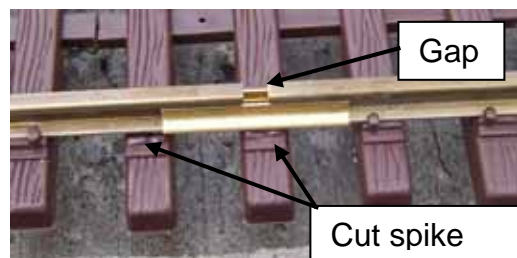


Instructions For Laying Sunset Valley Track

by Sunset Valley Railroads

1. Before loading the rail onto the ties, you need to pre-bend any rail that makes up a curved portion of track. It is recommended that curves are made with the Sunset Valley Railbender. This puts a constant and even radius bend right up to the end of the rail.
2. Load rail onto the ties. Start by removing any burrs on the end of the rail with a small file. Set up a work space of 8-10 ft and lay a tie strip on the surface. Slide the rail through the ties. Place another tie strip against the first, making sure the spacer tabs mate together, and repeat. Once the first rail is on all 6 tie strips the second can now be threaded. If a rail is stiff, check once more for burrs. WD-40 is also helpful.
3. When laying track, we recommend you stagger the joints at least 1 ft, preferably 3ft. This is especially beneficial on curves, the curve is much smoother. It was standard practice among most railroads for the same reason.
4. Slide a rail joiner on the end of the rail. Cut the spike heads off with a sharp knife under the joiner, as shown.



5. Leave a .060-.080" (1.5-2mm) gap between rails as you proceed. This allows for thermal expansion. A 6 ft stainless steel rail expands .048" (1mm) between 30°F and 100°F, nickel silver .049", brass .052" and aluminum .066". The rail temperature can exceed 150°F on a hot sunny day
6. There are many methods of mounting the track to the base. We recommend screwing it down every 2-3 ft through the centerline strip. Ballasting is optional, if used it will cover the screwheads and make the track look very realistic.
7. When using rail clamps, do not screw the track down. You must allow the track to 'float' in the ballast or on the track bed for thermal expansion. You do not need to put in expansion gaps as the rails are fixed to the clamps, Do not over tighten the stainless screw as in time the clamp will crack or break.