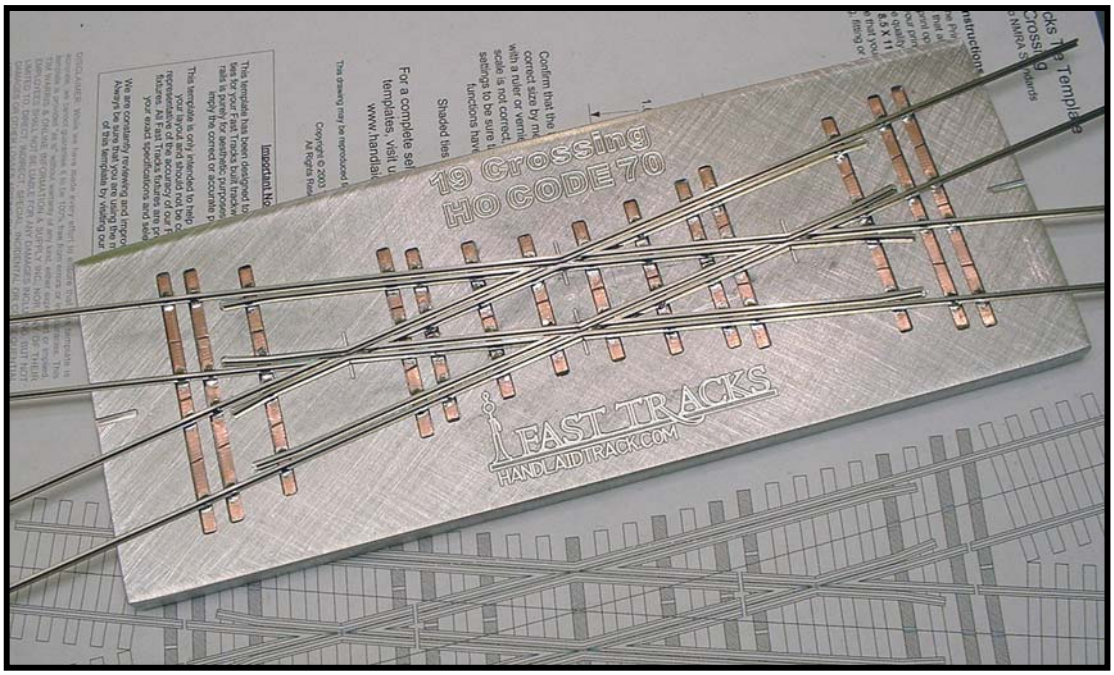
USERS' GUIDE – UG08

Constructing Crossings Using Fast Tracks Assembly Fixtures



These instructions explain how to construct crossings using Fast Tracks assembly fixtures.

The images shown in this document may not be your specific fixture, however these instructions are suitable for all Fast Tracks Assembly Fixtures for crossovers.

The latest version of this guide and all related documentation is always available for download from the Fast Tracks website at www.handlaidtrack.com/documents.php

This document was last updated August 5, 2005.

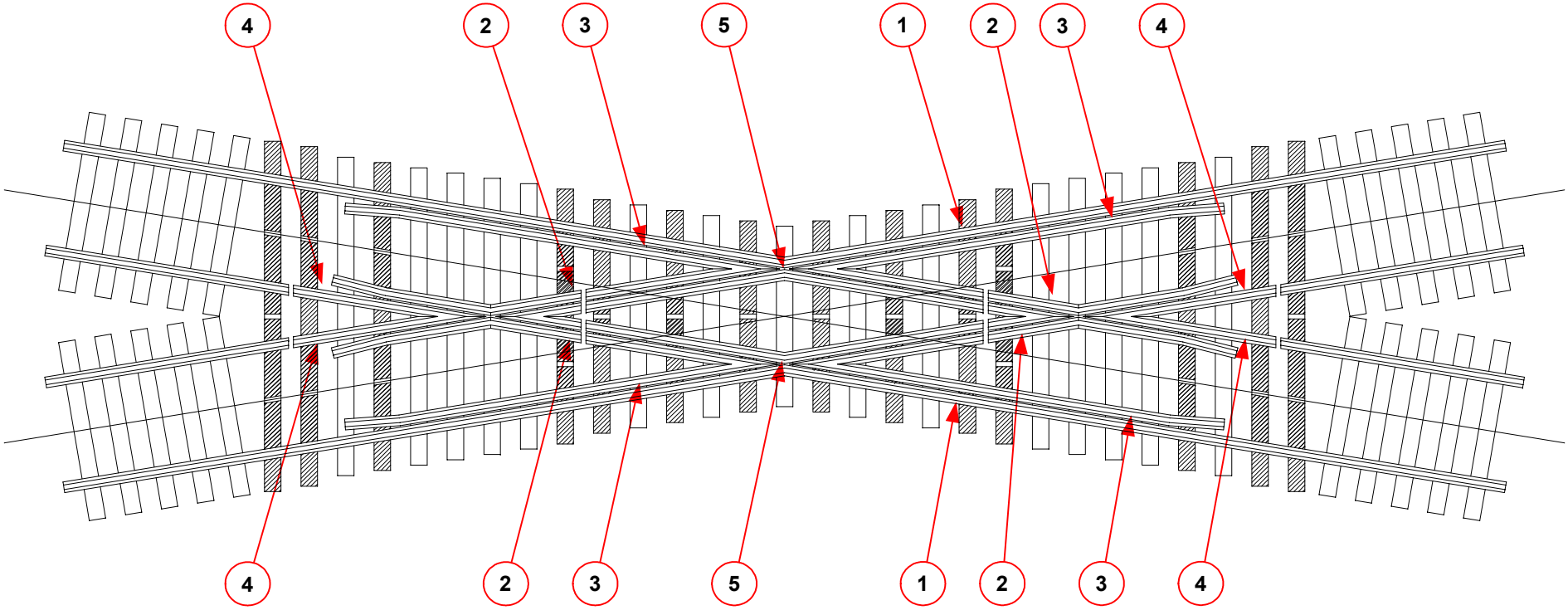
Related Documents

The following documents are referred to in this document and will be needed during construction. You may want to print out copies of them now.

They will be included on the documentation CD that you received with your fixture, or you can download the latest version from our website.

Document ID	Document Title	Download The Latest Version at:
UG03	How To Use The Frog Point Grinding Jig	www.handlaidtrack.com/documents/ug03.pdf
UG09	Using Fast Tracks PC Board Ties	www.handlaidtrack.com/documents/ug09.pdf

CROSSING RAIL REFERENCE



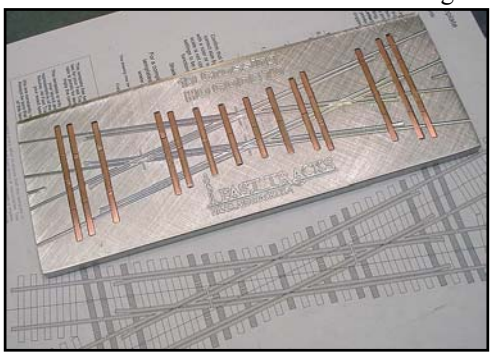
Building A Crossover With Your Fast Tracks Assembly Fixture

Constructing crossings with a Fast Tracks Crossing assembly fixture will ensure accurate, solid trackwork every time. The skills required are similar to building a turnout with the main difference being the number of frog points that need to be built. Each crossing will require eight sets of frog points, so I highly recommend that you consider purchasing a Frog Point Grinding Jig for crossings.

Step 1

Place the PC board ties into the pockets in your crossing fixture. (Image 1) For more information about how to use PC Board ties, see "Using Fast Tracks PC Board Ties". (UG09)

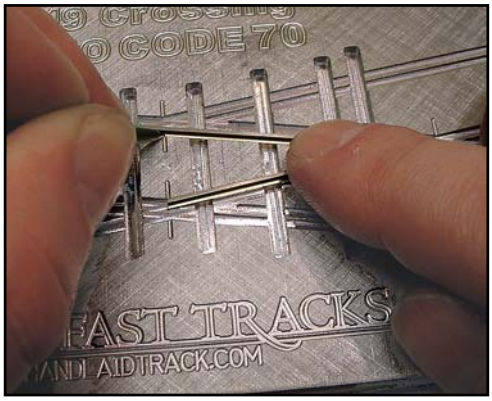
Image 1



Step 2

Place all of the #1 thru #4 rails (Refer to the Crossing Rail Reference drawing at the beginning of this document for the location of these rails.) into the fixture and solder them into place.

Image 2

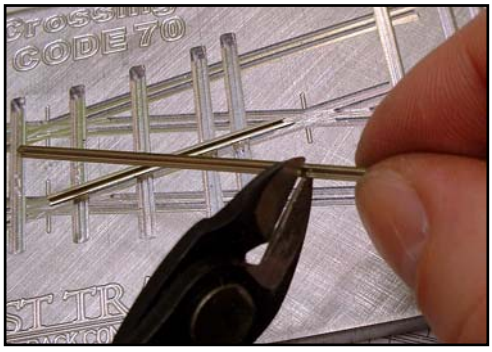


Step 3

The final step in constructing a crossing is to add the inner guardrails. This step is easiest when the crossing is removed from the fixture. This will allow room to work without the other trackwork getting in the way.

I have found the easiest way to make the inner guardrails is to make them from four separate parts, instead of trying to fit two in place.

Image 3



Form the frog point from a small piece of rail and place it into the inner guardrail groove of the fixture. Then using the registration marks at the dead center of the crossing, scribe the location of the cut. (Image 2)

Using rail nippers cut the rail slightly longer than required. (Image 3) Place the rail into the rail groove so it will slightly hang over the end of the fixture then using a sharp file, file the rail

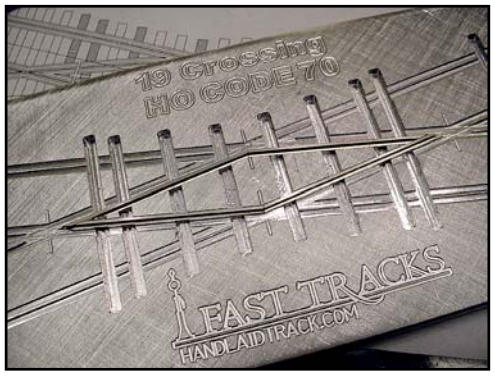
to the length that you scribed onto the rail. (Image 4) This step will form a precise angle onto the end of the rail. Repeat this step for the other 3 inner guardrails and place them into the grooves to test the fit. (See images 5 & 6)

Image 4

Step 4

Remove the completed crossing from the fixture and turn it over. Solder the bottom of the frog to the PC board ties as shown in image 7. This will ensure that the frog point is stable after cutting the electrical isolation gaps.

Image 5



Step 5

Cut the electrical isolation gaps as shown on the printable tie template for the crossing that you are building. For more information on how to cut isolation gaps, see my newsletter "Cutting Those Pesky Gaps" for more information on gap cutting. You will find it on our site at: www.handlaidtrack.com/newsletter-7.html

Image 6

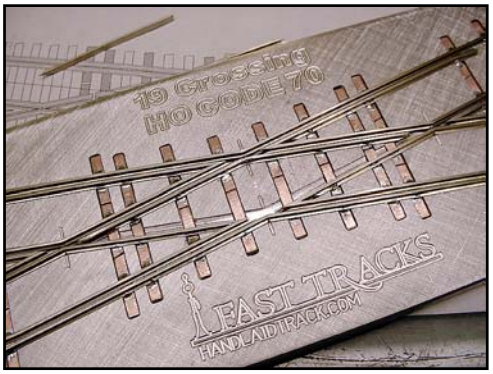


Image 7