

Filing The Stock Rail With The Fast Tracks StockAid Filing Tool



Builder's Guide



Fast Tracks Builder's Guide UG18

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Using The StockAid Stock Rail Base Removal Tool

The Fast Tracks StockAid tool is designed to precisely remove a section of the base of the stock rail by hand with ease.

Trackwork with switchpoints requires a short section of the stock rail base to be removed to provide clearance for the switchpoints to tightly close against the stockrail.

The StockAid tool is a "one size fits all tool", therefore it can be used with any size Turnout, Wye, Slip, 3-Way switch, or any other piece of trackwork where the base of the rail needs to be removed to accommodate switchpoints. The way you use the tool is the same for all switch types.

The same tool can be used to file both the right and left stock rails.

This builder's guide will detail how to get consistent, precise results from your Stock-Aid tool.

Additional Items You will Need

You only need a couple of extra tools for filing the base of the switchpoint rail. These include:

1. A new, sharp 10" Mill 2nd Cut file (Use your old files for stirring paint!)
2. A sharpie marker

Related Documents

The following documents may be referred to in this document and may be needed during construction. You may want to print out copies of them now.

These documents will be included on the documentation DVD that you received with your fixture, or you can download the latest version from our website.

- **Using The Fast Tracks PointForm Tool** - www.handlaidtrack.com/documents/ug10.pdf

Step 1

Place a length of rail to be used as the stock rail into the fixture onto the prepared PC board ties. (Image 1)

You will notice that the base of the switch point will overlap the base of the stock rail. (Image 2) The base of the stock rail is what needs to be removed so that the switch point will fit tightly against the stock rail.

Step 2

Mark the area of the stock rail where the rail base needs to be removed. This will be the section of rail from where the switch points will end (Image 3 - End 1) to just past the throwbar and where the stock and closure rail grooves on the fixture diverge. (Image 3 - End 2).

Image 1



Image 2

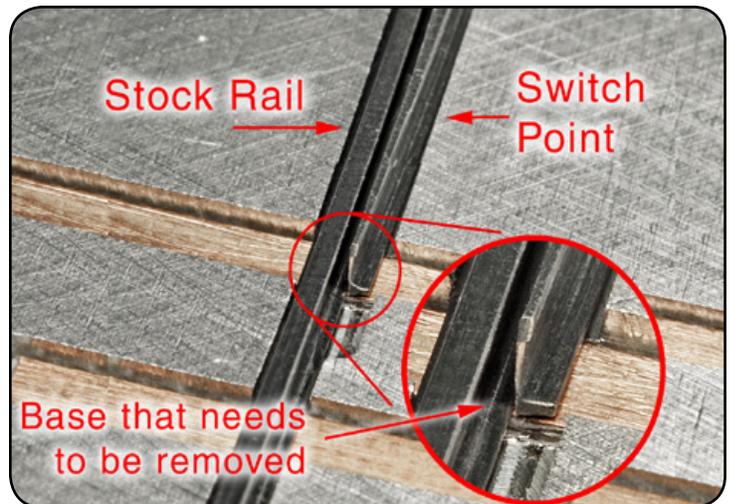
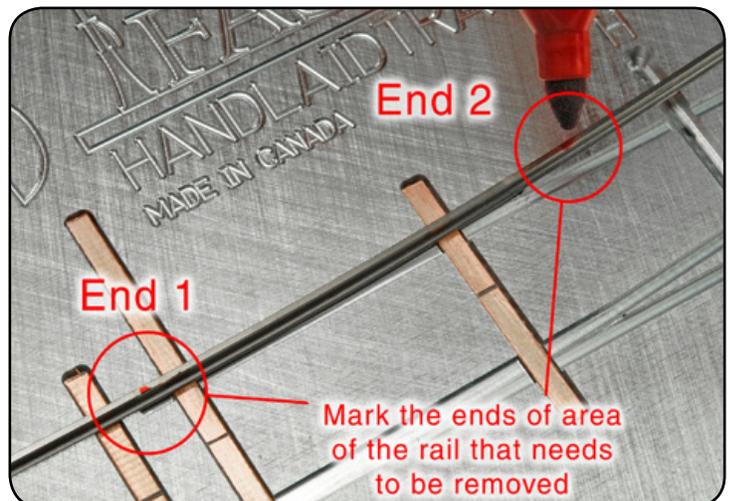


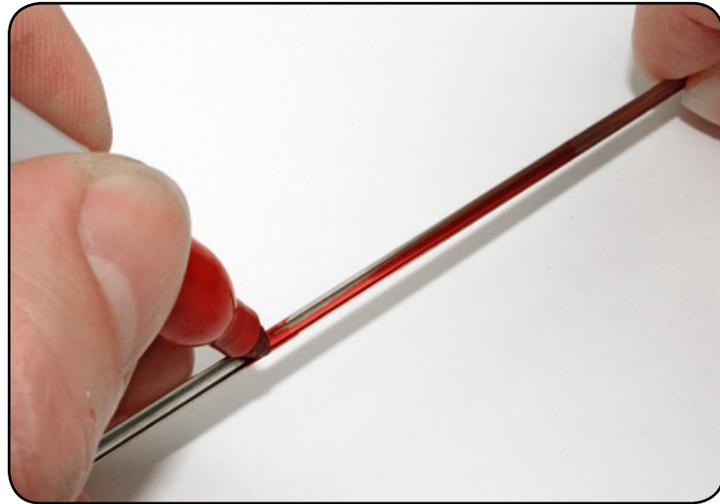
Image 3



Step 3

Using a marker, highlight the entire area on the base of the rail that needs to be removed. (Image 4) This will make it easy to see this area once the rail is clamped into the StockAid tool.

Image 4

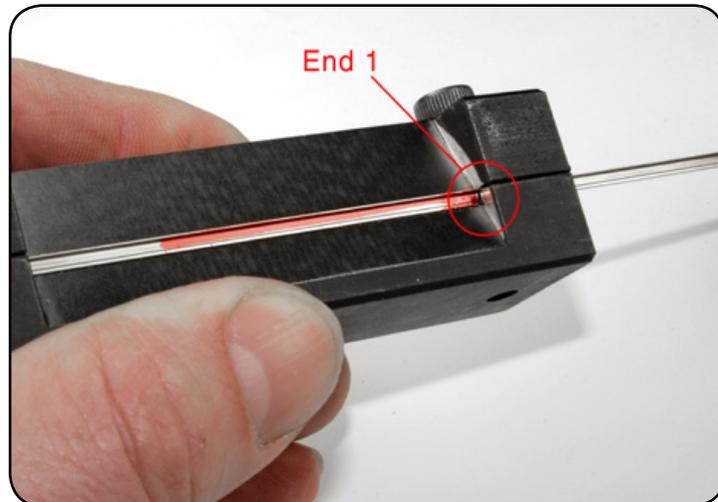


Step 4

Slide the stock rail into the Stock-Aid tool with the area that you marked in Step 2 exposed in the filing section of the tool. (Image 5)

The end identified in Image 2 as End 1 should be aligned against the edge of the filing section of the tool.

Image 5



Step 5

Tighten the screws just enough to secure the rail into the tool without crushing the rail. While tightening the screws firmly hold the mid section of the rail against the filing face to ensure it is clamped evenly into the tool. (Image 6)

Image 6



Tightening The Screws

To avoid crushing the rail or binding the screws, it is important that you incrementally tighten each screw until the rail is firmly held in the tool. If you over-tighten one screw without tightening the opposite screw by an equal amount, you will crush the rail and bind the screws in the tool.

Be careful not to overtighten!
Tighten the screws just enough to prevent the rail from moving.

Step 6

Using a sharp file, remove the base of the rail by filing in an upward motion while holding the tool firmly. (Image 7)

Some "chatter" may occur while you are filing, especially for smaller rail codes. To correct this, apply lighter pressure on the file and take your time.

Step 7

The objective is to remove a section of the rail so that one end is squared off (Images 9 & 10), while the other end is tapered. (Image 11)

The squaring effect can be easily achieved by filing right up to the edge of the filing area of the tool. (Image 8).

Opposite to the squared end you want to taper the rail over the length of the area you marked with the marker.

Image 7

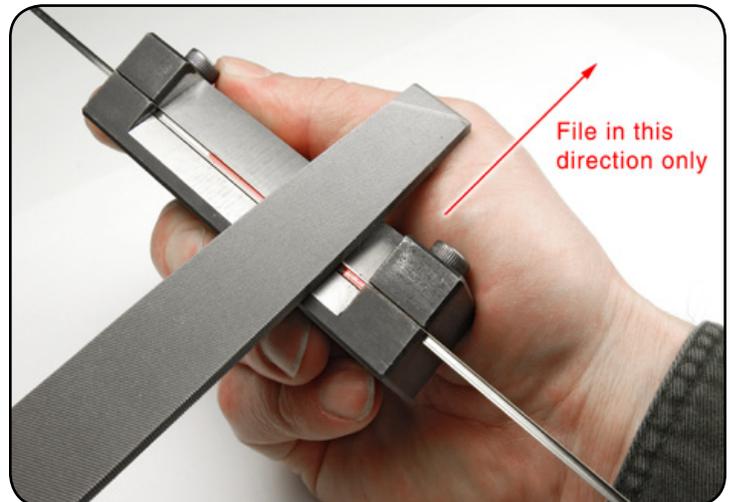


Image 8

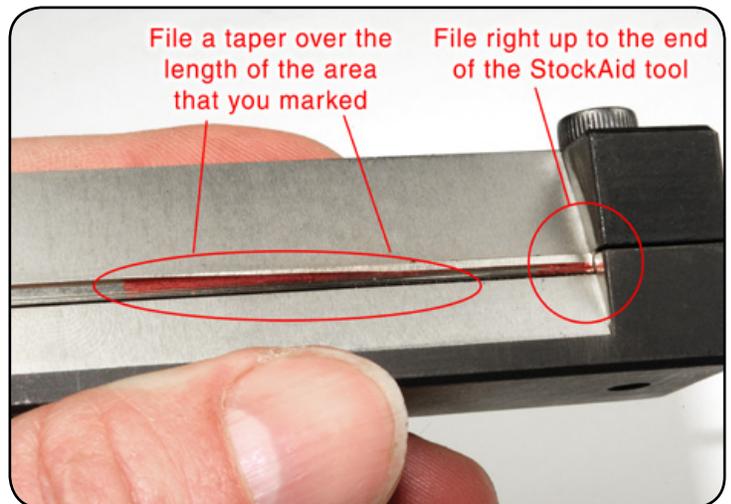


Image 9



Image 10



Step 8

Repeat steps 1 through 7 for the opposite stock rail.

Image 11

This image shows the finished stock rail. Notice how the right end is tapered, while the left end is cut square.

