

Plain Line - 26 sleepers per 60 foot panel

Instructions for assembling track using NewTrack mouldings Please read these instructions before removing any mouldings from their sprues.

26 sleepers/60ft panel are used on curves of less than 20 chains radius (5280mm in 4mm scale).

The NewTrack mouldings for 26 sleepers/60ft panel consist of 15 sleepers, most of which are spaced at a scale 2' 4" (9.33mm) but with the last two sleepers at both ends of the moulding spaced appropriately for a rail joint. The last (joint) sleeper at one end is a scale 10" (3.33mm) wide while that at the other end it is as scale 12" (4.00mm) wide.

If you want to have 10" joint sleepers, then make 60' panels by cutting off the last two sleepers from each moulding at the end with the 12" joint sleeper and use the resulting 13 sleeper pieces in pairs with the closer spaced sleepers at the outer ends. Conversely, if you want 12" joint sleepers, then cut off the last two sleepers from each moulding at the end with the 10" joint sleeper and use the resulting 13 sleeper pieces in pairs with the closer spaced sleepers at the outer ends.

The pips on each sleeper are designed to locate any of the range of Exactoscale plastic functional chairs. The pips allow sufficient play to give about 0.3mm adjustment in gauge. How much the gauge should be widened from the nominal 18.83mm is for you to decide and achieve using suitable gauges.

In transition curves, it will make sense to change from 24 sleeper panels to 26 sleeper panels when the radius reduces to about 2000mm and to have 0.1mm of gauge widening at this point. Gauge widening of 0.2mm is likely to be about right with curves of 1200mm radius - and possibly more than that if it is intended to run large steam locos or to reduce the radius further.

It will be best to adjust track gauge within a panel and to avoid having gauge differences at rail joints.

If a track gauge of less than 19.00mm is the aim, the first rail cemented in position should be laid with slight pressure towards the track centre-line with the second rail gauged from that (using the appropriate NewTrack track gauge, when available). If a track gauge of more than 19.00mm is the aim, lay the first rail with slight outward pressure, again gauging the second rail from it.

The recommended solvent for cementing chairs to sleepers is butanone. It is important not to flood the chairs with solvent but it is also important to get good penetration of solvent under the chair. The chairs are designed to be pressed flat as they are cemented and leave no gap when stuck down.

Cut rail accurately to the appropriate length and ensure the ends are free of burrs before assembly. Carefully curve the rail to the desired radius using finger and thumb and checking that the curve is smooth by eye. A curve of the intended radius, drawn on a flat surface, will be a useful guide.

The best sequence for assembling track is probably as follows:

- 1 Cut and arrange the sleeper mouldings to provide a 60' length (see above). Cut the web where necessary on the inside of the curve to enable the bases to flex to provide the required radius.
- 2 Feed prepared rail through the chairs while they are still on their sprues, breaking each one off once it is on the rail. The keys on the chairs nearest each rail joint should point away from the joint.
- 3 The chairs should be spaced at about the right positions on the rail, the rail then placed over the pips and, one by one, each chair eased fully on to its pip. Make sure at this stage that the rail end is 4mm from the centre line of the end (joint) sleeper.
- 4 Cement the first rail in position, working along the chairs from one end of the panel. Repeat for the second rail. Allow the cement to harden fully before adjusting alignment and laying the track.