

USERS' GUIDE

Using the Tie Rack Tie Jig (UG13)



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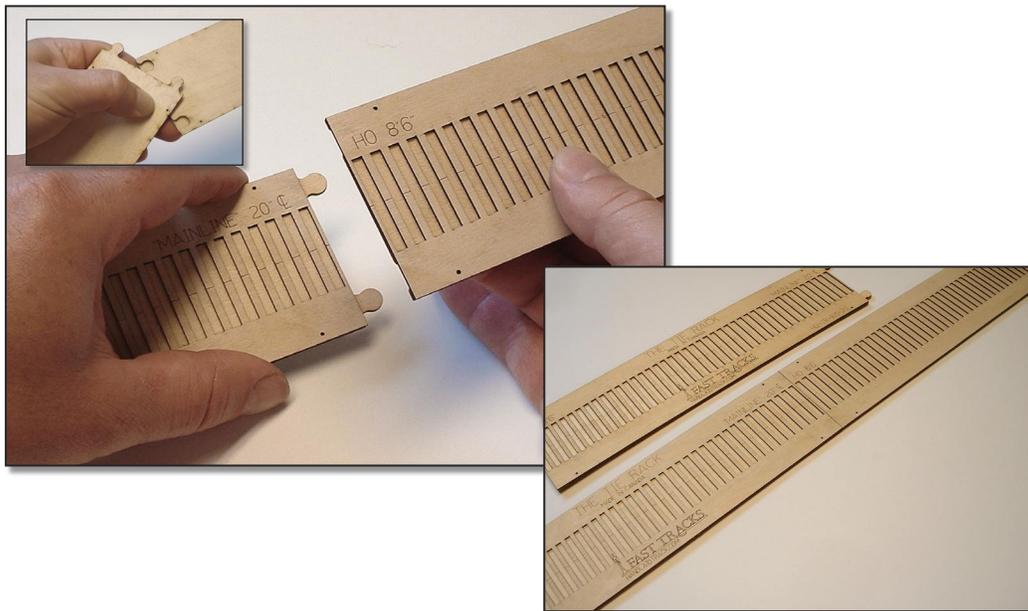
Fast Tracks Tie Rack Users' Guide

Placing individual ties onto your layout one by one and ensuring that they are equally spaced can be both a tedious and challenging task. The Fast Tracks Tie Rack layout jig makes this job faster and easier, replacing the tedium of working hunched over your layout with an evening of preparing strips of ties in front of the TV and then placing the prepared ties onto your roadbed in a few easy steps.

Each Tie Rack jig has pockets cut into the tool that are used to line up the wood ties. Pockets are cut slightly oversize to allow for some variation in the placement of the tie, replicating the slight randomness typical of prototype ties.

The Tie Rack uses a unique modular design allowing you to add additional Tie Racks jigs creating a tie laying tool of any length. This design also allows you to dismantle the Tie Rack to store it when it is not in use. You also have the option of gluing sections of Tie Racks onto a length of wood such as MDF, to help keep the tool stable when it is being used. Alternatively small holes are provided in each section of the jig so you can pin the tool down with thumbtacks.

A standard Tie Rack package includes two 10" lengths of Tie Racks. Additional racks can be added as desired. Puzzle like locking tabs allow you to simply add extra pieces to make a tool of any length.



Larger, printable versions of the images in this manual are supplied with the documentation CD that is included with any track construction tools that you purchase from Fast Tracks. Look for the Documentation Images link on the CD menu.

The latest version of this guide is always available for download from the Fast Tracks website at www.fast-tracks.net/documents

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Using The Tie Rack Laser Cut Tie Jig

Assembling the Tie Rack

Each Tie Rack section is made up of a base and a jig. These two pieces need to be glued together before you can use the Tie Rack. (Image 1)



Care must be taken to apply glue only to the shaded areas marked on the base piece, otherwise glue may get into the pockets or puzzle ends making it difficult to place the ties into the jig or joining Tie Racks together.

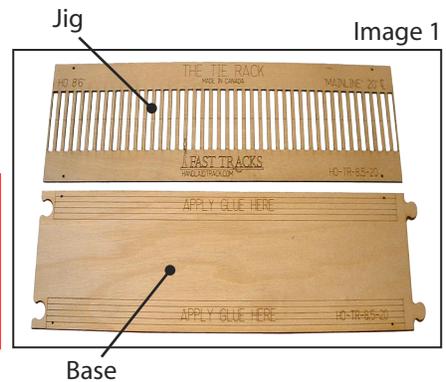


Image 1

Step 1

Sparingly apply glue to the shaded areas marked on the base and then place the jig onto the base. (Image 2)

Step 2

Set the jig on edge to ensure the two halves are accurately aligned with each other. (Image 3)



Image 2

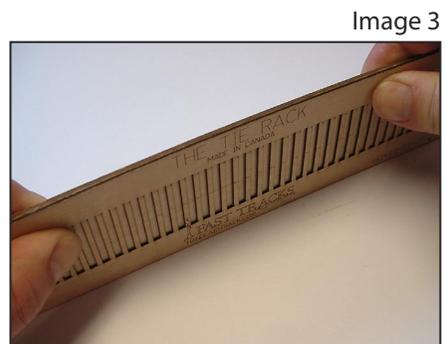
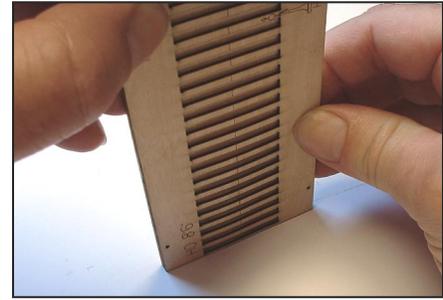


Image 3

Step 3

Once the horizontal edge is aligned, set the jig on end and align the vertical edge. (Image 4)

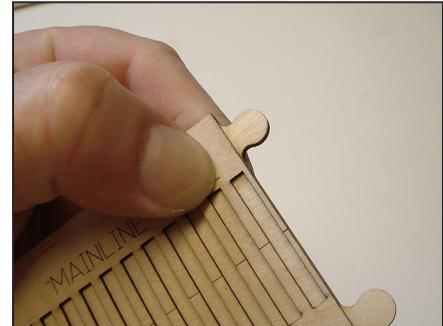
Image 4



Step 4

Carefully inspect the ends to ensure no glue has crept onto the puzzle key. If it has, remove as much as possible. (Image 5)

Image 5



Step 5

Set the assembly aside to dry with some weights placed on top. (Image 6)

Image 6



Creating Straight Strips of Ties

The Tie Rack can be used for both straight and curved lengths of ties, a slightly different approach is used for each. This section demonstrates how to use the Tie Rack to lay straight lengths of ties.

Step 1

Lock together as many lengths of Tie Rack as you need. You may want to pin or glue the fixture onto a solid surface.

Place individual wood ties into the jig. (Image 7)

Image 7



Step 2

Once all the ties are in place, apply a strip of thin masking tape onto the ties, pressing the tape firmly onto the top of each tie. (Image 8)

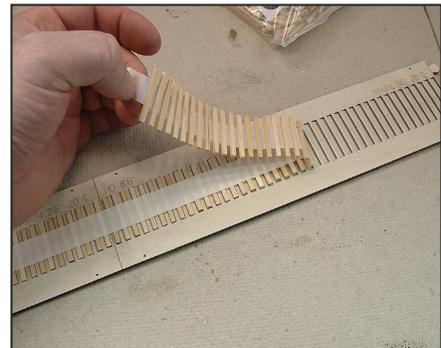
Image 8



Step 3

Remove the strip of ties from the jig and set them aside. (Image 9)

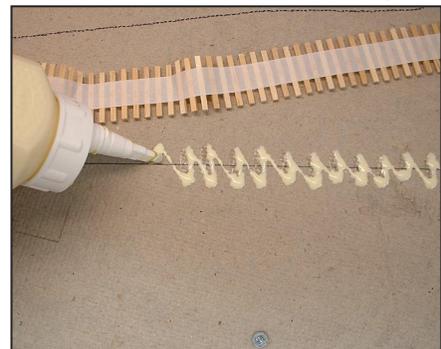
Image 9



Step 4

Apply a liberal bead of glue along previously drawn track center lines on your roadbed. (Image 10)

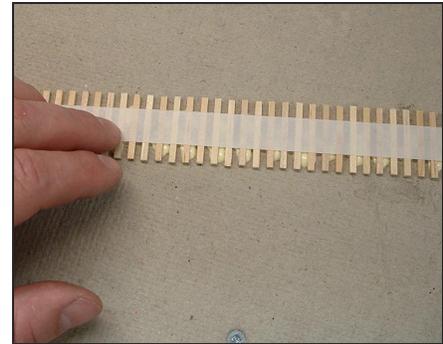
Image 10



Step 5

Press the strip of ties into the glue, being careful to keep the ties aligned with the center line. (Image 11)

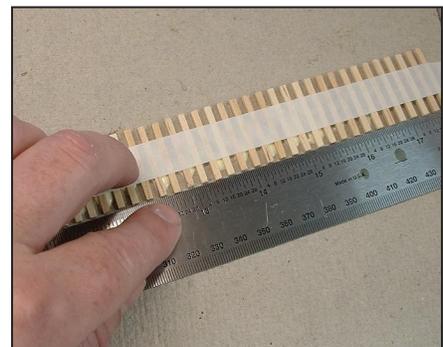
Image 11



Step 6

For lengths of straight track, a straight edge can be used to align the ties. (Image 12)

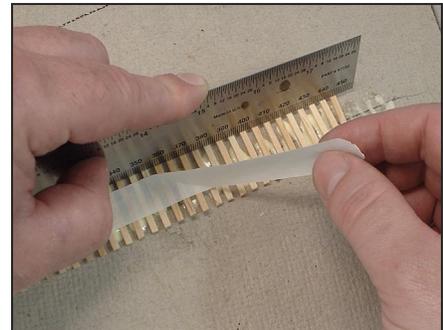
Image 12



Step 7

Wait for the glue to dry *completely* before removing the tape from the top of the ties. A straight edge can be used to hold the ties firmly in place while the tape is being removed. (Image 13)

Image 13



Creating Curvable Strips of Ties

To layout curved sections of ties, follow these steps.

Step 1

The trick to making the strips curvable is to use a very thin strip of masking tape, 1/8" (3mm) or less.

Very narrow masking tape is available commercially, but can be difficult to locate, so an alternative is to cut your own. This can be easily done by placing a strip of tape onto a smooth, clean surface and using a straight edge cut a thin strip of tape. (Image 14)

Step 2

Carefully remove the strip ensuring it does not twist and stick to itself. (Image 15)

Step 3

Press the tape onto the top of the ties in the Tie Rack. (Image 16) Ensure it has adhered to all the ties by running your fingers along the tape. (Image 17)

Image 14

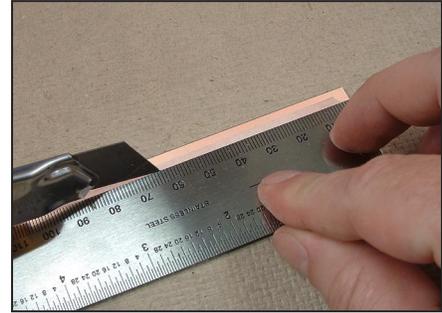


Image 15

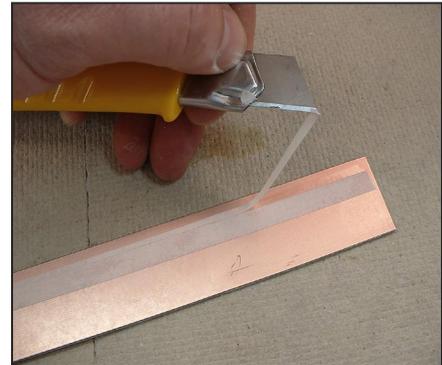


Image 16

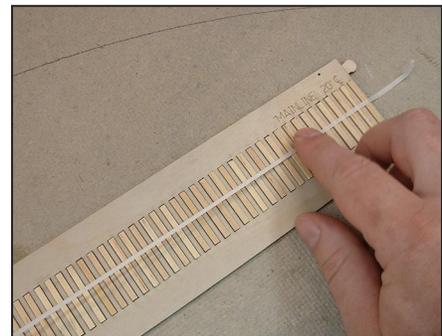
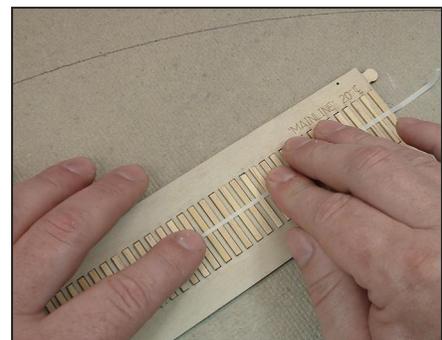


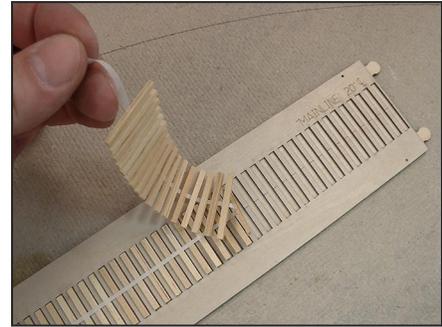
Image 17



Step 4

Carefully remove the strip from the Tie Rack and set it onto a flat surface, again being careful not to twist the strip as it is quite flimsy at this point. (Image 18)

Image 18



Step 5

Run a bead of glue along the *outside* of your previously drawn center lines. This way the center line will be visible while placing the ties. (Image 19)

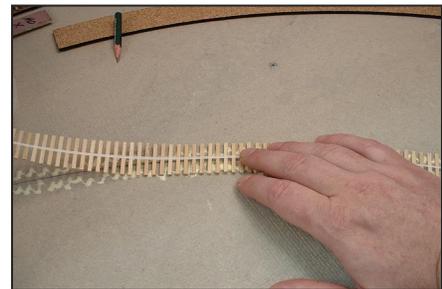
Image 19



Step 6

Carefully place the ties along the center line, slowly working them along the curve. The thin tape will allow the strip to curve easily and evenly. (Image 20)

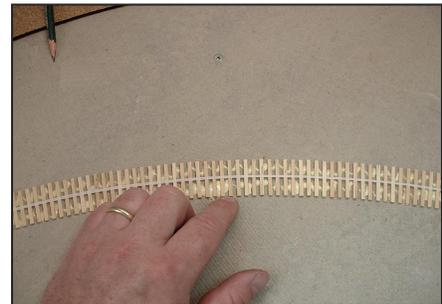
Image 20



Step 7

Should the curve not appear to be smooth, simply nudge the ties into position. (Image 21)

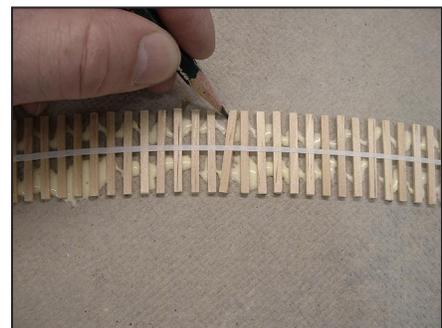
Image 21



Step 8

If you would like the occasional crooked tie (to match your prototype), shift the ties a bit while the glue is still wet. (Image 22)

Image 22



Step 9

Once the glue has set up, use a straightedge to hold the ties in place and remove the tape. (Image 23)

Image 23

