

Missenden Railway Modellers: Wheel cleaning

Notes on brainstorming discussion: 21 Oct 2017

Initial informal discussions revolved around:

Track cleaning: the CMX track cleaning vehicle for O, HO, and N gauges (imported by Digitrains) with a tank containing solvent (eg IPA, Goo Gone, etc) that drips out onto a corduroy pad. This is heavy (solid brass) so needs a powerful loco to push it round.



Loco wheel cleaning: various methods for powered wheel cleaning including demonstration of a track-mounted system using copper-clad paxolin with brass wire brushes purchased from Squires (part No. AB0190).

Group Brainstorming focused on unpowered wheels:

Requirements

Speed (eg >50 wagons in an hour)

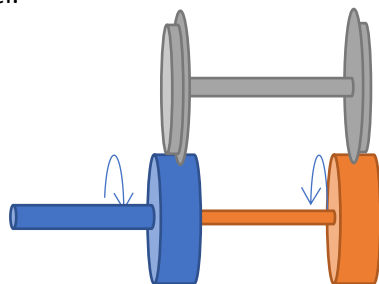
Ease of use (eg. Without uncoupling, without removing from track, without inverting the rolling stock)

Price (affordable, value for money)

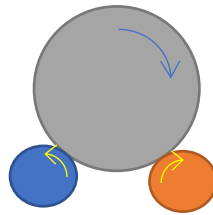
Access (mainly applies to track cleaning)

Potential solutions

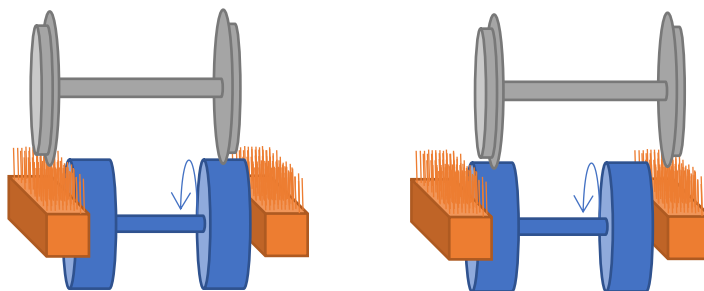
1. Two counter-rotating discs, one **driving** one wagon wheel on the axle, the other **cleaning** the other wheel.



- Two counter-rotating discs on one wheel, one driving, the other cleaning.



- Two pulleys with belt drive to power the two wheels on one side of wagon, with a brush to clean the two wheels on the other side.



Left wheels cleaned...

right wheels cleaned



Redundant loco motor/gearbox drives pulleys/belt. Battery powered?

- Felt pad / brass brush in a mini drill both powering and cleaning whilst braking the other wheel with a finger.
- Cotton buds with solvent, applied by hand.
- A paper towel (or J-cloth) soaked in IPA or other solvent, laid on track and vehicles are rolled back and forth over this (no need to uncouple or remove track). Could be done as trains are extracted from railway room for garden running, for example.

Suggestions for track cleaning

- Pads mounted on a vehicle in each train.
- Brown Gariflex does not leave a residue or particles on the rails like grey Gariflex
- A small square of carpet tile used as a pad to clean track.
- LGB make a hand rail cleaner that does not leave a residue or particles.
- Pendon use a piece of hardboard, rough face down on the track (I think Rev Peter Denny pioneered this method).

Proposed next steps.

Let's have a review of progress at the Missenden Autumn weekend 2018!