

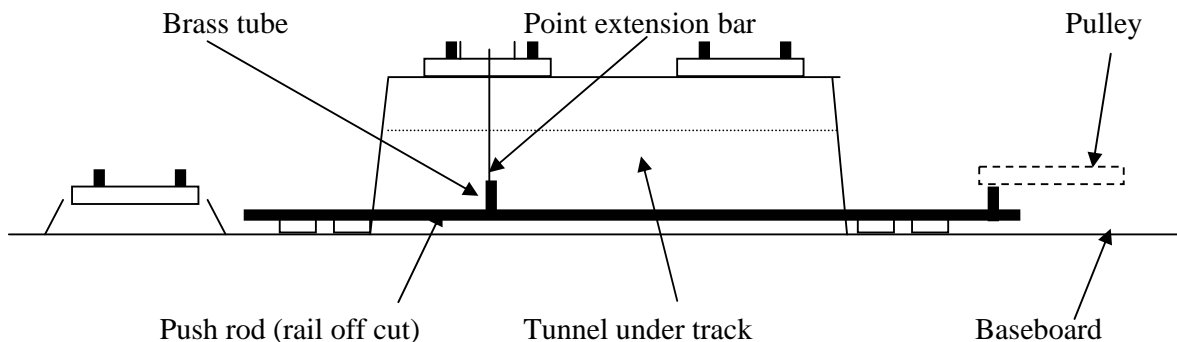
# IRREGULAR FEATURE

## A practical application

Following on from the ramblings over the last couple of issues about points and detection of point motor positions, I thought that I would stick with that theme and take you through a problem I had on my own layout and the method I used to solve it.

The situation I have is a point between two other rails and over a duck under. I could not mount anything under the baseboard, as I would hit my head on it and there is not enough room between the adjacent tracks to mount a point motor. The point will be hidden from view once all is finished so I got out the proverbial thinking cap!

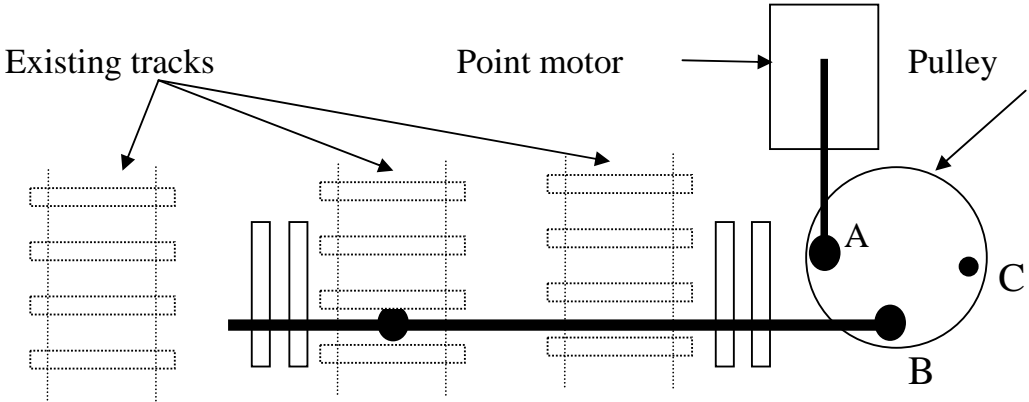
Diagram 1 (cutaway view)



Two tracks are on a higher level (diagram 1) so I cut a tunnel under them and fixed some sleepers in line with the centerline of the points. I slid an off cut of rail into these and soldered the joiner tube that comes with the Peco point motors to the rail, then put the extension rod through the points tie bar and into the tube. So far so good, one push rod. Now I needed to turn ninety degrees, as there still was not enough room for the point motor, so once more I delved into that Mecca that all good modelers have "The Junk Box". Being also into electronics mine is very large and full. After making my packed lunch I went searching. I found an old cassette player, it didn't take long to pull it apart and I soon had what I needed, a pulley and bracket. With a little modification, a couple of holes and a bend or two, it would be perfect.

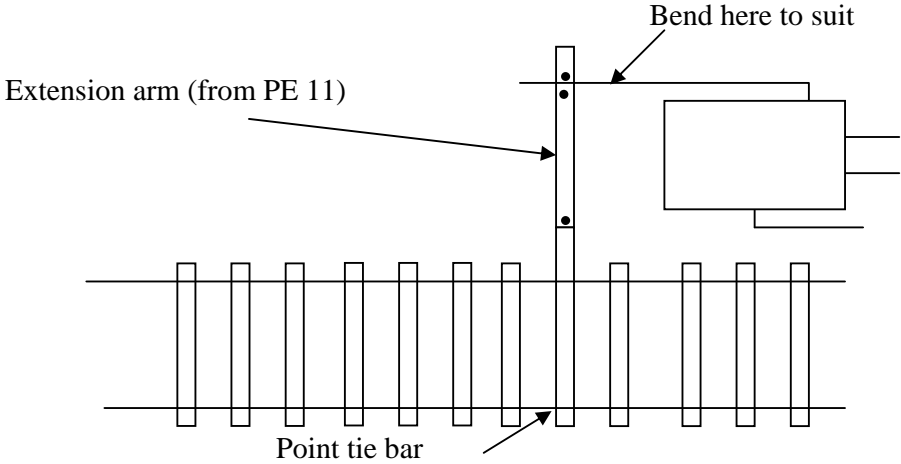
I mounted it above the end of the push rod and connected the two by soldering another extension tube to the push rod and drilling a hole (A) in the pulley. I then put another extension rod (actually the other half of the first one) through the pulley and into the tube. The point solenoid I mounted on a Peco above baseboard mount (PE 11) and the arm from this I screwed to the pulley. (Point B) A little bit of juggling and it all worked fine. I drilled a third hole (C) and inserted a pin to operate a micro switch for signaling and track control as previously discussed.

Diagram 2 (plan view)



If you do something like this check at each stage that there isn't any binding and if so rectify before proceeding further as it can be difficult to find the cause once it is all assembled. As there is space I've inserted a diagram for mounting micro switches on top of the baseboard it might help in one of those awkward spaces.

Diagram 3 (above baseboard mounting of micro switches)



Catch you down the track...Tony Mikolaj.