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Author

Topic: Replacement for traction tires

Chessie
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 12:37 PM  

There have been several threads that discussed the fact that every once in a while, you have to replace traction tires (unless you have magnetraction of course). Those little "traction tires" are really just rubber bands made to the correct size of the wheels of your locomotive.

Problem is they charge too much for them. I was wondering if anyone has tried regular rubber bands... and what sizes they've tried for various engines?

Chessie

Posts: **991** | From: **Monrovia, Md. USA** | Registered: **September 29, 2000**

CSX5861
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 01:12 PM  

Not sure what the material is

CHessie, the LarGe Scalers found there way around this some time ago (more than a year or so if memory serves) by using some type of tube that makes a rubbery compound and filled the groove wheel on their loco's with it. They say it worked much better than the regular "rubber band" style tires as this stuff lasted longer and didn't break off easily. It also did not leave the black rubbery substance on the rails like the rubber traction tires.

I'm hoping I can find that info again and cross post it here for those in O Gauge as this seems like a way cheaper fix than to keep buying those expensive rubber bands!

BTW: I tried basic rubber bands, they do work, but not very well and you'll be cussing up a storm as you'll be replacing these quicker than the current black tire offerings currently available. my advice, Don't use basic rubber bands! They are too flimsy for traction tire use!

Clay Fugitte
Casselberry, Florida USA
MTH "O Gauge" Rules!
csx5860-DO_NOT-SPAM-@mybluelight.com - Please removal the -DO_NOT-SPAM- from this address to e-mail me.

Posts: **313** | From: **Casselberry, Florida, USA** | Registered: **March 21, 2003**

ToyTrains1
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 01:15 PM  

Rubber bands will not work -- natural rubber has too much stretch to it. What will work ... hehehe 😊

Put the lokie upside down in a cradle. Hook up power and start the drivers slowly turning. Clean out the tire groove carefully and then clean it again with alcohol. Let it dry. Apply a very thin bead of silicone adhesive (I use GE Type I) and carefully smooth it out so it's just a tad proud of the groove. Let dry. End of traction tire problems for a long, long time.

If you should make a mistake, let it dry, peel it off, and start over. If you do it and your locomotive 'waddles' down the track, your new silicone tire is a little uneven. Peel it off and start over.

I very seldom throw a tire (I think I've thrown all of three on all of my locomotives). WHEN I do, I follow this procedure. I've never had to replace one fashioned like this. 😊

Ciao, Dave
[Web Site of ToyTrains1](#)
[Raritan Valley HiRailers](#)

Posts: **4469** | From: **The Garden State** | Registered: **August 16, 2000**

David Vergun
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 01:17 PM  

My daughter uses these traction tire-looking rubber bands for her orthodontal stuff. I may give them a whirl. Hope she won't mind missing a few.

Posts: **4663** | From: **Northern Virginia** | Registered: **February 25, 2002**

CSX5861
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 02:50 PM  

Thanks Dave! Just the info I WAS Looking for!!!

Dave, again, thank you for posting that info, I knew it was a tube of something, but could not remember if it was a silicone or RTV! Now I know and will preserve that info for later retrieval and usage!

BTW: I also do use RTV on my trains smoke unit (since I only have one O Gauge Steamer with smoke - G gauge loco's don't use a gasket on theres!)

My MTH Rubber gasket finally split apart, removed it and spread a very, very thin film of black RTV after removing the old gasket and cleaning the smoke unit to have a clean dry, oil free surface to work with. The RTV does a better job of sealing the smoke unit, the downside is you'll have to use an X-Acto knife to peel it open for any repairs at a later time and re-clean before redoing the RTV gasket. But it works well and doesn't split open under the duress of the heat from the heater coils in there.

(RTV is found at most automotive stores for about \$5.00 and can be either in blue or black, both are basically the same stuff.)

Anyway, it works great and my smoker works better with this as the gasket over the original, so just another thing you can do to make them smoke units work better and longer.

Clay Fugitte
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Posts: **313** | From: **Casselberry, Florida, USA** | Registered: **March 21, 2003**

David Vergun
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 03:00 PM  

Clay,

Dave's idea is great! He also helped me today on the DCS side of the forum.

Bravo!.

Posts: **4663** | From: **Northern Virginia** | Registered: **February 25, 2002**

Chessie
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 03:05 PM  

THANKS Clay, Dave and David... Once again you guys proved to me that this forum is the best place to be if you love O gauge trains!


I am a little nervous about using the silicone only because I'm afraid I'll spill some all over my running gear or something like that. I may try it on an older engine just to see what happens...

Thanks again 

Chessie

Posts: **991** | From: **Monrovia, Md. USA** | Registered: **September 29, 2000**


CSX5861
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 03:14 PM  

Silicone is usually easy to "peel off"

Chessie, I've used silicone at work on a lot of electronic components, sometimes I or another operator has spilled some over on a part that shouldn't have gotten any, and we have had mechanical area where we siliconed the boards after installation and gotten silicone on the "moving parts", we just allowed it to dry thoroughly and then just peeled it right off the gears or pulley it got into or on.




It may be a little harder to get at it if you spill it on your O gauge loco, but if you can get to the area, it's just a simple matter to peel the silicone off and try again.

So don't be too intimidated by the silicone, now the RTV, that's a whole 'nother story! 

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Posts: **313** | From: **Casselberry, Florida, USA** | Registered: **March 21, 2003**

AI T
Member

 posted **May 30, 2003** 04:26 PM  

Dave posted this info about a year ago, and I used this method on K-Line, MTH and Lionel engines. It works great. The first engine I did was an MP15 that I run the heck out of, and I haven't had to redo it yet.

Thanks, Dave.

Posts: **619** | From: **Glendale, CA USA** | Registered: **March 28, 2001**

SPMan
Member

 posted **May 31, 2003** 11:41 AM  

Toy Trains I, where can you buy this Silicone Adhesive, GE Type I ? I have heard of this method before and would like to try it. Thanks, Ray

Posts: **258** | From: **Glendora, Calif.** | Registered: **December 12, 2002**

CSX5861
Member

 posted **May 31, 2003** 11:46 AM  

Most automotive parts stores will have it.

You can get this at just about any good automotive parts store. AutoZone, Pep Boys, etc.

Clay Fugitte
Casselberry, Florida USA
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Posts: **313** | From: **Casselberry, Florida, USA** | Registered: **March 21, 2003**

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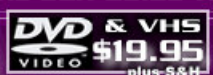
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