

NGS Bearing Reamers NGSB0400

When wheels don't rotate freely it reduces the length of train a loco can haul. This is often due to the axle not running on its pinpoint, but some other part catching on the bearing hole. These reamers open out and smooth the bearing hole to give better running.

They are designed for chassis and bogies with an axle length of 14.9 - 15.0 mm. This includes:

- All wagons using a Peco chassis (Peco RTR and kits)
- Most older RTR wagons and coaches.
- NGS bogies
- Parkside 12' underframes (used in various kits)
- Chivers Finelines Kits (now sold by Five79)
- The NGS BR Horsebox, kit 24.

Recent models have longer more pointed axles, about 15.3 mm long. The reamers can work with these, though they are usually not needed.

The reamers will not work with models that have much shorter axles, for example some Dapol and Revolution models. If you try and put the reamers in such stock they will either not fit or be very tight. They should not be used on stock with metal bearings like light bar ready Dapol coaches.



Old style wheels on left, reamers are designed for use with these. Modern longer axles on right.

Do you need them?

A simple test of whether a model is free running is to put it on a flat tabletop and give it a push. First try a recent model with the new longer pinpoints to get an idea of how good it can be, it should roll for over a foot with a moderate push. Any models that will roll for 9" or more are OK, ones that only do about 6" should be improvable, and anything much less needs attention.

Using the reamers

There are two reamers in the pack with different rollers - use whichever fits and is easiest to handle. The one with a single roller may not fit some bogies, or if the coupling box is close to the axle.

Remove the axle and wheels and check the axle length is correct, it should be the same as a Peco plastic wheel set. Put the reamer in place of the wheels and gently roll it backwards and forwards a number of times, don't press hard on it.

If it has not improved you might need to repeat. You can often tell which wheels are the problem by spinning them, they should continue to rotate for some time.

Lubrication, for example with a Teflon lubricant, may improve running further.

Store the reamers in a bag, not loose in a toolbox, to protect the tips from being blunted.

