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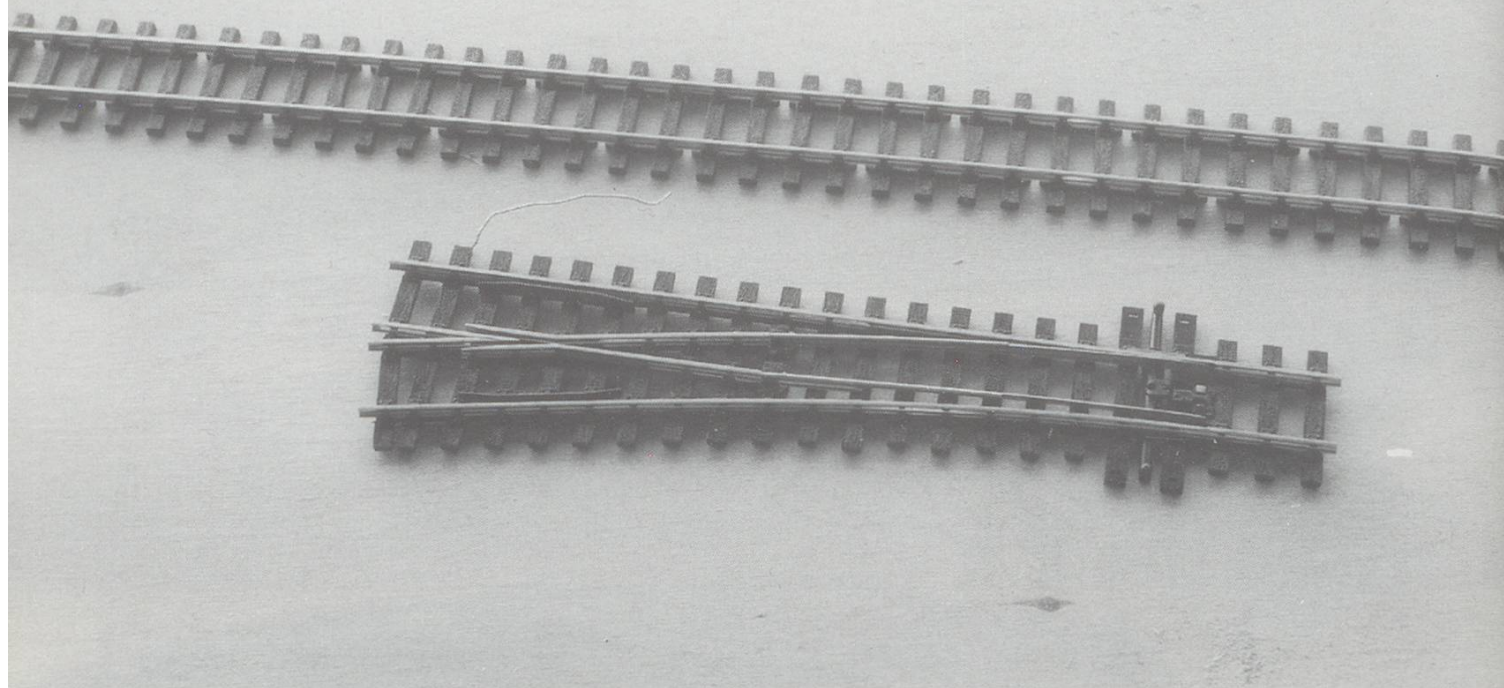
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Peco HOm track by Cyril Freezer

Two years ago I was asked by Michael Pritchard if I had any photos of Swiss metre gauge track since he was looking into the possibility of filling one of the few gaps in the Peco range. As luck would have it, I was leaving the next week for my annual June Swiss trip and was able to take a selection of close ups of Rhaetian track, mostly at Brusio just above the big spiral. These photos, together with a few basic dimensions went off to Beer a fortnight later.

At this year's Toy Fairs at Nuremburg and London, Peco not only announced the new Hom track, they had production samples on show and had despatched supplies to their more alert overseas agents. This is how a product should be introduced, it is a trifle difficult to build a model with promises. To be fair to other manufacturers, what Peco don't know about the design and manufacture of small scale railway track simply isn't worth knowing.

The new track is laid with Code 75 flat bottom rail in plastic sleeper strip, with an excellent representation of the prototype baseplates and rail clips used on the RhB. Sleeper sizes and spacing correspond to the prototype, the gauge,

12mm, is correct for Hom. The live frog points are provided with a dummy point lever, there is a short crossing to produce a scissors crossover. The clearances are set for Bemo wheels, since all other Hom stock uses the same profile, good running is ensured.

As with all Peco points, a toggle spring is fitted so that the blades snap over firmly without any need for locking at the point lever. Two rail continuity is mainly effected by the contact between blades and stockrail, I would advise adding a changeover switch coupled to the tiebar to reinforce this. Additionally, a small cover plate for the toggle spring would be advisable, most RhB points have this fitting.

A buffer stop is the only addition to the range, a turntable will follow later. Although the selection appears sparse, over 90% of the Swiss metre gauge stations can be reproduced with the existing range.

The track costs £2.50 per yard, points are £8.00 each, the crossing is £6.00 and the buffer stop retails at 85p.