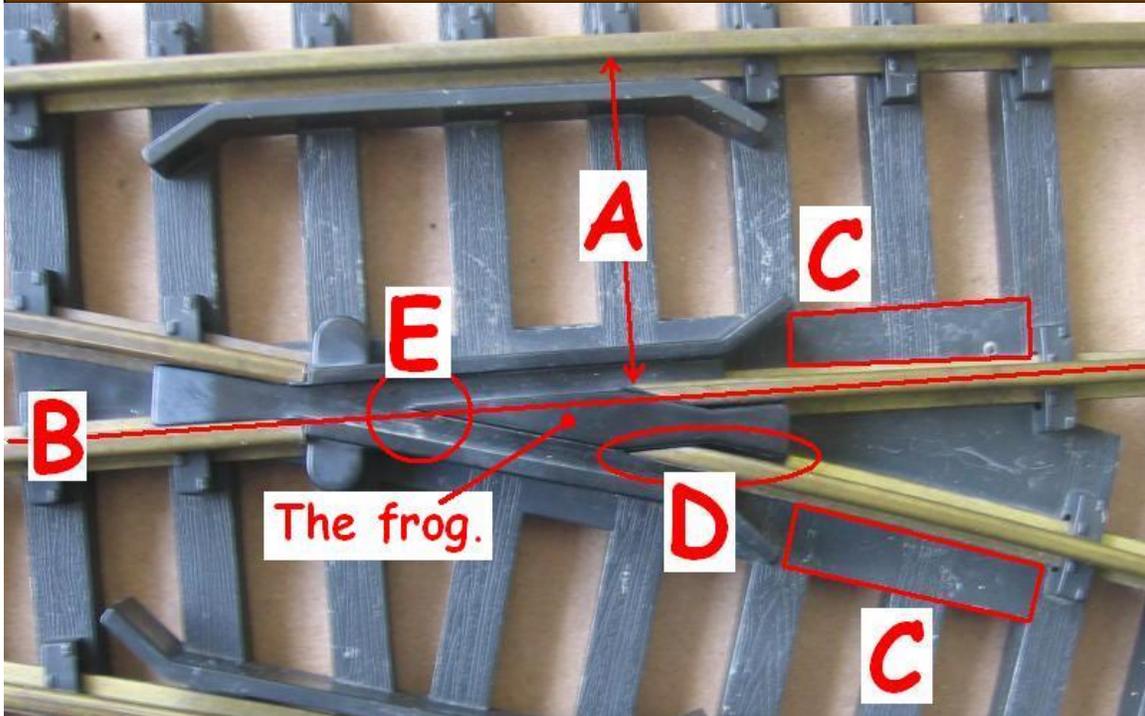


# Jonnychuffchuff's TRACK TRICKS

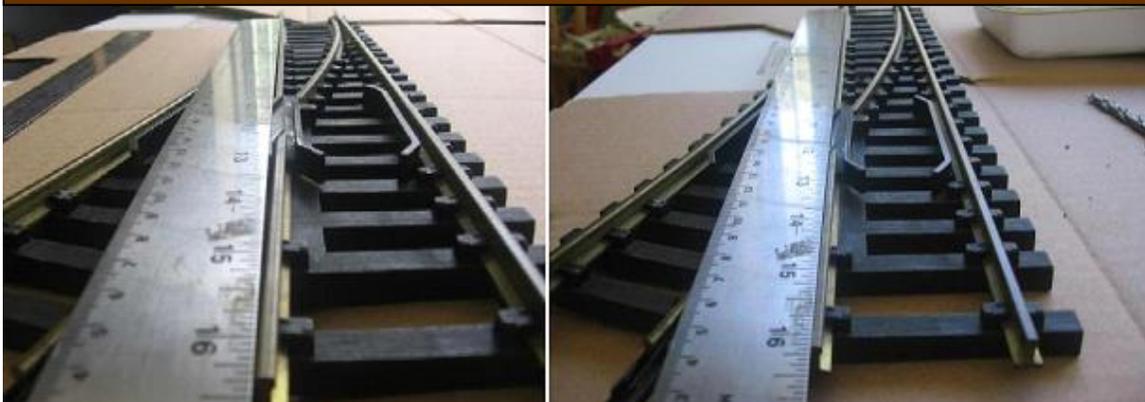
## Aristo Craft Wide Radius Switches

Aristo-Craft wide radius switches have been known for years to derail trains regularly. On examination it becomes clear that the black plastic frog had been factory-installed at an incorrect angle, causing no fewer than five subsequent flaws. These flaws are: at **A** the track gauge is tightened, at **B** there is an unwanted bow in the line of the rail, at **C** two rectangular areas are misshapen, at **D** there is a gap between the frog and the rails, and at **E** there is a hazardous misalignment of the point of the frog. Flaws **A**, **B**, and **E** are all hazardous to trains, while **D** and **C** are merely evidentiary.



BEFORE

AFTER

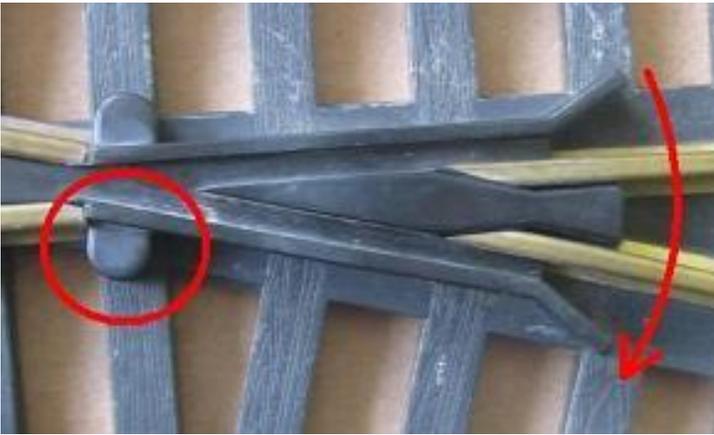


All these flaws can be fixed with one simple operation in just minutes.

# Jonnychuffchuff's TRACK TRICKS

## PREPARATION

To fix this perennial bugbear it is only necessary to straighten out those crooked frogs. I propose to remove the frog from this switch and rotate it somehow, as shown in this photo.



All that's needed is a small Phillips screwdriver, a modeling knife, and a few drill bits. I have illustrated several pin vices here, but an ordinary drill operated at very slow speed so as not to melt the plastic, will also work fine.

The first step in preparing for this job is to remove the cover plate under the frog. Then disconnect the two jumper wires as shown in the following photograph. Keep careful track of all the screws here. They are in at least two different sizes.

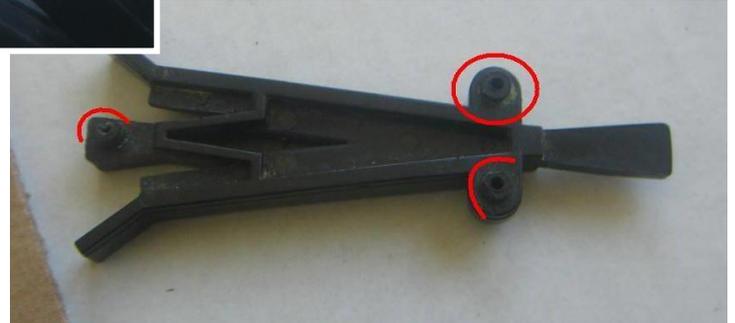
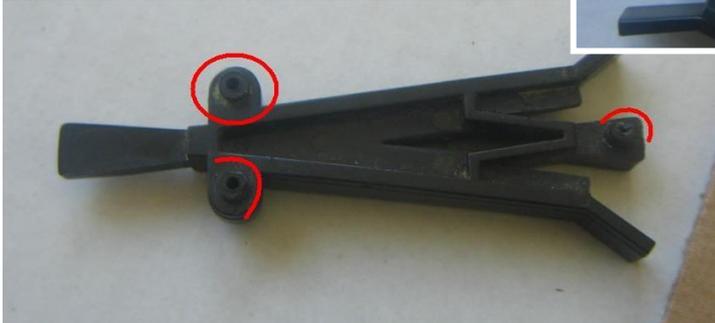
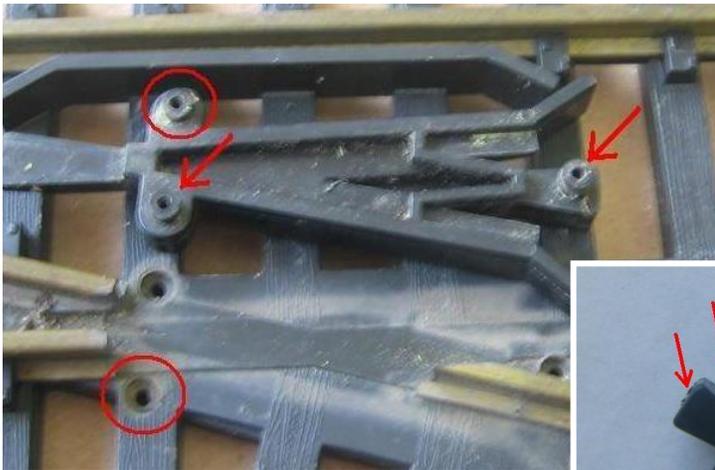


Still keeping close track of where the various screws belong, remove the three screws holding the plastic frog in place. Also locate the screws securing the rails running to the wide end of the frog. They would be just outside this picture, to the right....

These two rails must be slipped out of their place in order to remove the frog.

# Jonnychuffchuff's TRACK TRICKS

## THE SOLUTION



If you are working on a right hand switch, follow the pictures above as you examine the underside of the frog. You will NOT ALTER the parts in the red circles. You will alter the lugs indicated by the red arrows. Using your modeling knife carefully remove material around the holes in these lugs as shown by the small red arcs. Maintain the integrity of the screw holes. This operation will allow you partially to rotate the frog as planned. The inset shows where you might remove some flash while you're at it.

If you are working on a left hand switch, follow the pictures above as you examine the underside of the frog. You will NOT ALTER the parts in the red circles. You will alter the lugs indicated by the red arrows. Using your modeling knife carefully remove material around the holes in these lugs as shown by the small red arcs. Maintain the integrity of the screw holes. This operation will allow you partially to rotate the frog as planned. The inset shows where you might remove some flash while you're at it.



Elongate the indicated dimples very slightly in the direction of the desired rotation. Do not widen the dimples.



In order to replace the screws you will have to minimally elongate some screw holes in the track bed.



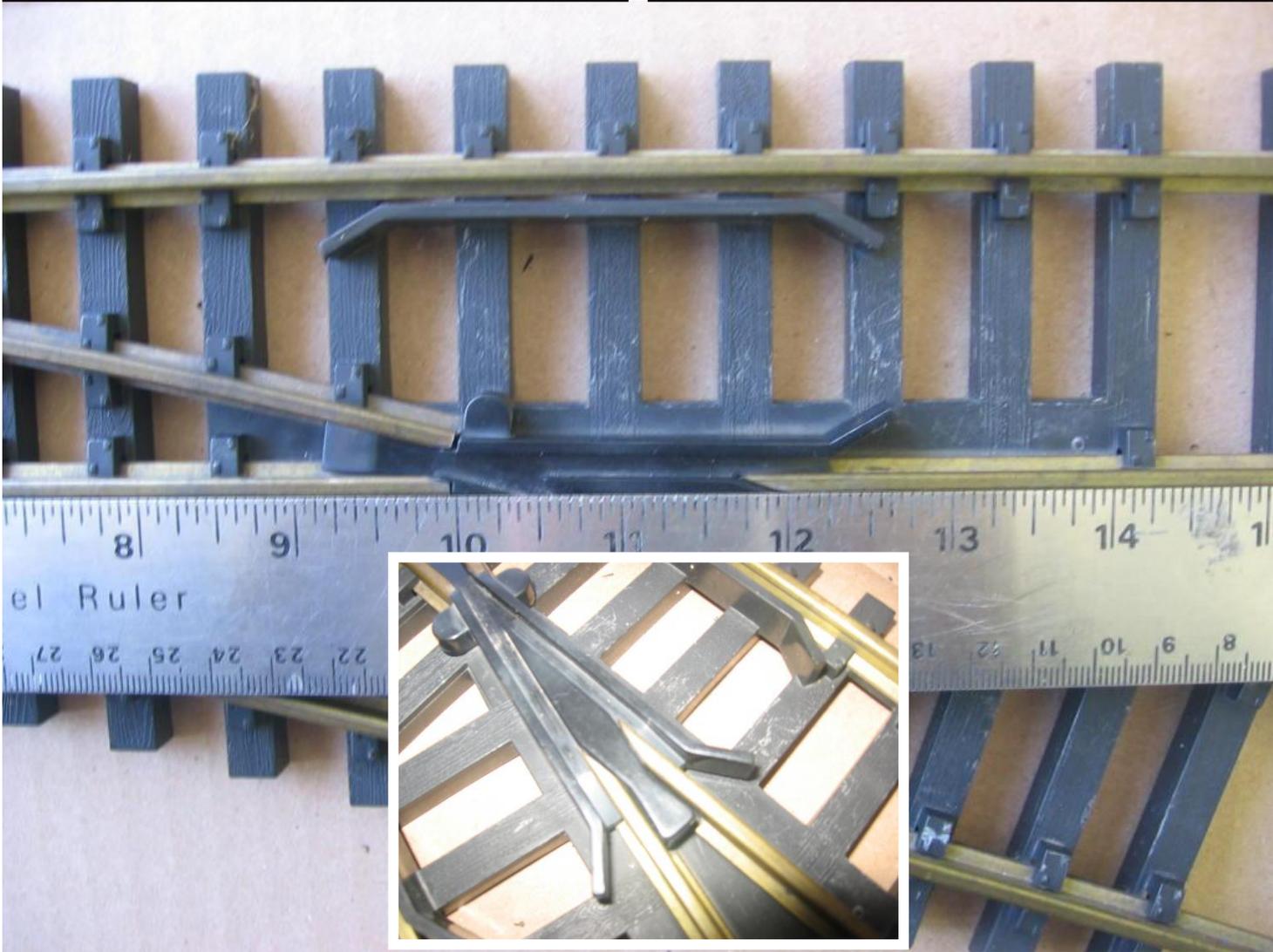
RIGHT-HAND SWITCH  
←

LEFT-HAND SWITCH  
→



Replace the frog into its holes, rotating it into its new location. Slide the frog rails back into the frog to secure it temporarily as you hold the frog in place and turn the switch over.

Elongate the frog rail screw holes as required and re-secure the rails. Now starting with the electrical connections, replace all the screws under the frog and re-secure the cover plate.



Background: The through track is now straight, as it should be. All the problems mentioned at the beginning of this article are now corrected. Inset: The frog is now installed in its place as designed, and the switch will function properly from now on.