

AMERICAN FLYER CUSTOM CROSSOVER

WRITTEN BY: DAVID AVEDESIAN, A MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE AREA AMERICAN FLYER CLUB

ARTICLE 1 IN A SERIES

NOVEMBER 1995

The need to compress a double crossover into a smaller footprint caused me to make a series of crossovers. The crossovers using AF track are made in the following sizes:

- 60-Degree
- 45-Degree
- 30-Degree
- Straight with a left or right curve track

The crossovers are completely compatible to the standard AF, K-Line and Gragraves track. The crossovers are electrically wired so there are no dead spots. Dead spots would occur because as the angle of the crossover changes from a 90-degree crossover to the smaller angle crossover the distance from leg to leg gets longer. The longer length is greater than the distance of the wheel sets spacing. Therefore it becomes important to wire and electrically isolate the crossover tracks from each other.

The crossover sections can be used on an AC or DC current system. If they are used with switches such as a double crossover, isolating the track can easily be accomplished by turning the track work over and cutting the desired connecting wires. In the case of making a compressed double crossover, a 60-degree crossover would be cut from 10" legs to fit using a rotary wafer cutter.

The results are instead of four switches in series running 40" in length at 5 inches on center; you have two pairs of switches at less than 2 feet in length with 7 ¼ inches on center. The space between the switches on the straight sections is four inches. Therefore, cut four 4" filler pieces of track to fill the gaps.

You can now expand your designs to include more tracks in a smaller space. With regards to making a curve-over-a-curve crossover, the best suggestion would be to draw the center lines of the track on a piece of drafting paper. Then you can layout the crossover on your workbench and it will fit perfectly on your layout.

The most difficult crossover that I have made was a double straight at 5" on center with a curve crossover track in the middle of one of the crossovers. It took me more than ten hours to make but the results were great. I was able to make an impossible situation track design possible. It made the rest of my layout work as I had envisioned.