

How to Attach Track to the Layout

Did you ever wonder why quality track like PECO has no nail holes? Gluing track to the subbed surface is a common method for track laying. We like using All Purpose Adhesive Caulk that you find at the hardware store and this is an improved adhesion method to other track laying methods. The caulk is only applied to the surface the track will be attached to and it stays workable for up to 20 minutes. Caulk is also very tacky, a gentle hand pressure is all that is necessary to set the track in place.

Have your track ready to be placed before placing the caulk down as the track laying process is very quick with caulk. When laying sections of flextrack, cut a tie off each end and add a pair of rail joiners for straight sections and cut three ties off each end of the flextrack for curved sections, add rail joiners, and solder the joiners together to create a 6-foot-long section of track.

Once track is prepared and near where you will be working, start tracing lines along the outside edges of the track ties with a pencil. This gives you a line for spreading the caulk and laying the track against this pencil edge. After tracing the outline of the track, start applying the adhesive caulk. Use a flexible putty knife to spread the caulk out, remembering it should be spread out only under the tied between the rails. There is no need to spread to the edge of the ties. A thin layer is plenty sufficient. Remember, if the caulk squeezes up between the ties, you are using too much! Remove the track and thin out the amount of caulk being placed.

Place the track where you want it against the pencil drawn edge and lay it in place. When satisfied of the alignment and you sighted down the rails, press it down into place. Do not caulk under the moving parts of a turnout that would be in contact with the roadbed. Using a light quantity of caulk will allow you to take up track sections without damage if changes in the future are made and this allows you to re-use track. A gentle pry under the ties will pop the track up. Clean the remaining caulk and reapply.

It really is that simple!