

Using Centerline Track Cleaners

By Leo Valley

Items Required to Use Centerline Track Cleaners:

1. Two Centerline Track Cleaning Cars (see Figure 1)
2. One Boxcar Shiner Car (see Figure 2)
3. Package of Roller Strips (see Figure 3)
4. An eyedropper or syringe for applying cleaning fluid
5. A bottle of 99% isopropyl alcohol (IPA)



Figure 1

One Centerline in Storage Container



Figure 2

Shiner Car (one of several types the Club owns)

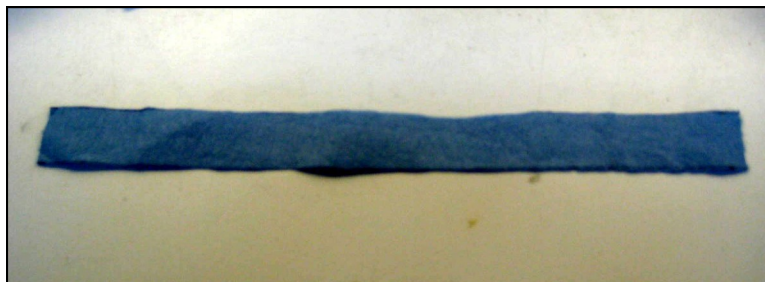


Figure 3

One Fiber Roller Strip

Note – The strip is fabricated from Blue Shop Towel material. A towel is torn off the roll and cut into strips $\frac{7}{8}$ " wide by the length of the towel, approximately $10 \frac{3}{8}$ " long

Inspect the Shiner Car before use. If it is dirty, clean the wiper as follows:

- Rubber-based wiper – Use a cloth, saturated with IPA, and clean off the contamination.
- Masonite-based wiper – Use a cloth, saturated with IPA, and clean off as much of the contamination as possible, then use the small wire brush in the Centerline Car box to slightly roughen the wiping surface.

Be sure to clean the Shiner Car wiper before placing it back on the storage rack so it is ready for use next time.

Using Centerline Track Cleaners (continued)

Cleaning Procedures:

1. The configuration for using the cars is as follows (see Figure 4):
 - Place a "wet" cleaning car in front of the locomotive;
 - Place a "dry" cleaning car behind the locomotive;
 - Place the Shiner Car behind the "dry" cleaning car.



Figure 4

In this example, the locomotive will move forward to the right

2. The cleaning setup is as follows (refer to Figure 4):
 - Wrap each cleaning car roller with a roller strip
 - Drop the roller into the car openings. **IMPORTANT:** Note the orientation of the strips on the rollers. They must be positioned so that they do not unravel while moving forward and both rollers must rotate while moving.
 - **CAUTION: NEVER LET THE BARE BRASS METAL ROLLERS TOUCH THE TRACKS. THIS CAUSES A SHORT AND MAY DAMAGE THE DCC SYSTEM!**
 - Thoroughly wet the front "wet" roller and then run the locomotive forward at a moderate speed. **IMPORTANT:** The front "wet" roller must be kept saturated with cleaning fluid at all times. This means following the cleaner consist around the layout to keep the "wet" Roller Strip saturated.
 - As the "dry" Roller Strip becomes contaminated (dirty), the top layer must be torn off or the Strip reversed end for end so an uncontaminated surface wipes the track. When the Roller Strip is thoroughly used up, replace it. A dirty Roller Strip will only recontaminate the track.
 - It may take four or more complete passes to thoroughly clean the track. To judge, note the amount of contamination the "dry" Roller Strip picks up at the end of each round.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Because the raised plastic area of a re-railer is above track level, re-railers must be hand cleaned with a cloth saturated with cleaning fluid.
3. After completing the cleaning process, return the cleaning cars to their respective containers as shown in Figure 1 of the previous page. If there are no Roller Strips left, prepare a batch of new ones, using the directions under Figure 3, and set them aside for the next user.