

Tip: Centre Stud Cleaner

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Hi All,

I tried to run my trains a few days ago and encountered bad running problems. The layout is in my garage and the weather has been very humid of late, so the centre studs have corroded just enough to stop the trains running. After spending all day cleaning the centre studs on the bottom layer of the layout where the clearance to get my hand is restricted I was worn out and decided there has to be a better way. Necessity is the mother of invention and I just had one of those light bulb moments and this is my solution to clean the centre studs.



Materials on Hand:
1x 4413 Red Dump Car (Hobby)
1x 7164 Used collector shoe
1200 grit wet/dry sand paper
Kiwk Grip contact adhesive
25x7x7mm length of wood
1x 7599 wood screw



I chose the red dump car because I could add weight to it if required and the collector shoe fitted between the 2 axles. The height measured from the bottom of the dump car to the outside rail was 10mm so I cut a small block of wood 25x7x7m. Drilling a 1mm hole in the centre of the block and using a 7599 K track wood screw fix the collector shoe in place. Make sure you cut the excess screw length flush with the wooden block. The total height of the block and collector shoe compressed came in at 9mm so I knew it would clear points and double slips.



Collector shoe screwed to block Screw cut flush with block Sand paper stuck to collector shoe

Next cut some 1200 grit wet/dry sand paper into 62x5mm strips. Using the contact adhesive coat the collector shoe and sand paper strip, wait until it becomes tacky then carefully apply the sand paper strip to the top of the returned part of the collector shoe and then wrap it along the entire length of the shoe and wrap it around the other end of the collector shoe return.



Using the holt melt glue gun apply some glue to the bottom of the block and glue the assembly to the bottom of the dump car making sure it is centrally located. The whole project took about 10 minutes to make and has proved to be a real winner. I also found that the wagon was heavy enough without adding extra weights.

As always enjoy your hobby.