingly!

I also dry brush the rail and ties with a little light gray paint. Then a little dusting with rust colored chalk and the scene is complete!

Image 12

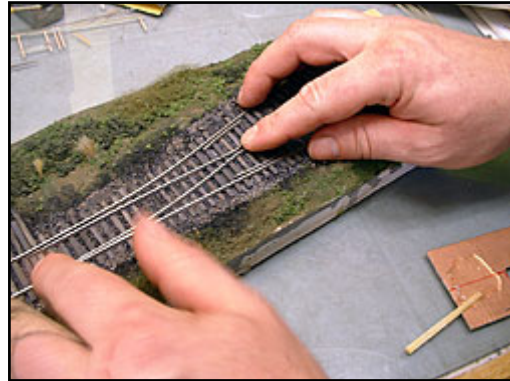


Image 13

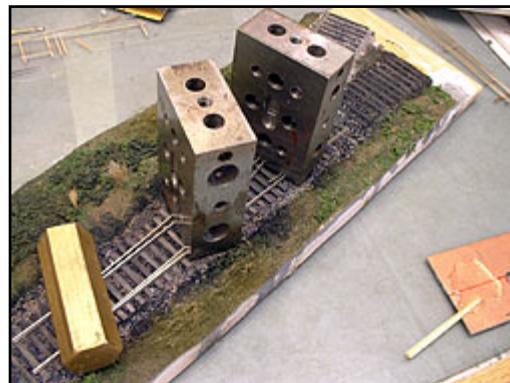


Image 14



## You Are Finished!

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With a little artistry the PCB ties will disappear completely!

