

Railway Baseboard User Manual

1 Safety Warnings

Retain these instructions for future reference.

Warning: Our baseboards kits are not toys, they are suitable for adult assembly and use only.

Warning: Wood is a natural material and may produce splinters and sharp edges.

Warning: The maximum load is 5kG per baseboard.

Warning: Do not stand or sit on these baseboards under any circumstances or serious injury may result.

Warning: Tall narrow baseboards can be unstable on their own and may topple causing injury. It is your responsibility to assess the stability of the layout you build from these baseboard kits and add additional stability if required. Joining boards at right angles or securing to walls or other objects can increase stability.

2 Planning

Before you reach for the glue, please take a few minutes to read these instructions and plan your layout, it could save you from making mistakes that are hard to rectify.

First, lay out all the parts of all boards on the floor in the intended arrangement, check that everything fits together as expected.

Check the locations of the legs as explained below.

Check the locations of the locating dowels as explained below.

3 Legs

Decide where you are going to fit the legs.

You must support each baseboard with two sets of legs; fix these either onto the board itself or onto adjacent boards.

In the example below the wider baseboard is fitted with a set of legs, which also support the narrower board.

The set of legs must not be fitted to the narrower board as it would leave the corner of the wider board unsupported.



4 Locating Dowels

When baseboards are joined, two sets of locating dowels must be fitted to align the boards and hence the tracks precisely.

It is easier to fit the dowels before assembling the baseboards, simply lay the plywood on a solid surface and tap the dowels into the holes with a hammer. Note the brass socket has a taper on one end, which should go in to the plywood first.

Look at the end of the narrower of the two baseboards that you wish to join; you must fit the dowels into the outer most two holes as shown below. The securing bolts fit in the innermost two holes.

Note the large recess in the centre is on the outside. This clears the head of the mounting bolt for a leg on another board, when that board is joined at right angles. If you wish, it can put on the inside if you don't intend to connect another board at right angles.



Offer this baseboard up to the other and locate the corresponding holes, these will not be the outermost ones if the other board is wider than this one.

Ensure you choose corresponding male and female dowels so the baseboards can be joined.

On the side of a baseboard the holes marked 'A' below should only be fitted with the brass female socket as the steel male part sticks out slightly on the inside of the frame and will prevent a leg being fitted to the same corner.

The holes marked 'B' below are smaller and only for leg fixing bolts, not for locating dowels.



5 Assembly of Baseboards

Baseboards of 300mm and 450mm width have a simple frame as shown below:



Assemble the frame WITHOUT GLUE to check it fits perfectly.
Fit the corner screws as shown below:



Disassemble the frame, glue all joints and reassemble.

Use a PVA or similar glue, fast glues are not recommended as they give little time to nail on the top board. Do not wait for the frame to dry before fitting the top board because the frame requires the top board to square it up.

Immediately glue the top edges of the frame and apply the top board.

Make sure the frame is square to the board and nail onto the side of the frame with the supplied panel pins.

Ensure the sides are pulled in tightly against the cross braces before nailing and space the pins about 75mm (3") apart.

Do not attempt to nail into the 6mm (1/4") braces as they are too narrow.

Remove all surplus glue immediately using a damp cloth or sponge, pay particular attention to the inside corners where the legs fit. If you allow the excess glue to dry in these areas, the legs will not fit!

Panel pins are supplied with a slight coating of oil to prevent rust; to avoid the risk of this staining the wood during assembly you can wash the nails in a little methylated spirits before use.



Baseboards of 600mm width have a more complex frame as shown below, and the top is in two parts to facilitate postage.



Assembly is similar to the narrower baseboards with the addition of two extra screws in each end as below:



When nailing the tops to the centre 12mm (1/2") wide brace as shown below, angle the nails towards the centre of the brace so they do not come through the sides.



6 Corner Baseboards

Although these have more complex frames, they are assembled in exactly the same way as other baseboards: Dry fit the frames with screws to be sure you understand how they fit together, dismantle and reassemble with glue, then immediately glue and nail on the tops.

The diagonal edge is fitted after the tops have been nailed on. Use a couple of nails through each end of the edge, and some through to top into the edge.



7 Assembling the Legs

The legs are assembled simply slotting the cross brace into the leg, using the lower slots as shown, and fitting the wedges.

If desired, the wedges can be tied to the legs with a length of string through the hole in the wedge and the adjacent holes in the leg to avoid losing them.

The upper slots in the legs are used only if two baseboards are to be joined side by side so the legs would clash, fit the cross brace in the lower slots in one set of legs and the upper slots in the adjacent legs.



The leg assembly is fitted to the baseboard simply by slotting the locating pegs into the rectangular holes in the end and then fitting the bolts as below.

Fit the legs before joining baseboards as in some situations the leg bolt head is covered by the adjacent board.



8 Leg Extenders

The legs provide a baseboard height of 900mm, if a greater height is required leg extenders can be fitted to raise it to any level up to 1150mm. Choose the pair of holes in the leg and pair of slots in the extender that are needed to achieve the desired height.

Bolt the extender onto the outside of the leg using the two bolts, make sure the large 'penny' washers are over the slots and the smaller washers are on the other side under the wing nuts.

