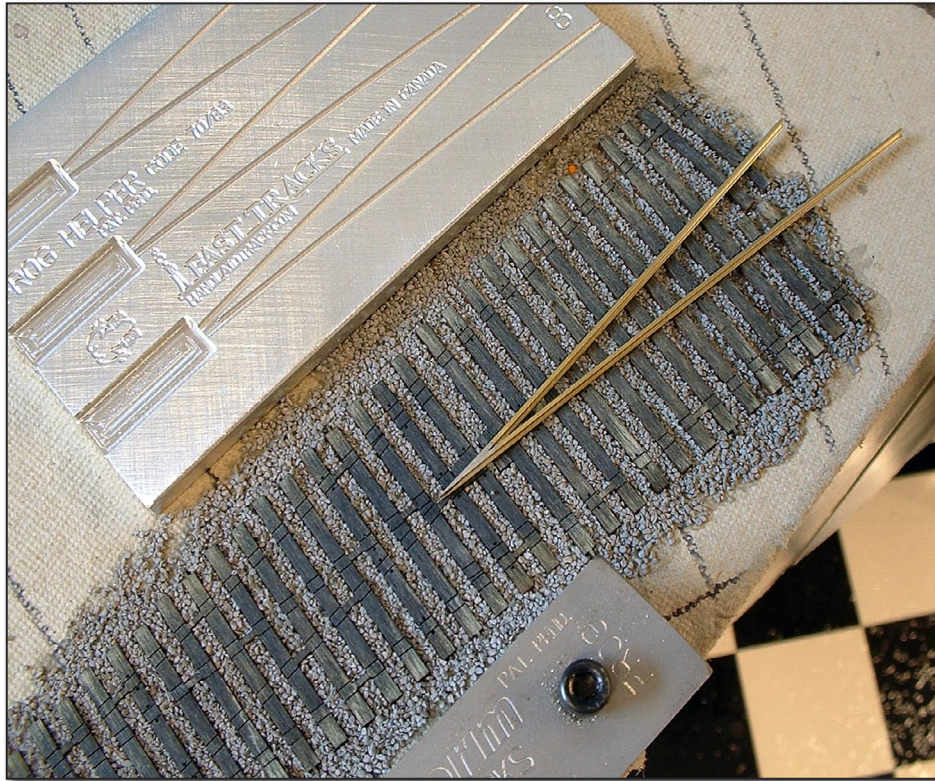


USERS' GUIDE

Using the Frog Helper To Build Straight Turnout Frog Points (UG14)



DISCLAIMER: While we have made every effort to ensure that this users' guide is accurate, we cannot guarantee it to be 100% free from errors or inaccuracies. Fast Tracks tools and supplies are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. FAST TRACKS & QUADICA DEVELOPMENTS INC, NOR ANY OF THEIR EMPLOYEES SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR OTHER LOSSES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE FAST TRACKS TOOLS OR SUPPLIES.

Fast Tracks Frog Helper Users' Guide

The Frog Helper soldering jig is used to pre-solder the two halves of a frog point together accurately and easily. The tool is designed to hold the rails at a very precise angle, and includes ample clearance below the area being soldered to ensure that the heat from soldering iron remains focused on the points.

The Frog Helper can be used to solder points for both straight and curved turnouts. This guide covers straight turnouts. For curved turnouts please refer to UG15.

Using the Frog Helper is quick and simple. Just follow the steps in this users' guide and you are guaranteed great results every time!

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.

This document was last updated on August 12, 2005.

Using The Frog Helper Soldering Jig

What You Will Need

In addition to rail and the Frog Helper you will need the following tools:

- 35W (or larger) soldering iron with pencil style tip.
- Small diameter solder (.010" to .015" diameter)
- PointForm point filing tool (Optional, but highly recommended)
- Soldering flux
- Small brush

The PointForm tool is available on our website at www.fast-tracks.net/pointform.

Step 1

Cut two lengths of rail long enough to extend well past the end of the turnout. The longer the better as it will enable the rail to “flow” out of the turnout.

Step 2

Using a PointForm tool file the frog points. You can file the points by hand, but for fast and flawless results we highly recommend that you use a PointForm tool.

The key to building turnouts is to produce the longest, sharpest frog points possible. This will not only give you smooth running turnout, but will set your trackwork apart from ready-to-run track. (Image 1)

Step 3

Place the two halves of the prepared rail into the Frog Helper base side down.

Slide the two rails forward until they meet with the ends of both pieces in line with each other. Slide the rails as far forward as possible, but not so far as to “tip” the pieces over. (Image 2)

A weight can be placed onto the rails to keep them in place for the next step. A PointForm tool works well for this. 😊

Step 4

Using a small brush, apply a bit of flux onto the top of the rails (Image 3)

Step 5

Apply heat to the top of the rails and solder the two halves together. Keeping the iron at a slight angle will increase the area the iron will contact the rail, making soldering easier. Wipe away any excess solder while it is still hot. (Image 4)

Image 1

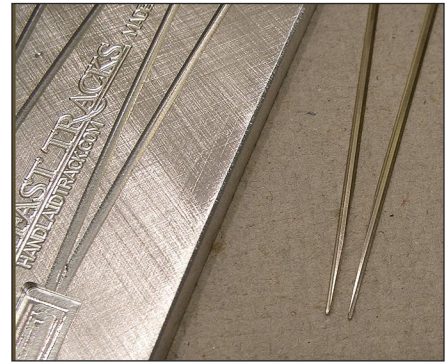


Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Step 6

Once the solder cools, the points are complete and are ready to use!

