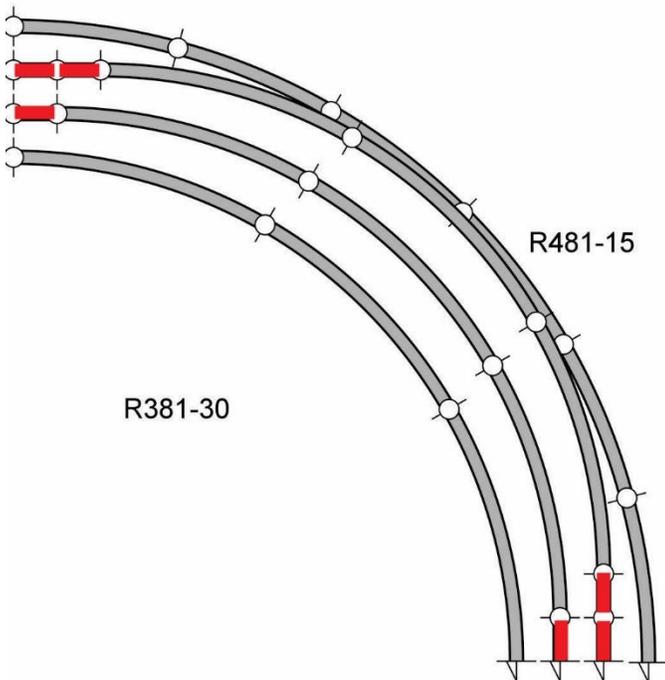
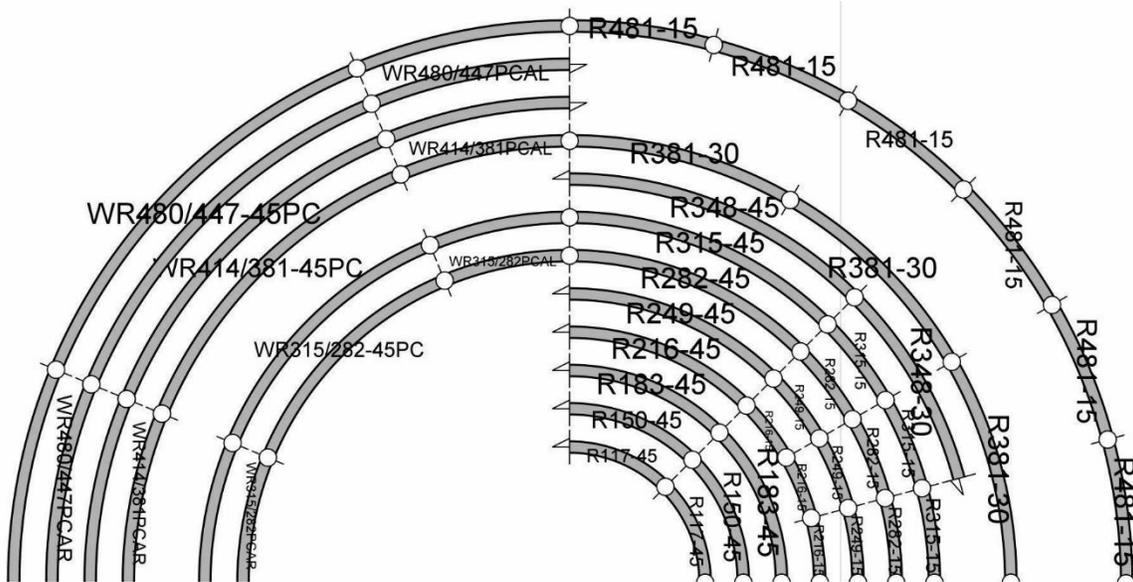


KATO 33 mm Straight Track Tips

KATO has recently released their "Short Track Assortment B" which includes 33 mm and 38 mm long single track straight track pieces. T-TRAK standard track spacing, center line to center line, is 33 mm. KATO's curved track products are also provided in 33 mm increasing radii. The curved track availability diagram below is for reference here only.



As can be seen in the diagram above 414 and 447 mm radius single track curved track are not available in the KATO catalogue. If you want a 414 mm radius single track curve, rather than use the superelevated double track 381/414 mm radius curves, adding a 33 mm straight track piece to each end of 90 degrees of 381 mm radius track (shown left) will give you a pseudo 414mm curve with an actual radius of 381 mm. If, likewise, you want a 447 mm radius corner just add 2 pieces of 33 mm straight track to each end of 90 degrees of 381 mm radius curves to create a pseudo 447 mm radius curve with an actual radius of 381 mm. BUT, since at the 45 degree point of your 90 degree pseudo corners the track separation is greater than 33 mm a real 481 mm radius curve can not be used due to interference with your created pseudo 447 mm replacement curve. Solution: create another 90 degree corner of 381 mm curved track and add 3 pieces of 33 mm straight track at each end to replace the 481 mm radius curves.

OK, apart from that little exercise, why would anybody care about using 33 mm straight track pieces with curved track and/or corners? Believe it or not it is a handy tool for layout creation in T-TRAK or home layouts. In the following I'll try to show some examples. You will need to determine how, where, when and why you would use them. Possibilities are actually endless.

