2.4 Pre-Treatment of Track

by Rainer

Before laying the track material outside in nature in the garden, here are a few important tips.

Fig . 2.4-1
Molycote copper grease

Application of Copper Grease

Loosen all screws in the turnouts and other track material and treat them with turpentine thinned copper grease , otherwise the screws will get stuck after a while, see also Chapter 2.5.
Brass and even stainless steel tends to get stuck, even so tight that the heads break off because it takes too much force to unscrew them.
It is very important is to treat the standard rail joints with diluted copper grease, the diluted grease creeps in and the turpentine evaporates. The grease can withstand very high temperatures (>300 degrees℃ !) and forms a protective layer against oxidation that is not washed away by rainwater.
The diluted copper grease creeps into all crevices so that no more moisture can get there, which would otherwise suck itself between everywhere due to capillary action.
Even high temperatures that evaporate or melt away other types of grease in sunny weather do not affect copper grease.

Rail connectors/joints

There are a number of rail connectors on the market, all of which have their advantages and disadvantages. In all cases, copper grease prevents contact problems and provides protection for years to come. Below is a table listing the main advantages and disadvantages.

Blade Brand name & Type Rail Connection	Advantages	Disadvantages
Standard LGB slide connection	- Almost invisible - Inexpensive	- Difficult to remove - Cannot be cleaned - Poor current connection
Massoth screw connection	- Low transition resistance - Can be removed from the top	- Very visible - Damages the rail
Dietz screw connection	- Low transition resistance - Can be removed from the side	- Noticeable - Sometimes difficult to install

Fig. 2.4-2
Comparison between various brands of rail joints