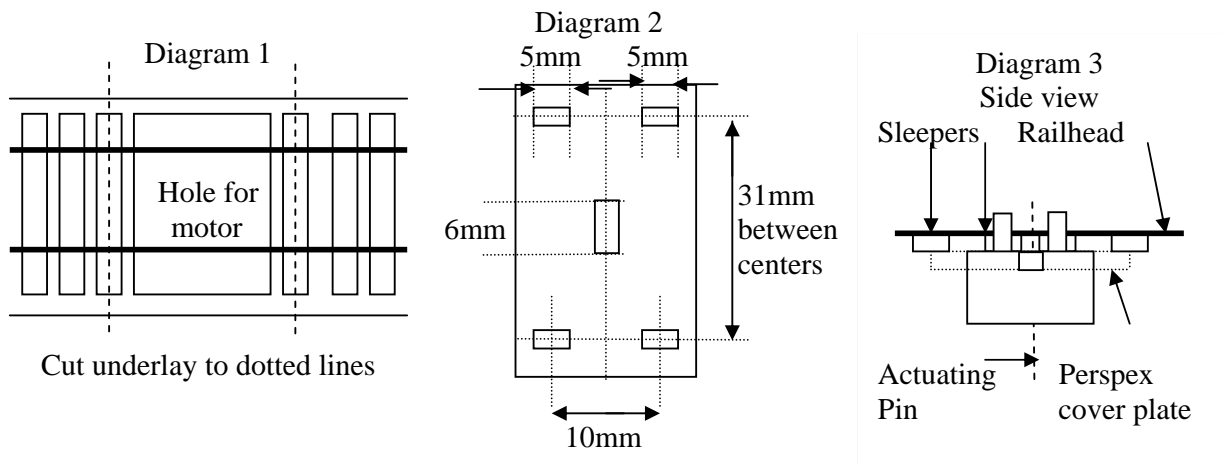


IRREGULAR FEATURE

It gives me the pits

If like me, you hate the look of those ash pits under points where the point motor sits, but still want to install the point motor directly to the point as this gives the most reliable operation, then I have a solution to your dilemma. Start by cutting the hole for the point motor as per usual, and then cut the cork underlay slightly longer to half way under the next sleeper, as per diagram 1. Next mark out on a piece of 40mm x 25mm x 1.5mm thick Perspex, Plasticard or similar and drill holes as shown in diagram 2. I used a 3mm drill and elongated the holes until they all fitted without binding. It doesn't have to be too neat, as it won't be visible once the ballast is down.



I made mine from Perspex and found it easiest to mark out and drill a line of cover plates, then score and snap to size. Rough up the top surface to help the ballast to stick. Assemble by placing over the point motor then fit to the point as usual; it is a little harder because you can't see what you are doing as easily, but with a little care and patience it will all fall into place. Twist the tabs to secure the point motor to the point and then fix the point in place. Check all is working without any binding and adjust as necessary, when all is well ballast the track as usual being careful not to glue any moving parts. If a point motor needs to be changed at any time, simply straighten out the tabs and remove, leaving the Perspex and ballast behind.

Catch you down the track...Tony Mikolaj