

Track Cleaning Car: Home Made! (Thanks, Dennis!!)

This topic can be found at:

<http://ogaugerr.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/57660482/m/975105971>

June 14, 2009, 09:33 PM

Cubbie

Track Cleaning Car: Home Made! (Thanks, Dennis!!)

OGR forum member **Dennis Bracey** will very graciously e-mail you his plans for a homemade track cleaning car on request. Using Dennis's plans I decided to make my own track cleaning car.

Required materials:

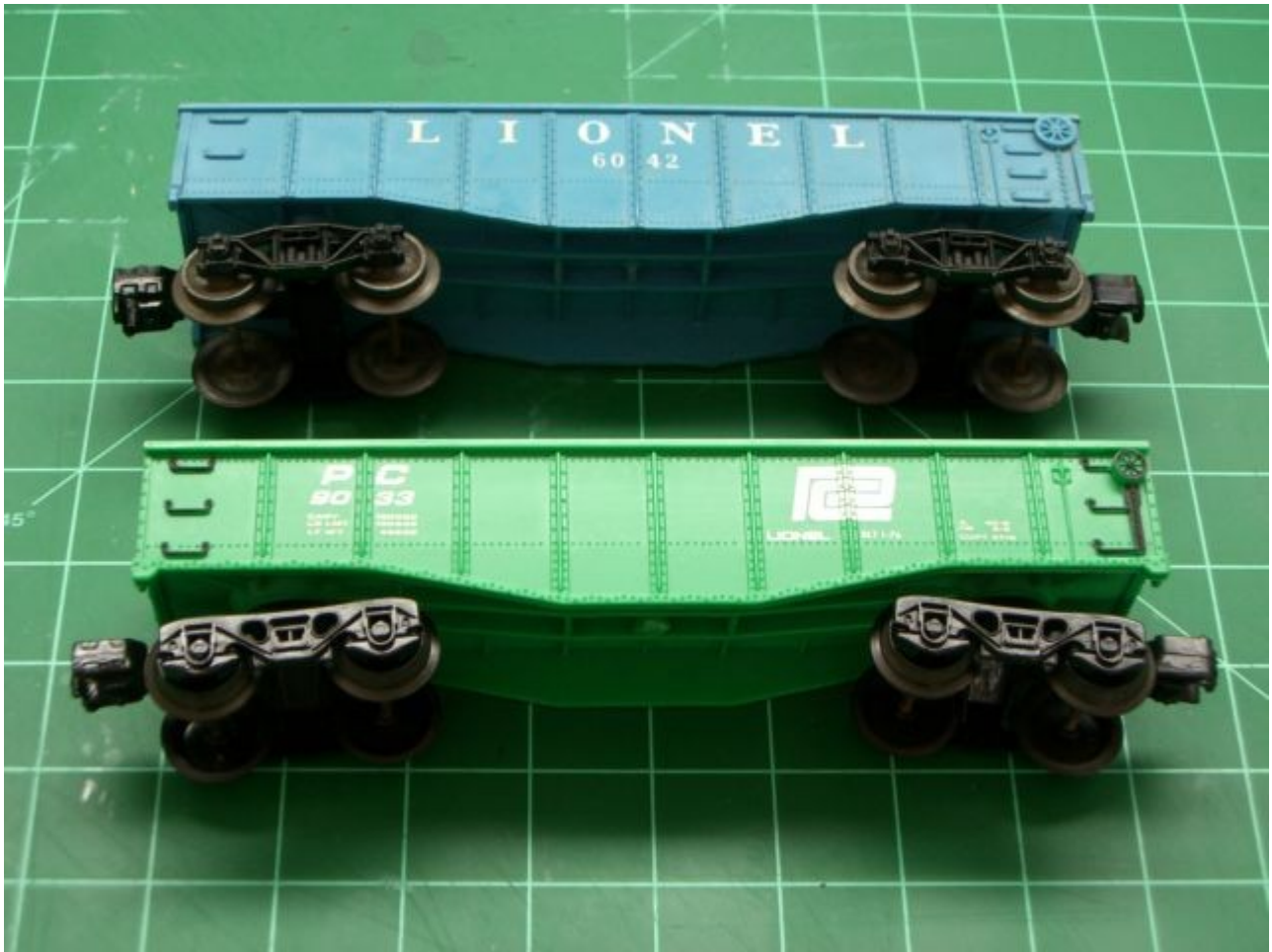
- a cheapo gondola or flatcar
- scotchbrite pads
- 1/4" masonite, cut into 2" x 2-3/4" blocks
- #6/32 x 1-1/2" flathead bolts (2 ea.)
- #6/32 hex nuts (4 ea.)
- #6 flat washers (6 ea.)
- #6 lock washers (2 ea.)
- small light springs (I found a great box assortment at HD in the door hardware aisle for under \$4; all kinds of uses for these suckers)
- 3M Super77 spray adhesive



Tools:

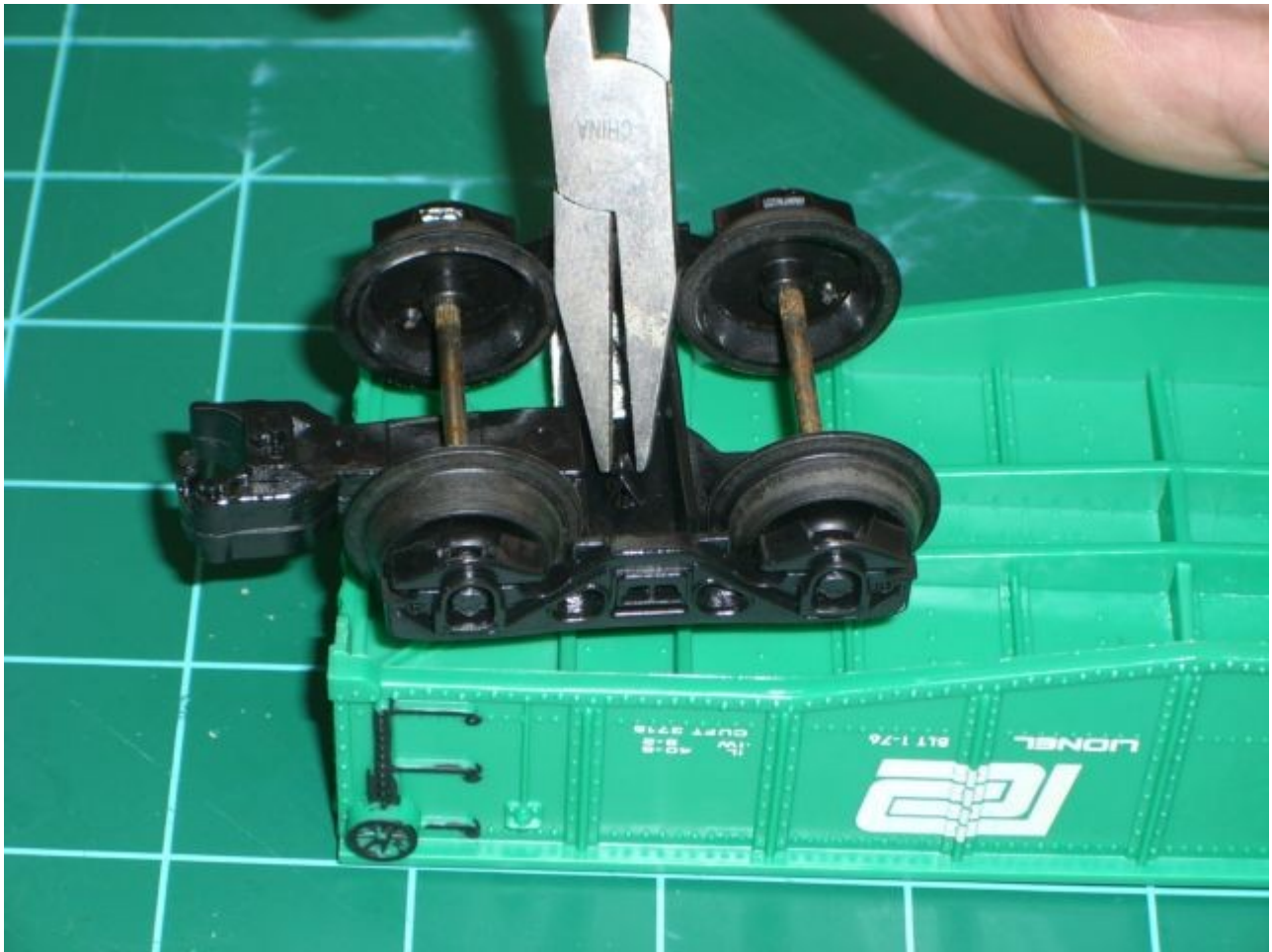
- box knife
- jigsaw (used to cut the masonite blocks)
- fine wood file
- drill press or drill w/bits: countersink pilot bit; 9/64"; 1/4";
- small flatblade screwdriver
- small flatnose or needlenose pliers

The potential victims, two likely candidates. These are both from the "nothing but plastic" era of Lionel: the couplers are solid plastic (no operating knuckle). Ewww.... The PC gondola won because if I screwed it up, I'd still perform a valuable service for our hobby. 🤖

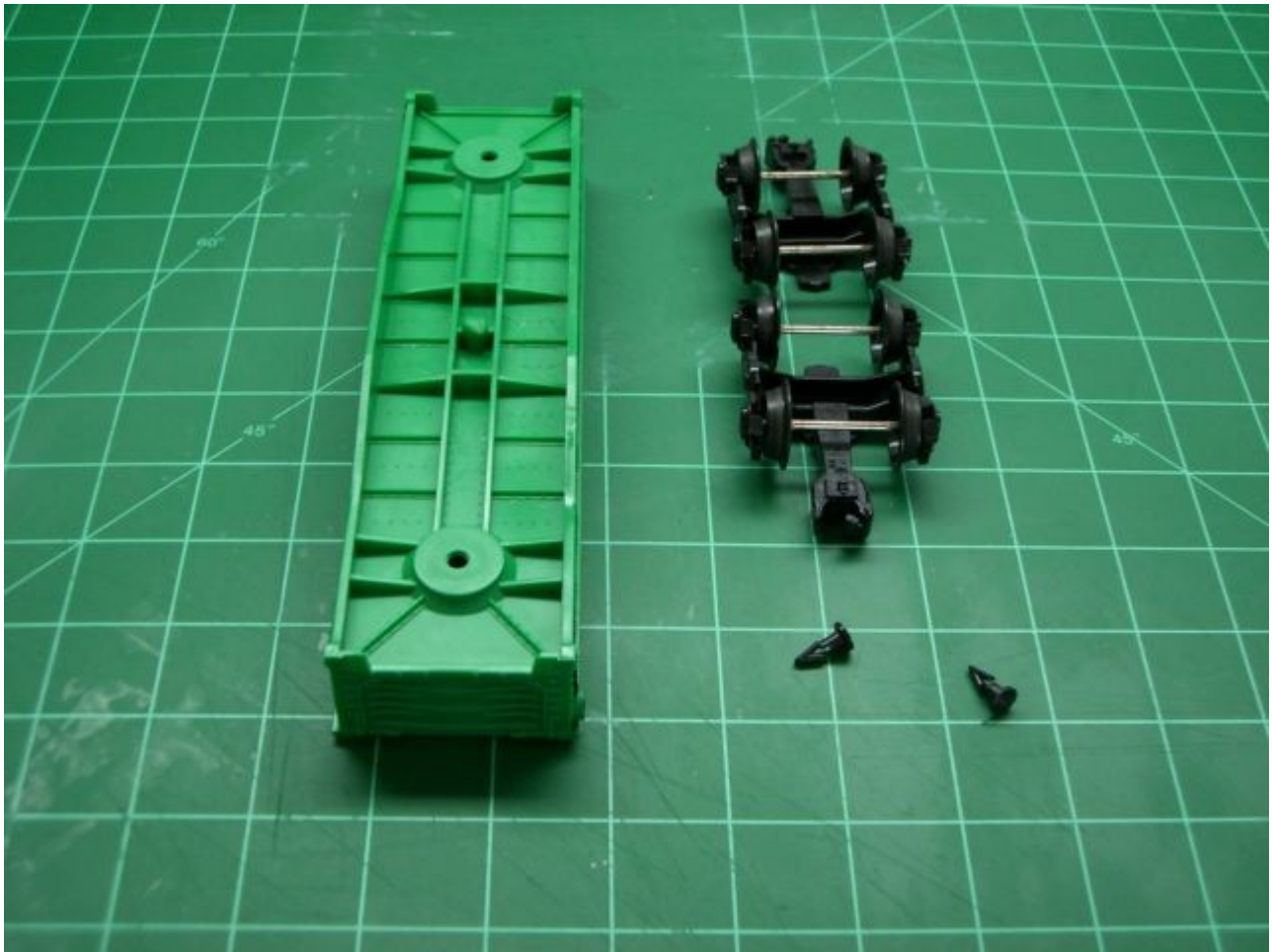


The trucks are held on by plastic expansion pins. To remove them just squeeze the ends together, and the pins will slide right out. If your car's trucks are riveted on, you'll have to drill or press them out.

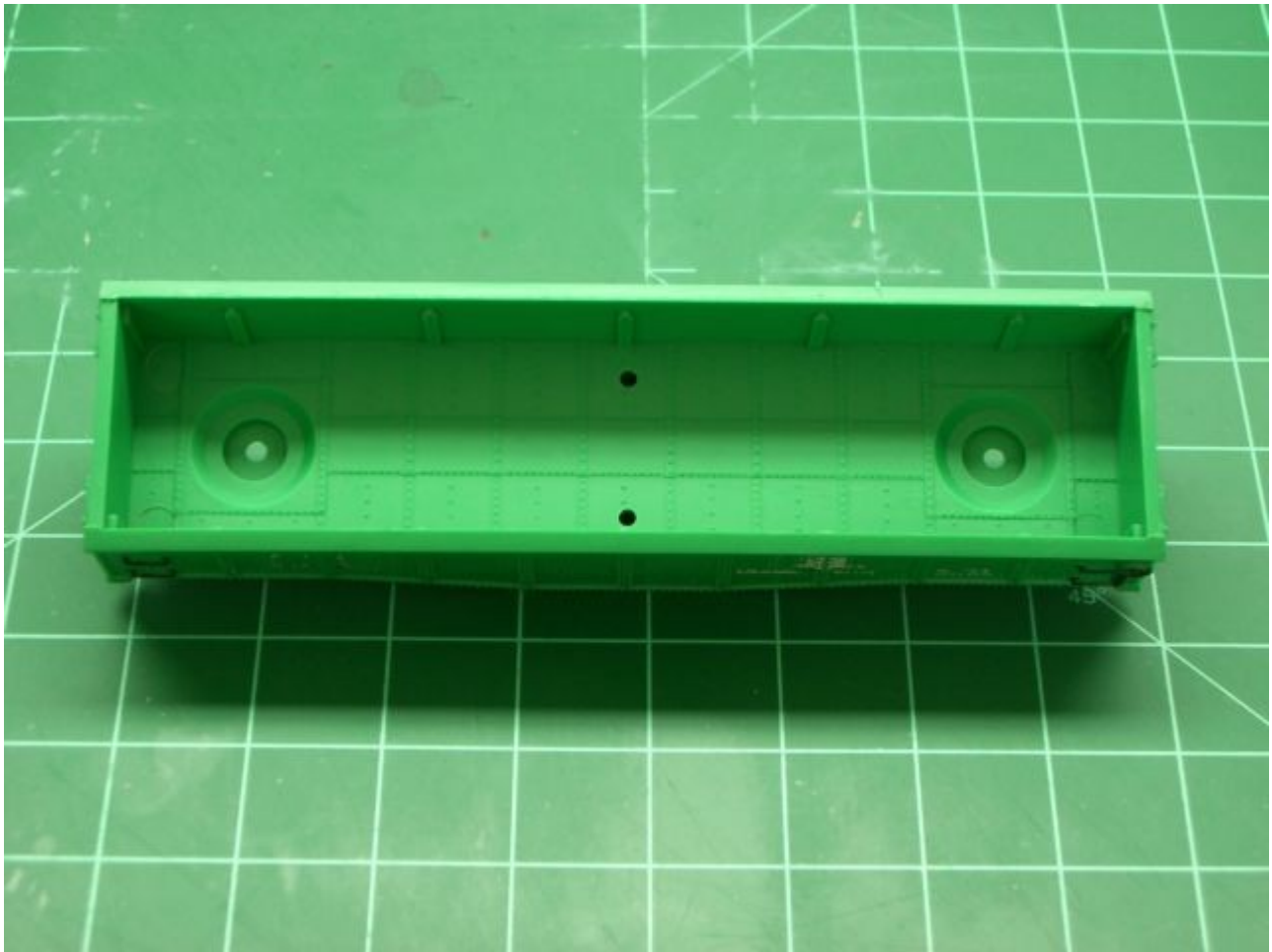




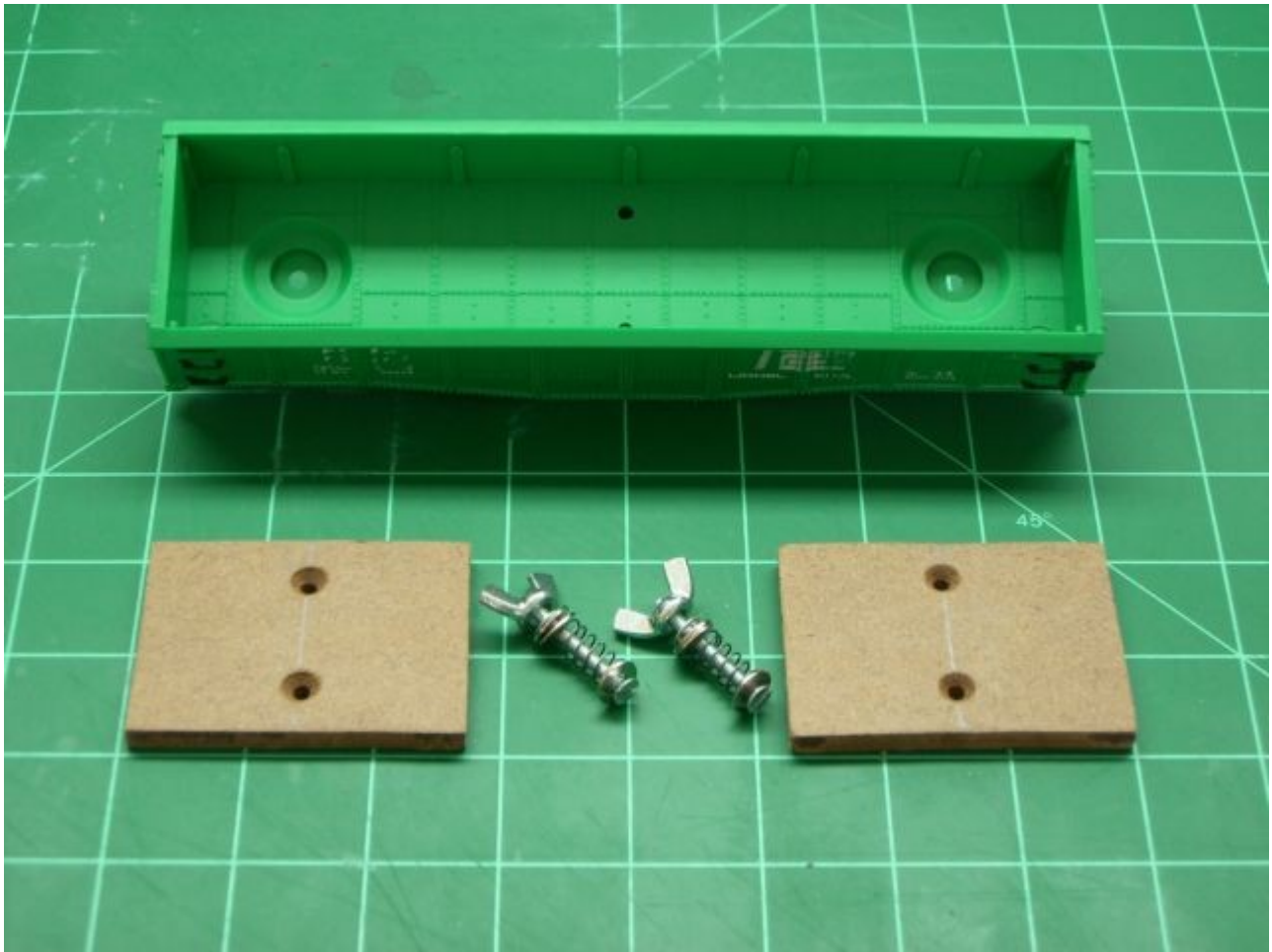
Fully disassembled.



Mounting holes drilled through the car body. At $9/64$ " they were too tight to let the car floor travel up and down the bolts (seen here). I later drilled these out to $1/4$ ".



Components ready for test fit. Notice the countersunk holes for the bolt heads.



We've threaded the bolt through the hole in the cleaning pad. Next we put on (in order): washer, hex nut (tighten down firmly); spring; washer. The hex nut is missing in this photo: sorry.



PC for me? I think not! 🤖 Every Lionel deserves some dignity! After you cut the scotchbrite pad to the size of the masonite block, use 3M Super77 spray adhesive to glue them together over the countersunk bolt heads. Once the pad is glued to the masonite, you can feed the bolts up through the car floor. Then secure the bolts on top of the car floor with (in order) a flat washer, a lock washer, and another hex nut. Notice the wingnuts have disappeared: a great idea of mine that wasn't practical.



Houston, we have a problem! Springs are too long or too powerful, and there's not enough weight in the car.



Now that's more like it! The heaviest locomotive I have with traction tires got the duty. I just run the car dry, and it works great! The only place the pad hangs up is on a Lionel O42 switch at the top of a grade. I have a lot of switches (K-Line SuperSnap) and there were no other problems.





This is the first car in the work train I'm putting together. Project from start to finish took about 3 hours, including waiting for the paint to dry. You could do one in under an hour without a problem.

This message has been edited. Last edited by: [Cubbie](#), June 15, 2009 06:12 PM

~ Chris

Smell that. You smell that? Ozone, Son. Nothing else in the world smells like that. I love the smell of ozone in the morning.

June 14, 2009, 09:47 PM

BNSFFAN
Chris,

Looks awesome and simple to build photos of your step by step build are great.



👍😊 for sharing

John
Secretary
Flower City Tinplate Trackers
www.fctt-hirailers.com
TCA 05-59471
No Brains, No Pain, But I've got Trains.

June 14, 2009, 10:22 PM

PRRfan

Thank you for posting this. I really need to build one of these.

Andy - Running Pennsy on the Glorified Tinplate and Grass Paper Railroad (GT & GPRR)

June 15, 2009, 08:04 AM

Ralph

SUPER!!!!

Really appreciate the step by step [and mis-steps]

great job

ralph

June 15, 2009, 08:14 AM

cngw

Build three of them and run them back to back.....

Put a pad on the first and add GooGone or Zip, your preference and if you let the Goo get on the rubber tires or not.

Put a pad on the second run it dry to pick up the Goo/Zip.

Have the scotch car third to do a final scuff!

How would that work? Greg

June 15, 2009, 10:59 AM

EIS

If those bolts used for weight are scale, they must be ENORMOUS. 😊

Very nice job and excellent write-up.

Earl

June 15, 2009, 11:40 AM

ogaugeman186

Thanks for sharing. I need to make one of these.



[My Homepage](#)

June 15, 2009, 11:47 AM

wild mary

Chris that's one of the best DIY posts I've seen. Surely something everyone can use. Thanks for a job



well done.

Wild Mary (AKA Nick)
"Riding The Wild Mary"

June 15, 2009, 09:45 PM

Dennis

Well, you didn't follow my instructions to the letter, but I guess you did OK 🍷

Tip: It will help not having hangups if you take a pair of scissors and cut off the leading edge of your Scotchbrite Pad at an angle so the leading edge is like a ramp i.e. not square.

So far I have emailed my plans to about 70 people. Just send me an email if you want them.

My car has been upgraded to add a brush for sweeping too.

The original:



The upgrade as it is today:



.....
Dennis

I'm retired. Now I work at being a pain in the butt.

June 15, 2009, 10:00 PM

cerbyg
Doesn't the scotch bright material get caught on switch points?

TCA Member 04-57350

June 15, 2009, 10:01 PM

Dennis
cerbyg,

See my tip in post above.

Another tip. Don't glue the Scotch Brite pad on as Cubbie says. Follow my instructions and use double sided tape. That way you can change the pad easily.

.....
Dennis

I'm retired. Now I work at being a pain in the butt.

June 15, 2009, 10:12 PM

MichRR714

quote:
Originally posted by Dennis:
cerbyg,

See my tip in post above.

Another tip. Don't glue the Scotch Brite pad on as Cubbie says. Follow my instructions and use double sided tape. That way you can change the pad easily.

.....
Dennis

I thought that looked like your design Dennis 😊

Charlie a.k.a. MichRR714
TCA 08-63090
Motor City O Gauge Railroaders
Glancy Trains Modular Group
LRRC

June 15, 2009, 10:12 PM

abbrail

The project looks great!

Dennis, finally a track cleaner post even you can approve of! By the way, I build one of your cars too! It spends its time on the RSC club layout at the school. The car works great and cost next to nothing - very nice indeed. Thanks for the idea.

Thomas

[Wingerter Halo Belt Line](#) | [Akron Barberton Belt](#) | [RSC Train Club](#)

June 15, 2009, 10:39 PM

SIRT

Filled with cement...





June 15, 2009, 10:44 PM

Dennis

Yep. Mine, is ugly, but does the job. I zip it around the track at speeds up to 50 - 60 smph and it never derails. Mine weighs 1.2 lbs. Hugs the road like a Porsche.

.....

Dennis

P.S. Our posts crossed. Good job SIRT. Nice and heavy.

I'm retired. Now I work at being a pain in the butt.

June 15, 2009, 10:54 PM

Cubie

I tried to make it clear up front that the cleaning car is Dennis' design: I just wanted to do a HOWTO on making one.

Thank you very much again for the plans, Dennis! Your tips help too: I'll put them to good use. How long have you used this car to clean your track (years)?

I used the spray adhesive because the double-sided tape I bought wouldn't hold: I obviously purchased the wrong tape! 🍷

~ Chris

Smell that. You smell that? Ozone, Son. Nothing else in the world smells like that. I love the smell of ozone in the morning.