

How I learned to rebuild freight
car trucks

I randomly selected a pair of used freight trucks and spun one axle. It did not spin well.



I spun the other axle and got the same results



So I popped off both axles carefully, and inspected the equipment, specifically the journals and axles.



I found dirt in two journals and a small burr. Be sure to remove all dirt and burrs. Our objective is to minimize friction.



You can use a pointed dowel covered in graphite or a simple tool found in every household. This will coat the inside of the journal with a smooth layer of graphite.



If you have caked in dirt or a burr, and my usual methods did not work, you can use Micro Mark's HO Truck Tuner.



If you have dirt on your wheels, use an eraser to clean the wheel. If its paint, use paint thinner.



Don't forget to clean the end of the axle as well



Clean the sides of the frames with either a light file or eraser.



Take note that axles are insulated. They go on the same side. Reassemble making sure the axles spin freely and the springs are in proper position.

