

# Make Your Own Corridor Connectors

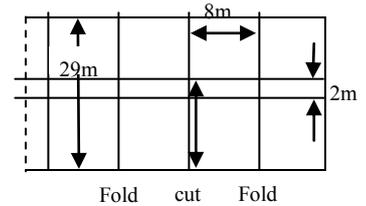
## You will need the following materials and tools;

*A sheet of Daler-Rowney A1 Canford 150g/m black paper (card)*

*A sheet of Daler-Rowney A4 250 g/m Black card*

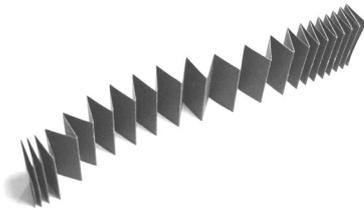
*Craft knife/scalpel - Med/hard pencil - Steel ruler - PVA glue - Square.*

*Under no circumstances be tempted to use cheap paper/card or Cartridge paper.*

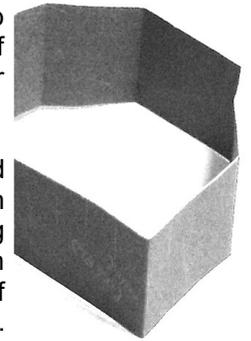


Decide on the overall dimensions of your corridor connection. For instance, Bachmann Mk1 29mm x 16mm.

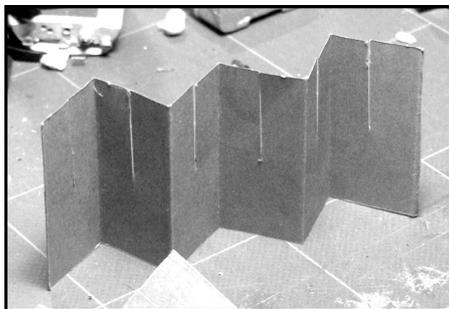
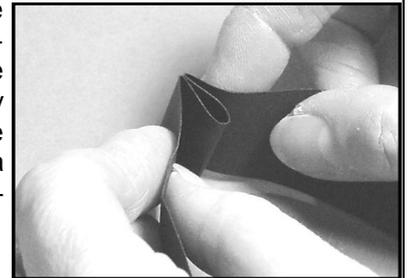
Using the A1 card, mark out a strip, or several at the same time, equal to the height of the connector. Along each strip, draw a line 1mm either side of the centreline. You will now have two lines, 2mm apart. Using the square, start at one end of the strip and mark off lines at 8mm (or half on the width of the connector) intervals. Half of these line will become 'fold lines' and the other half 'cut lines'.



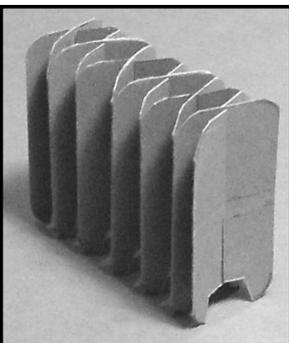
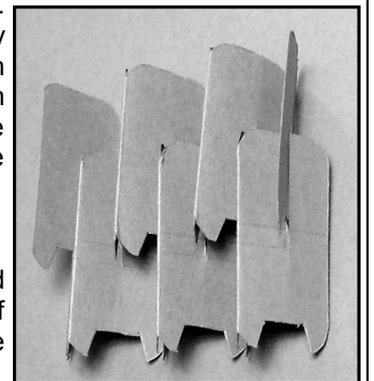
Start from the same end and ignoring the first line at 8mm, fold back on the next line. Now fold the same way along every 4th line. When the whole strip is completed, return to the beginning and now bring each pair of folded edges together to make folds in the opposite direction. This will produce a strip made up of 'panels' folded in a 'zig-zag' fashion forming a 'concertina' effect. Depending on the distance between coaches, cut the concertina strip into short lengths. Two lengths are needed for each connection.



When the coaches are coupled, two connections press against one another. But are able to slip side to side as the coaches move about. Don't make the 'joins' too tight, otherwise the coaches will 'lock together' and will not negotiate any curves. My Mk1s are close coupled and require each strip to contain 4 'panels'. Other configurations may require more or less. For instance, the connection I have between Eurostar centre coaches needs 6 panels per strip as does a Bachmann 159 Turbo (using their standard couplings).



Take each strip and lay it out on the work surface. The remaining lines marked at 8mm intervals now form the centreline of each panel. Make a slit from the upper longitudinal line to the bottom edge of each panel. To similarly slit the panels in the second strip, pay attention to the direction of cut. When the slits in each panel are interlaced they need to oppose each other. See photo. The reason for the two lengthways lines 2mm apart should now become evident. They make sure there is a small overlap of the slits in opposing panels. Interlace the two strips to form the connection.



One end of the connector is now glued to a piece of thicker card say 200g/m to form a rubbing face/plate. This again, should be of good quality as any two opposing rubbing plates need to slide against one another as the coaches swing.

When dry, trim the rubbing plate to the same size as the connection. Repeat for the other end. You now have a working corridor connector which you may choose to shape around the edges with the craft knife.

For connections on coach ends that may at any time run loose i.e. not connected to another coach with a similar connector, restrict the expansion of the connector by inserting black thread (not plain cotton) behind the rubbing plates as they are glued on.

