

RAIL CLEANERS

Clean track is essential to a model railway's reliable operation, but nobody enjoys the tedious work typically involved in regular maintenance.

That's why Centerline Products has developed a reliable cleaning car that easily and efficiently cleans not only the rails, but the wheels of all rolling stock as well.

If you're looking for a rail and wheel cleaner that really works without harsh abrasives or derailments Centerline Products has a cleaning car model to fit your needs.

The CentreLine rail cleaner has a heavy absorbent roller that is saturated with any of a wide variety of available cleaning fluids. The roller is guided along the rails by the frame of the cleaning car and the roller is allowed to "float" (vertically) and will press firmly onto the rails. The fluid that remains on the rails (before evaporation) will loosen built-up "crud" from the wheels of any locos and cars that follow. After several passes, the rails and the wheels of all rolling stock should be electrically clean and free from slippage.



- **Limited slip rolling action that "scrubs" the rails for rapid removal of deposits.**
- **Totally non-abrasive—leaves no particles or other matter for secondary clean-up.**
- **May be used "wet" (recommended for rapid action and wheel cleaning).**
- **May be used "dry" (without fluid to clean the rails more slowly).**
- **May be used continuously without harm to rails or wheels.**
- **100% Cleaning Contact with all rails at all times.**
- **Highly Snag and De-rail resistant because of rolling action.**
- **Will NOT damage delicate turn-outs. The wheels of the following cars are also cleaned.**

There are some suitable cleaning fluids available at supermarkets, and hardware stores.

Available in HO & N Scales

Replacement Roller Covers are easily made from Chux Handi Wipes cloth wipers or are available (pre-cut to size) in packages of ten.

Replacement / Extra Brass Rollers also available.



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Track Cleaning

First up I only have metal wheels, there are plastics and, there are plastics, not easy working out which are good and which are bad.

I use Micro Engineering track with hand laid turnouts (108 of them) - composition of rail material could make things different. I also use 'dead frogs' - no extra wiring, no 'shorts' if you over run a turnout. This applies to both my HO and HOn30" track. I use the HOn30 track to test installs in N scale locos.

I have a regular operating session once a month (8 operators) and a 'round robin' meeting every 4-6 weeks (14 - 16 operators). I also get visitors turn up out of the blue - this can happen 2-3 times a week. When I am in the train room the door is always open to the elements unless it is very cold or very hot.

I clean the track twice a year. How do I do this? I set up a Consist with 4 x SD9s and behind these I put a Centre Line track cleaner, (a CMX Clean Machine is also good) the cloth roll is wet with CRC 2.26 (Blue Lid). Behind the roller car is a caboose that has a cork pad fitted which drags around the track removing stubborn dirt. The consist is sent all over the layout - to 90% of the tracks. I bought a new can of CRC last week - the other one only lasted 8 years.

After 30 mins of running, I remove the CRC soaked cloth and replace it with a dry cloth and run this for 20 mins. I refresh the cloth every few mins until the cloth shows no pick up of dirt.

I fit a new cloth with just a drop of CRC 2.26 and run it around the layout - no caboose. I then leave the train room for a day or two to let it dry. Reason:- cleaning the track is OK for the first 5 mins., then the bright shiny metal starts to oxidise. The CRC prevents this for longer periods than any other chemical I have tried. I have never used a "track rubber" on the track, these scratch the surface and micro particles of gunk build up there. You may say the XXX brand does not scratch the rail - try it on the paintwork of your wife's car

I am a lazy modeller, as many can attest to, so the twice a year cleaning works for me. 3/4 of my locos have sound, none have a "keep alive capacitor" - I make sure ALL the wheels pick up. This is a hang over from my HOn30 only days.

I bought my EasyDCC system in 1998 and have upgraded regularly. I have had to replace some push buttons, some on the console - some on the throttles. I am very happy with the system.

She, who must be obeyed is calling - I must go.....

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