

HOW TO MAKE AND FIT THE LONG TRIX CONVEYOR BELT

1. Lay the rubber sheet out on a perfectly flat surface and mark a straight line using a long straight-edge. A ball-point pen works quite well.

2. Now mark points at approximately 200mm intervals along the length of the sheet, exactly 20mm away from the line you have just drawn.

3. Using the straight-edge, carefully draw the best straight line which passes through all the 20mm spaced marks.

4. Cut the belt (i.e. the 20mm wide strip) from the sheet as accurately as possible. You can try either drawing a scalpel, *using eye protection*, along the straight-edge or using sharp scissors. If you use the scalpel method it is essential to clamp the rubber down firmly as it will be ruined if it slips. It may help to lubricate the blade with a spot of washing-up liquid to stop it dragging.

5. Release the tension roller springs and remove the bottom plate from the chute for easy access to the last roller. **Note the route for re-threading** and remove old belt by cutting it or pulling it apart at the glued joint.

6. Thread the new belt round all the rollers (over the tension roller) and draw the ends tightly together to take up the slack.

Mark the overlap with a ball point pen. 15 mm overlap is enough if using a flexible adhesive (such as Evo-Stik, Copydex or rubber solution as used for mending bicycle punctures) or a sewn join. 6mm overlap is the maximum for inflexible glues such as cyanoacrylate (superglue). A zig-zag butt joint with no overlap is possible using dressmakers pinking shears to cut through the overlap to form a pair of exactly interlocking ends which can then be brought together carefully and held for a few seconds to allow a trace of superglue to set. All superglue joins require careful planning as they join quickly and do not allow time for adjustment.

7. Unthread the belt from the final roller only and lay the assembly down on its side. There will now be sufficient slack to make the join.

8. Coat one end only of the belt, unless instructed otherwise, thinly with adhesive up to the overlap mark. The overlap must be as shown in the diagram below to avoid any risk of the join "catching" on the steps in the elevator belt.

9. Bring the two surfaces together ensuring perfect alignment to ensure that the belt runs straight.

Clamp for 20 minutes or so using a pair of bulldog clips etc. If using superglue, adhesion is very fast and there is little chance of correcting bad alignment.

10. Remove the final roller. Slip it through the loop at the end of the belt and replace it. You will have to pull the roller against the tension of the new belt to align the threads in the roller with the conveyor sides. This is best done by gripping the roller through the belt with thumb and forefinger, making use of the easier access achieved by the previous removal of the bottom plate from the delivery chute. Replace the plate and tension springs.

General Hints:

While the belt is off remove all the rollers except the drive roller and degrease them with Trix Fluid or white spirit. Apply a trace of light lubricant before reassembling. Excess oil will damage the belt rubber.

Broken tension springs can be replaced with the rheostat spring from a scrap post-war TTR controller. One side of the spring will need shortening and bending to hook over the side rail of the conveyor. This requires care as it is easy to snap the spring while re-shaping it. *Release tension springs when conveyor is not in use.*

