

PECO PL41

PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber Instruction Manual

Model: PL41

1. INTRODUCTION

The PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber is an abrasive block designed for maintaining the cleanliness of model railway tracks. Its primary function is to effectively remove dirt, grime, and oxidation from the rail surfaces, which can accumulate over time and hinder the smooth operation of model trains. Regular use of this track rubber helps ensure consistent electrical contact and improves running performance, especially at slower speeds.



Image 1.1: The PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber. This abrasive block is used for cleaning model railway tracks.

2. SETUP

The PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber requires no assembly or complex setup. It is ready for immediate use upon removal from its packaging.

- **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the track rubber from its packaging.
- **Inspection:** Before first use, inspect the rubber block for any damage or irregularities.
- **Preparation:** Ensure the track area to be cleaned is free from loose debris that could scratch the rails.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps to effectively clean your model railway tracks:

1. **Identify Dirty Sections:** Visually inspect your track for areas with visible dirt, dust, or oxidation (darkening of the rail surface).
2. **Apply to Rail:** Hold the PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber firmly. Gently rub the abrasive surface of the block along the top and inner sides of the railhead.
3. **Use Gentle Pressure:** Apply light to moderate pressure. Excessive force is not necessary and may cause

premature wear of the rubber or damage to the track.

4. **Rub Back and Forth:** Move the track rubber back and forth along the rail section until the dirt and oxidation are visibly removed and the rail surface appears clean and shiny.
5. **Clean All Rails:** Repeat this process for all rails on your layout, including sidings and turnouts. Ensure both positive and negative rails are thoroughly cleaned.
6. **Remove Debris:** After cleaning, use a soft cloth or a track vacuum to remove any abrasive dust or debris left on the track surface. This prevents re-contamination and ensures optimal electrical contact.
7. **Test Operation:** Place a locomotive on the cleaned track and test its running performance. If performance is still inconsistent, repeat the cleaning process.

The PECO PL-41 is suitable for cleaning tracks of *all scales*.

4. MAINTENANCE

Over time, the surface of the track rubber will accumulate grime and become less effective. To restore its cleaning ability, follow these maintenance steps:

- **Surface Cleaning:** When the surface of the rubber block becomes clogged with dirt, it can be cleaned by gently rubbing it against a clean, rough surface (e.g., sandpaper or a file) to expose a fresh abrasive layer.
- **Scraping/Cutting (Caution):** For heavily soiled or glazed surfaces, a thin layer of the rubber can be carefully scraped or cut away using a sharp hobby knife or razor blade.
- **Safety Warning:** **Exercise extreme caution when using sharp tools for maintenance. Always cut away from your body and fingers. Consider wearing protective gloves. Improper handling of sharp tools can result in serious injury.**
- **Storage:** Store the track rubber in a clean, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures to prolong its lifespan.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues while using the PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber, consider the following:

- **Rails still dirty after cleaning:**
 - Ensure you are applying sufficient, but not excessive, pressure.
 - Verify that the track rubber's surface is clean and not clogged with grime. Perform maintenance as described in Section 4.
 - Repeat the cleaning process multiple times on stubborn areas.
- **Locomotive running poorly after cleaning:**
 - Ensure all abrasive dust and debris have been completely removed from the track surface after cleaning.
 - Check for other potential issues with the locomotive or power supply.
- **Track rubber wearing down quickly:**
 - Avoid applying excessive pressure during cleaning.
 - Ensure the track surface is free of sharp burrs or irregularities that could prematurely wear the rubber.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
---------	--------

Feature	Detail
Model Number	PL41
Brand	PECO
Product Dimensions	3.15 x 1.57 x 1.18 inches (approx.)
Item Weight	0.353 ounces (approx.)
Recommended Age	10 years and up
Application	Removes dirt and oxidation from model railway tracks
Compatibility	All Scales

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Information regarding specific warranty terms or direct customer support for the PECO PL-41 Rail Cleaner Track Rubber is not available in the provided product data. For detailed warranty information, product support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please refer to the official PECO website or contact your authorized PECO retailer.

You may also find helpful resources and contact information on the manufacturer's official website: www.peco-uk.com