



The underside of the tower reveals a simple mechanism that can be tuned to maintain efficient work habits.

This ground is connected to terminal clip no. 1 under the base.

The other lamp wire goes to terminal clip no. 3. The coil is wired to terminal clip no. 2.

Keeping them at work

Sometimes, these otherwise energetic guys can run out of motivation, but you can get them going again.

If the mechanism is totally dead, the likely culprit is a broken wire or a burned out solenoid coil. Simply repair or replace the defunct wiring.

If the mechanism is simply sluggish, the solenoid plunger may be dirty, or the coil may be distorted from repeated overheating. Clean the plunger with a few squirts of TV tuner cleaner. Replace the distorted coil. A drop of oil on the lever pivot can't hurt.

If the mechanism is erratic or sticky, check to see that the tow line isn't wrapped around the arm or impeded in some other way. After long use, these tow lines have been known to cut grooves in the plastic walls where they enter the building. A small eyelet, such

as Lionel part no. 259E-18, can be inserted into the distorted hole to serve as a bushing and prevent further wear. Also check to see that the metal track upon which lantern man rides is free of old grease and dirt.

If the two men remain outside after the power is turned off, check for a broken or distorted return spring.

These simple tune-up tips, along with a clean mechanism, should be enough to encourage these switch tower veterans to continue greeting the passing trains for years to come. **CTT**