

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

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Bob Collett

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

- Track
- Electronics
- Scenery
- Structures
- Power
- Rolling Stock

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Track Maintenance

- Cleaning Track
  - Devices
  - Cleaning agents
- Rail Joiners
- Drop Wires – every piece of flex track
- Switch Points and Contacts

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Track Maintenance

- **Cleaning Devices**

- Bright Boy

- Rolling stock pads (masonite)

- Dry wall sanding pads

- “Drum” cars

- Clean Machine

- Mini Vacuum Attachment (for debris)

- **Cleaning agents**

- Rubbing Alcohol

- Deoxidizing agents (Beware of oil based)

- Acetone/Lacquer Thinner

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Track Maintenance

- **Rail Joiners**

Check for dirt and oxidation

Clean and deoxidize – DeOxit or contact cleaner

Replace as Necessary

Drop Feeders every piece of flex track/4 feet

- **Switch Points and Contacts**

Clean and deoxidize – Alcohol, DeOxit or contact cleaner

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Electronics

- **Inspect for:**
  - Loose wires
  - Cold Solder joints
  - Dirty contact points
  - Batteries

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE SCENERY

- **Trees and Foliage**

Clean with spray bottle of water and soap

Look for fallen, broken or dislodged trees and foliage

Add more foliage if necessary, repair tree trunks

- **Ballast**

Make sure ballast is firm – add adhesive and more ballast if necessary

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE SCENERY

- **Water**

Keep covered when not in use

Clean with soft brush, micro fiber cloth

Use plastic cleaner for Enviro Tex still water

MiraTex from Modern Plastics

Novus Plastic Polish (fine scratches) Modern Plastics

Use acrylic varnish for running water – (Delta  
Ceramco - Crafts store)



# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE STRUCTURES

- Make sure structure is firmly attached to layout
- Check for broken and detached parts, and repair as necessary
- Clean structure
  - Soft Brush
  - Mini Vacuum cleaner attachment (MicroMark)

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Power

- **Clean locomotive wheels**
  - Paper Towels and alcohol for Diesels
  - Cradle, wires with clamps, Q-Tips for Steam
  - Rubbing Alcohol, Lacquer Thinner
- **Lubricate Diesel Locomotive**

Remove truck plates – LaBelle lubricating Oil  
Very small drop of fine oil on motor bushings
- **Lubricate Steam Locomotive**

Remove lubrication plate from bottom of gear box  
Lubricate with LaBelle gear oil or grease  
Very small drop of fine lubricating oil on rod connections
- **Check coupler Height**

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE Rolling Stock

- Ensure cars are weighted properly
  - **HO Gauge** Initial weight of 1 ounce plus 1/2 oz per inch of car length.
  - **O Gauge** Initial weight of 5 oz plus 1 oz per inch of car length
  - **N Gauge** initial weight of 1/2 ounce plus .15 ounces per inch of car length
    - A-Line weights – 1/4 oz, 1/2 oz, sheet lead
    - Bolts (Branchline)

# MODEL RAILROAD MAINTENANCE

## Rolling Stock

- Check, Clean and Lubricate

Repair/replace broken or missing parts

Clean and lubricate car wheels (oil, router)

### **Couplers**

Make sure couplers are at proper height and move freely

Kadee coupler gauge – height and pipe clearance

Kadee washers

Micro-Mark shims

Kadee coupler pliers

Lubricate with graphite (Labelle)