

Cleaning time

The LGB track cleaning loco is an extremely practical workhorse and already almost a classic LGB design. Locomotives 21671 and 21672 herald the arrival of a new generation of the cleaning loco with cleaning wheels – fitted for the first time with an mfx/DCC decoder.



For many garden railroaders, it has long since become a permanent fixture of the major spring cleaning that every outdoor layout requires, and is always a welcome visitor to the tracks after a prolonged suspension of operations: The track cleaning loco by LGB. The long diesel locomotive designed to resemble a tracklaying loco has two cleaning wheels on its front axle for cleaning grimy rails. As well as rendering the rails spotlessly clean, it removes minor dirt residues, as we explained in our article about spring cleaning on garden railroads in the previous issue of *Depesche*.

When deployed for cleaning purposes, the two cleaning wheels on the loco rotate opposite the direction of travel to maximize their cleaning effect. At the same time, they polish the rails.

Special flanges on the wheels also ensure that the plastic frogs in the LGB turnouts and crossings do not become worn during cleaning runs. A powerful ball-bearing Bühler motor installed in front of the cab drives the cleaning wheels.

This solution that has proven itself over many years is also used in the latest models of the track cleaning loco, which LGB is now releasing as items 21671 and 21672. Both locos have identical equipment and differ only in terms of their paint scheme and lettering: Loco 21671 is based on the European style of tracklaying locos, while loco 21672 is inspired by the loco designs of America's Union Pacific Railroad. Both track cleaning machines are fitted with a second Bühler motor, which is housed below the cab and drives the two wheel

sets responsible for traction. Lighting that changes over with the direction of travel indicates in which direction the patented rail cleaner is operating. If the loco switches to cleaning mode, the two warning lights on the cab roof start to blink. Incidentally, the cleaning function can only be activated when the loco is driving forwards. This is not possible when the loco runs in reverse. The running speed of the locomotive influences the cleaning intensity. The locomotive can travel more quickly on lightly soiled tracks. Conversely, it should be operated more slowly on very dirty tracks. This allows the cleaning wheels to clean the tracks more thoroughly. If the tracks are really grimy, we recommend several cleaning runs at a medium speed. The track cleaning loco is ideally suitable for cleaning tracks made of brass but should not be used



TIP

Always bear the following in mind: Never leave the track cleaning loco to carry out its cleaning work unsupervised. If an obstacle on the tracks blocks the loco's progress and the cleaning wheels continue turning, there is a danger that the rails will be damaged.

on nickel-plated tracks. Compared with the predecessor model (item 21670), the two new models for 2021 incorporate an mfx/DCC decoder for the first time, offering numerous light and sound functions that can be controlled digitally. However, the cleaning function and running sounds will also work in analog operation.

Whether running in digital or analog operation, the new track cleaning locos always complete their job as mister clean on rails to perfection.



HIGHLIGHTS

Track cleaning loco, era IV to VI, item 21671

- 1 Model of a track cleaning loco in the style of a tracklaying machine.
- 2 Two cleaning wheels for keeping the rails clean.
- 3 Two powerful ball bearing Bühler motors. One motor drives the two cleaning wheels, the other drives the two wheel sets.
- 4 mfx/DCC sound decoder with many light and sound functions, controlled digitally.
- 5 The cleaning function and running sounds are also functional in analog operation.
- 6 Cleaning wheels can be swapped out. Replacement cleaning wheels are available as item E132064.
- 7 Length 44 centimeters (17.3 inches).



HIGHLIGHTS

Track cleaning loco USA, era IV to VI, item 21672

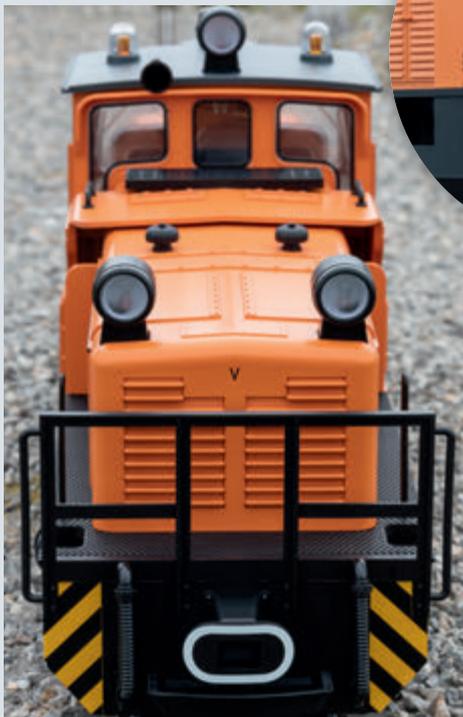
- 1 Model of a construction machine of the type used for laying track.
- 2 The paint scheme and lettering are appropriate to the style of the Union Pacific Railroad.
- 3 Two cleaning wheels for keeping the rails clean.
- 4 Two powerful ball bearing Bühler motors. One motor drives the two cleaning wheels; the other drives the two wheel sets.
- 5 mfx/DCC sound decoder with many light and sound functions, controlled digitally.
- 6 The cleaning function and running sounds are also functional in analog operation.
- 7 Cleaning wheels can be swapped out. Replacement cleaning wheels are available as item E132064.
- 8 Length 44 centimeters (17.3 inches).



Warning light:
The two flashing lights also provide a visual indication of cleaning operation.

Caution:
An attentive locomotive engineer is also on board.

Light changeover:
The headlights change with the direction of travel.



Workhorse: The track cleaning loco resembles the look of tracklaying locos.



Diverse details:
Tracklaying loco number V3 has many separately applied details.



Cleaning wheel:
An additional Bühler motor drives both cleaning wheels in the front section of the loco.



Integrated:
Unlike its predecessor 20670 (left), the new model has an mfx-/DCC decoder.