

Modern Cane Railways of Queensland

Carl Millington's presentation at the Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention, 2004

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Part 14: Track Maintenance Equipment

Over the years mills have invested in specialized track machines to keep their track in A1 order. Like their bigger cousins, mills now use machines for tamping track, changing sleepers and ballast regulating.

There are 3 major manufactures that offer specialized track machines, Gemco, Fairmont Tamper (Harsco) and Plasser Australia.

Gemco offer a range of sleeper replacement machines ranging from small railmounted track jacks to larger combined sleeper replacement/ballast scarifiers.

Fairmont Tamper has provided several Tamper liners and combined sleeper replacer/scarifiers cleaners.

Plasser Australia is by far the biggest supplier of track machines to the sugar industry. They offer smaller versions of their mainline tamper liners and ballast regulators.

Most of these machines see a lot of work during the slack when new or existing tracks are rebuilt or replaced. During the crush these machines are used when tracks require attention after derailments or weather damage. Nearing the end of the crushing season, mills with tamper liners, send them out to record the condition of the trackwork so slack maintenance can be planned.



Gemco trackjack, Moreton Mill



Plasser KMX-12T tamper liner, Victoria Mill



Canron ballast regulator, Marian Mill



Gemco sleeper renewer, Isis Mill



Harsco sleeper crane, Farleigh Mill



Fairmont Tamper sleeper replacer, Farleigh Mill