

Fastening Down Curves for Smooth Joints

From a straight section at the starting point of your curve bend the track to nearly the curve you want and trim the end square that is to be joined to the straight section you are starting from. Attach it to the straight section and fasten it down at the joint.

Bringing the curve into position fasten it down to within about five ties from the end. Tap the rail ends as needed to close up any excessive gap at the first joint. Then trim the end and attach your second curved section to it.

As a rule of thumb one screw every 15 ties should be sufficient. Use #4 screws, pre-drill tie with a one eighth inch drill centered between the center rail and a running rail, alternate from one side of the center rail to the other. Draw the screw down until it is just to the tie. **Do not** over tighten as you could distort the track.

Holding the second section in position fasten it down about 4 or 5 ties from the joint and continue to move into position and fasten as you go to within about 4 or 5 ties from the end.

Going back to the last joint on the curve from the outside, bring the curve into position to eliminate the dogleg and fasten it down on both sides of the joint. After tapping the rail ends to close up any excessive gap that may exist, trim the ends of the last curved section to square it up.

At this point, you may have your curve finished and some of the last section put down may be starting a straight run, in which case you would fasten it down to the end, trim and fasten your next straight section to it.

If you are using a roadbed you can lay the roadbed down first and then the track, or you can fasten the roadbed down with the track as you go. Fastening as you go, it is easier to keep the track centered on the roadbed.