

GarGraves **Outdoors**

There is no best way to lay track on an outdoor railroad. How it is done depends on where it is to be built. When built on a deck it is most often laid on a ledge or shelf, if being run on the perimeter of the deck.

When laid in a garden the track can be free floated on a gravel roadbed. It has been successfully laid with a 6 inch wide 3 inch deep trench filled with small gravel. Grade the gravel so it is flat. When placing the track on the roadbed it is a good idea to place a 6-inch piece of one half-inch pressure treated wood 2.5 inches wide under each joint to prevent the track from settling at the joint. After the track is all down you can ballast the track with crusher run screenings that still have the dust in it. When finished with the ballast wet the roadbed down being careful not to wash out the ballast. When it dries the ballast will set up enough to hold the track in place.

Another method that has been used is to install a raised roadbed consisting of vertical piers and six-inch wide one half inch thick pressure treated lumber. The piers can be 2x4 pressure treated and should go at least 18 inches into the ground.

Spacing of 3 feet is adequate. Depending on the radius of curves this spacing could be less on the curves. There is no hard and fast rule on this method of laying track. Mostly it is what works for your particular set of conditions.

Caution: Laying the track on a black or very dark surface, like asphalt, roofing or in desert settings where very high ground temperatures can exist should be avoided as heat from intense sunlight could raise the temperature high enough to damage the plastic ties of the track. Gray ties should be used in areas where track will be subject to high ground temperatures

No matter what method is used, care should be taken not to step on the track, as it will most likely be damaged.

These are methods that have been used by some modelers and they seemed to think that they worked for them. We have not as yet tested any of these methods to determine how well they work.

Recommended products Item 202-F flexible 37" sections or the 202-S straights and curves, made with all bright stainless steel rails. When ordering, specify with black or gray ties.