

POINTS

WARNING: Fishplates and points blades have functional sharp edges. Handle with care.

Points make it possible for trains to change from one track to another. This is done by operating the tie-bar switch (A) which changes the switch blades (B) to direct the train along either one of the two exits from the point. Small contacts underneath the points make sure that the power supply only feeds the track in the direction to which the switch blades are set.

This 'self-isolating' feature of Hornby points means that locomotives can be held in un-powered sidings or loops and brought into use onto the main track of the layout by merely altering the setting of points. Figs. 1a and 1b show points set to both directions.

When constructing a layout, it is important to position the power connecting clip carefully. As a general rule, power should be fed into the track at the 'single' end of the point, as in Figs. 2 and 3.

In the layout shown in Fig. 2, with both points set to the inner track of the loop, a train could be driven into the loop and, after the points were re-set to the outer loop track, would remain in the loop while another train was driven around the outer track.

In Fig. 3 the power is again fed to the track at the 'single' end of both points. When both points are set to 'straight', the oval track is 'live' and both sidings are isolated. By running a train into one siding, and the point changed, a second train can be brought out of the other siding and run around the oval. Alternatively, a train can be stopped at (C), both points changed and a train run from one siding, into the other.

Note: Because the two outer rails (D) of a point are always 'live', care must be taken with some track configurations to avoid creating a short circuit by joining rails of different polarity. The configuration in Fig. 4 (called a 'Return Loop') is such an example. To successfully construct a Return Loop, it is necessary to use special wiring arrangements, switches and isolating rails. A more detailed explanation of this procedure is given in the Hornby Track Plans Book (eighth edition) available from Hornby stockists.

Remote Control It is much more convenient to change points by remote control, especially when they are situated in awkward places and out of reach. Hornby points can be converted to operate electrically, by remote control, by using Hornby Point Motors and Passing Contact lever switches. When obtaining such accessories, make sure they are compatible with your type of points.

