Building a Gauntlet Track using FastTracks Fixtures & Jigs

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What this clinic will cover

- A method of creating a Gauntlet Track (not a Gauntlet Turnout) for your layout that will meet one of the requirements for the "scratchbuilt" requirement for the "Model Railroad Engineer – Civil" certificate in the NMRA Achievement Program
- It is not the only solution for meeting the requirement
- It is not the only solution for creating Gauntlet Track
- Just the basics of the handlaid track construction
    - Use the provided references for the details and finishing

What's a Gauntlet Track?

- A different path along the same pathway
    - May share a piece of rail, but most often does not
    - Always share the same track bed (ties & ballast)
- Frog Gauntlet (double-single-double)
    - Two lines collapse/condense their width for a narrow passageway (bridge/tunnel); the narrow width expands back to the "normal" width
- Point Gauntlet/Interlaced Loop (single-gauntlet-single)
    - A single line expands to two close lines; the two lines collapse into a single line
- Single-Gauntlet-Double
- Dual-Gauge Track

"Real World" examples

- Photos with captions

Why Build One

- Scale track
- Passenger equipment/other equipment that's too large for some areas
- Can be used to satisfy one of the three MMR Civil Engineer handlaid track requirements
    - It's a lot easier to build than a slip switch/crossing

Building Options (and References)

- Handlaid from scratch
- There are competitors (Oak Hill for one)
- Use less Fast Tracks components than what I'm recommending/showing/demonstrating
- Simulate it with flex-track and glued-down rails

Let's Build it!

You'll need 4 stock rails, 4 points (2 left & 2 right), and NO frogs

- Assume you're building a scale track
- You'll need at least 4 pieces of 18" rail
- How long is the longest piece of rolling stock you want to "weigh" on your scale track
    - That's the length of the gauntlet track when all four pieces of rail are straight and parallel

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Fast Tracks Tips (Gauntlet track or not)

- Install an additional PCB cross tie at the end of the turnout
- Fingernail files for getting things "just right" – Check @ Sally on sale after holidays
- File electrical gaps top AND bottom on every PCB cross tie
- Use Sharpies to keep yourself out of trouble when filing rail
- Use scrap rail when weighting the rail down while soldering
- Nicholson files

Recommended Tools

- Sharpies (fine tip & thick)
- Fingernail files for getting things "just right" – Check @ Sally on sale after holidays
- Consider using "No Clean" soldering paste
- Fast Tracks turnout fixture
- Fast Tracks point forming tool (jig)
- Fast Tracks stock rail tool (jig)
- 10" Bastard/Mill file
- Needle/Triangle file
- Soldering iron
- NMRA Standards gauge
- Multimeter (to check for continuity and LACK of continuity)

Recommended Supplies

- Micro Engineering rail
- Solder & Flux
- PC Board ties
- Wood ties
- Pliobond contact cement
- Track details (paint to weather rails, ballast)
- Scale track details (asphalt/concrete/wood between gauntlet rails; scale house)
- Operating scale (purchase/manufacture)

References

- March 1977 Model Railroader Article – "Ultrareliable handlaid turnouts" by John Lukesh
- September 2002 Model Railroader Article – "Build a Scale Track" by Bill Darnaby
- January 2018 Model Railroad Hobbyist Article – "Build a Scale Track" by Michael Anteau
- WIkipedia – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gauntlet_track
- https://www.nmra.org/civil - NMRA Civil Engineer Requirements
- http://www.handlaidtrack.com/building-turnouts-video-series - videos
- https://www.bouldercreekengineering.com/docs/track_scale_talk_handout.pdf - Additional scale track references

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