

UNDER SLEEPER PADS

ELASTICITY
in Ballasted Track

**VIBRATION ISOLATION AND
PROTECTION OF THE ENTIRE
RAILWAY SUPERSTRUCTURE.**





**EFFECTIVE VIBRATION
ISOLATION PROTECTS
THE ENTIRE RAILWAY
SUPERSTRUCTURE.**



[getzner.com/
under-sleeper-pads](https://www.getzner.com/under-sleeper-pads)

THE ELASTIC SOLUTION FOR BALLASTED TRACKS AND TURNOUTS

Increasing operational loads and speeds in modern railway traffic present new technical and economic challenges to railway managers around the world.



Under sleeper pads offer one opportunity to meet these challenges: They preserve the superstructure, improve the quality of the track geometry and reduce disruptive vibrations, both in the track and in the turnout.

Under sleeper pads offer the following advantages:

- Reduction of maintenance expenses
- Lengthening of the service life of the track structure
- Reduction of disruptive vibrations

Under sleeper pads offer operators the opportunity to significantly reduce the annual maintenance costs for tracks and turnouts.

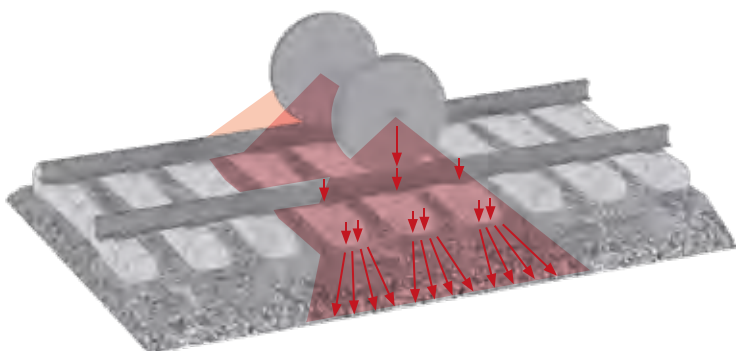
Elastic under sleeper pads from Getzner are a further development of the classic railway superstructure. The products are placed directly beneath the track sleepers and increase the vertical elasticity in the superstructure. With under sleeper pads, the load of the rail cars is evenly distributed over the elastic components in the subsoil. Under sleeper pads with defined elastic properties significantly reduce wear on the rail line.

Highly elastic under sleeper pads can also represent an economical alternative to under ballast mats as a vibration-isolating measure.

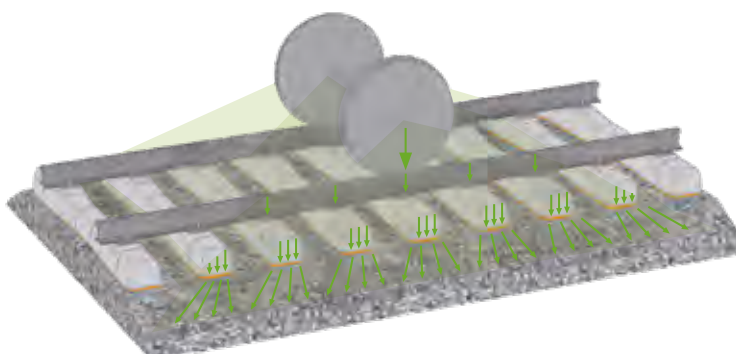
Getzner has produced under sleeper pads since 1990. Today, they are used successfully around the world on all types of railway lines, from high-speed networks to regional transport.

FUNCTIONING PRINCIPLE

The most common type of superstructure used in the world is ballasted track. Ballast, as the weakest link in the system, is subject to latent dynamic shifting. Constant loads (ballast compression) lead to wear and breaking up of the rocks. These effects diminish the quality of the track geometry, and the track bed must be tamped.



Load distribution without under sleeper pads



Load distribution with under sleeper pads

Distribution of the axle load over a larger number of sleepers

The elastic properties of the under sleeper pads lengthen the bending line of the rails. The load from the train is distributed over a larger number of sleepers and therefore over a larger area. This reduced average compression also reduces the load on the ballast.

Increase of the contact surface between sleeper and ballast

The unique properties of the polyurethane material from Getzner result in an ideal embedding of the ballast in the surface of the under sleeper pads, stabilizing the top-most ballast layer. This yields an increase in the contact surface between sleeper and ballast from about 8% (without padding) to up to 35% (with padding).

Weakening of the dynamic forces and vibrations in the ballast

Under sleeper pads from Getzner reduce the direct dynamic load on the ballast. They reduce shifting of the ballast as well as settling of the track.



Padded sleepers



Installation of padded sleepers

APPLICATIONS

Improvement in the long-term behavior of ballasted track

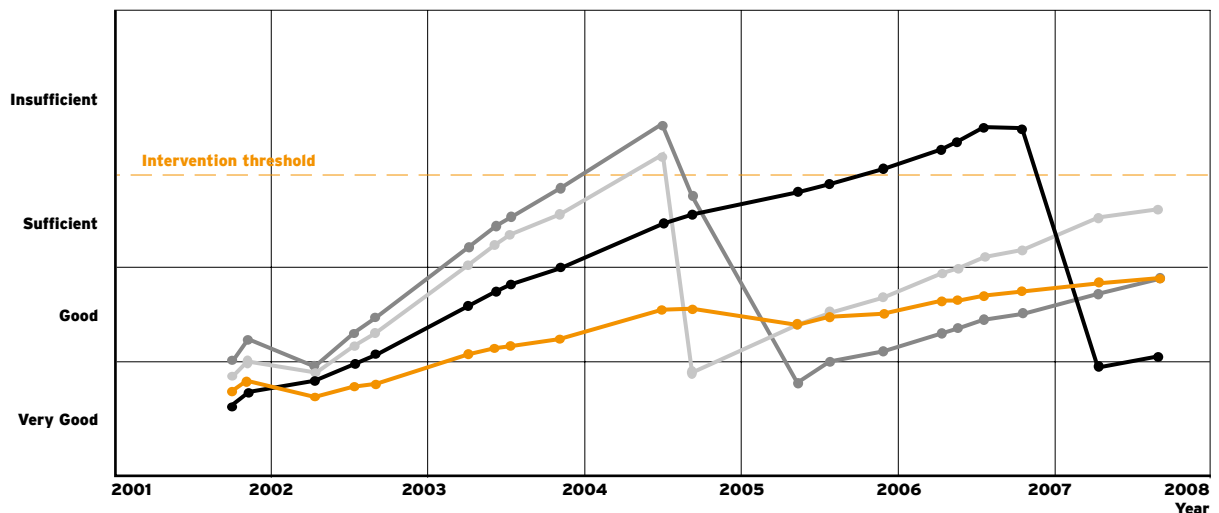
The effective use of under sleeper pads from Getzner results in a reduced load on the ballast. This in turn reduces ballast break-up and abrasion.

The ballast is optimally embedded thanks to the plastic properties of the pad, resulting in decreased ballast shifting. This method directly helps preserve the ballast bed and slows the settling of the track considerably.

Experiences in recent years have shown that the length of tamping intervals can be at least doubled with this procedure. The positive effect of sleeper padding becomes clear particularly quickly in areas subject to heavy loads, such as turnouts, structures or track sections with very small curve radii.

The advantages of padded sleepers are particularly impressive on heavy-laden sections with up to 37 tons of axle load.

Track geometry quality



Changes in track geometry quality on a test stretch in Austria since 2001.

- Straight track section 1 (unpadded)
- Straight track section 2 (unpadded)
- Track section radius 425m with padded sleeper
- Stop in station area (unpadded)

The improvements in track quality in track sections 1 and 2 as well as the station area were achieved through tamping.

Vibration protection and reduction of secondary air-borne noise

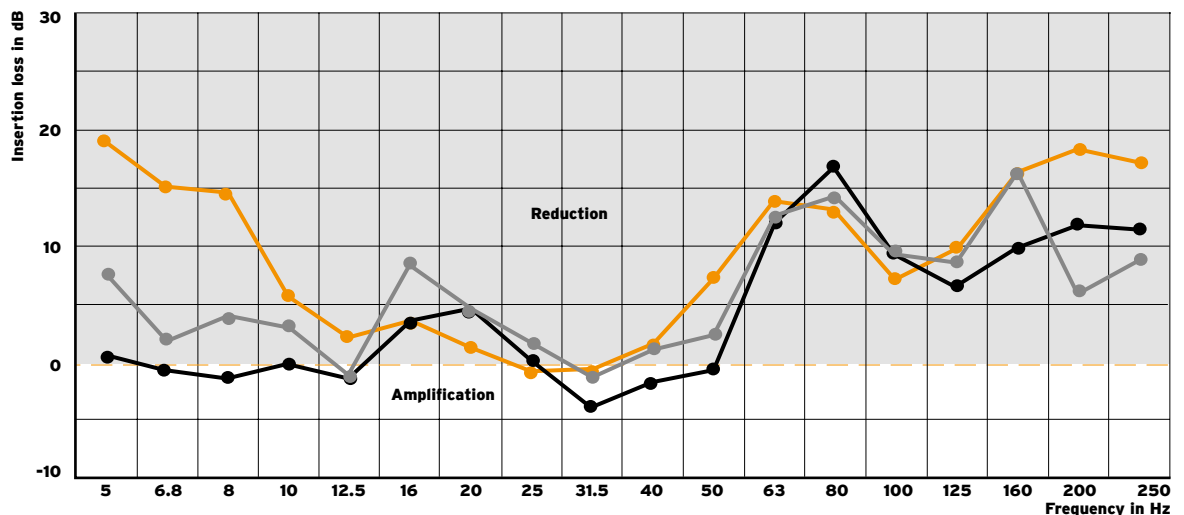
Highly elastic pads offer a simple method for reducing vibrations on railway lines that is cost-effective in comparison with under ballast mats. In addition, they exhibit all the positive properties of elastoplastic padding.

Depending on the maximum permissible rail deflection, padded sleepers achieve insertion losses on the order of 10 dB(v) to 15 dB(v) (at 63 Hz). No significant changes to the directly emitted air-borne noise have yet been identified.

Secondary air-borne noise arises due to the sound emission of a structure that is stimulated to vibrate, for example (e.g.) by a passing train.

This applies in particular to metal structures, such as steel bridges and viaducts. Elastic under sleeper pads with vibration-isolating characteristics are a very effective measure for reducing secondary air-borne noise.

Effect of sleeper padding



The vibrations are reduced in the critical frequency range, which also reduces the emissions to the neighboring environment.

- Open track section
- Tunnel far track bench
- Tunnel near track bench

Source: Köstli K.; Sleeper Padding for Reduction of Structure-Borne Noise Immissions; p. 10; conference articles, 10th Symposium on Structural Dynamics and Vibration Measurements, Ziegler Consultants 2007.

Reduction of short pitch rail corrugation

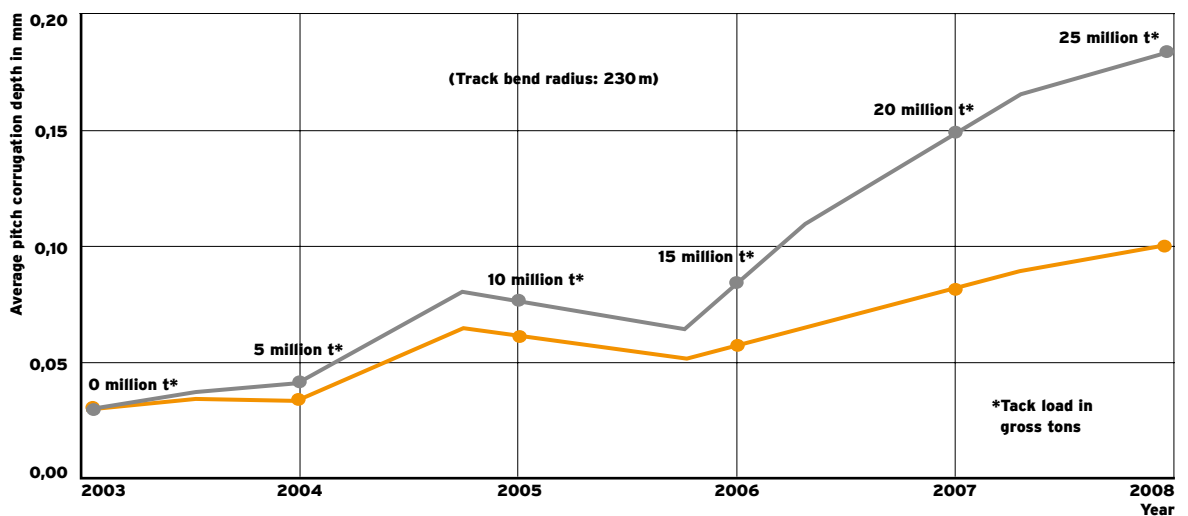
Short rail corrugations are periodic bumps in the track surface.

Several years of research have shown that under sleeper pads significantly slow the occurrence of such track damage. This is particularly noticeable on narrow track bends that are susceptible to short rail corrugation.



Rail corrugation

Short pitch corrugation development in track bends over time



Final report Hieflau, University of Innsbruck 2001

- With Sylomer[®] under sleeper pad with bedding modulus 0.15 N/mm³
- Without under sleeper pad

Specifically defined elasticity for padded turnouts

The bedding stiffness varies over the course of a turnout. This is due to the different sleeper lengths and stiffening components, such as the frog, check rails or wing rails.

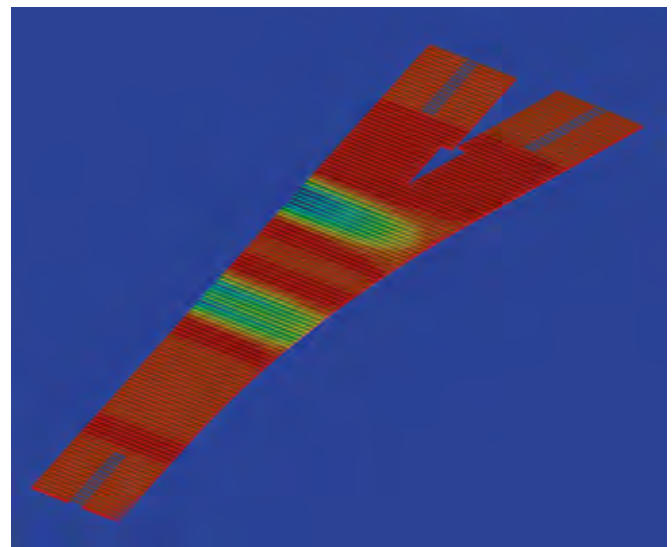
The different bedding stiffness values result in a dynamic load when a train passes. This leads to a rapid wearing of the track, which increases maintenance costs and reduces passenger comfort. In addition, vibrations are transmitted to nearby buildings via the subsoil.

Getzner offers a combination of different under sleeper pads (stiffnesses) specifically for turnouts. The load transmission to the superstructure can be homogenized with these pads. Differences in deflection are minimized, resulting in smoothing of the turnout. An even load pattern is also produced, which helps preserve the ballast.

Under sleeper pads from Getzner also contribute here to lengthening the intervals between tamping and maintenance work. Increased passenger comfort and lower life cycle costs make under sleeper pads from Getzner a popular solution among railway managers.

- Smoothing of deflection during train passes
- Increased passenger comfort
- Preservation of the ballast
- Reduction of disruptive vibrations
- Reduction of life cycle costs (LCC)

The deflection during train passes can be simulated with a specially developed computer model and optimized through the effective use of Getzner pads.



Turnout element

Adaptation of track stiffness at transitions

Under sleeper padding helps to decrease large jumps in stiffness and thereby deflection as well as to reduce voids under the sleepers.

These occur primarily at transitions where superstructures with different stiffness values meet. The sleeper padding results in a more homogenous train passage as well as preservation of the superstructure components.

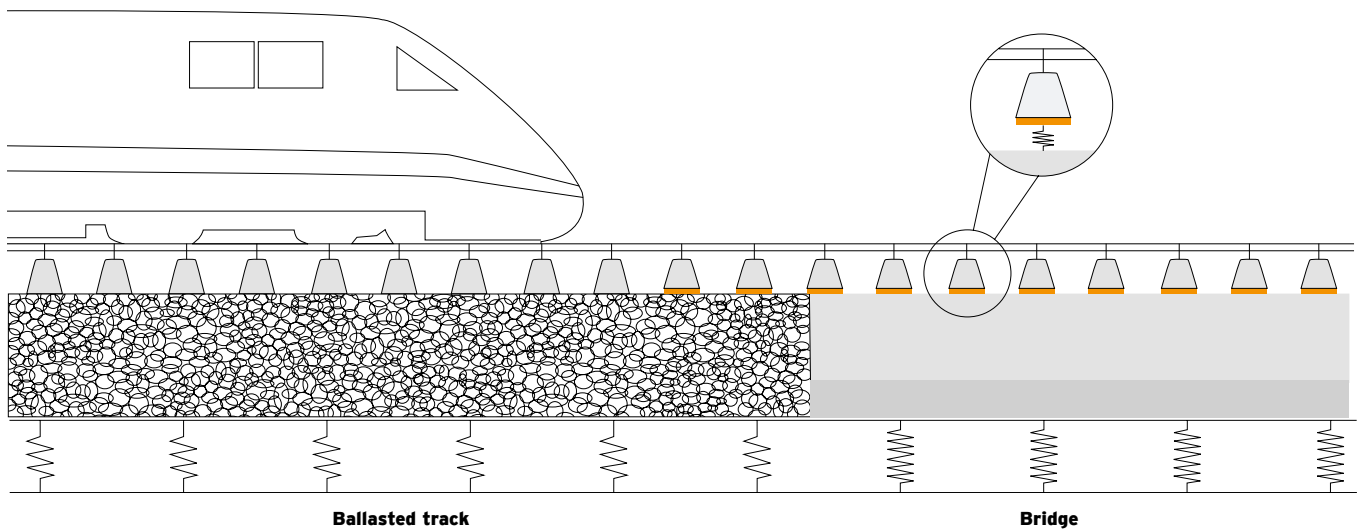


Illustration under sleeper pad cross-section

USING UNDER SLEEPER PADS PAYS OFF

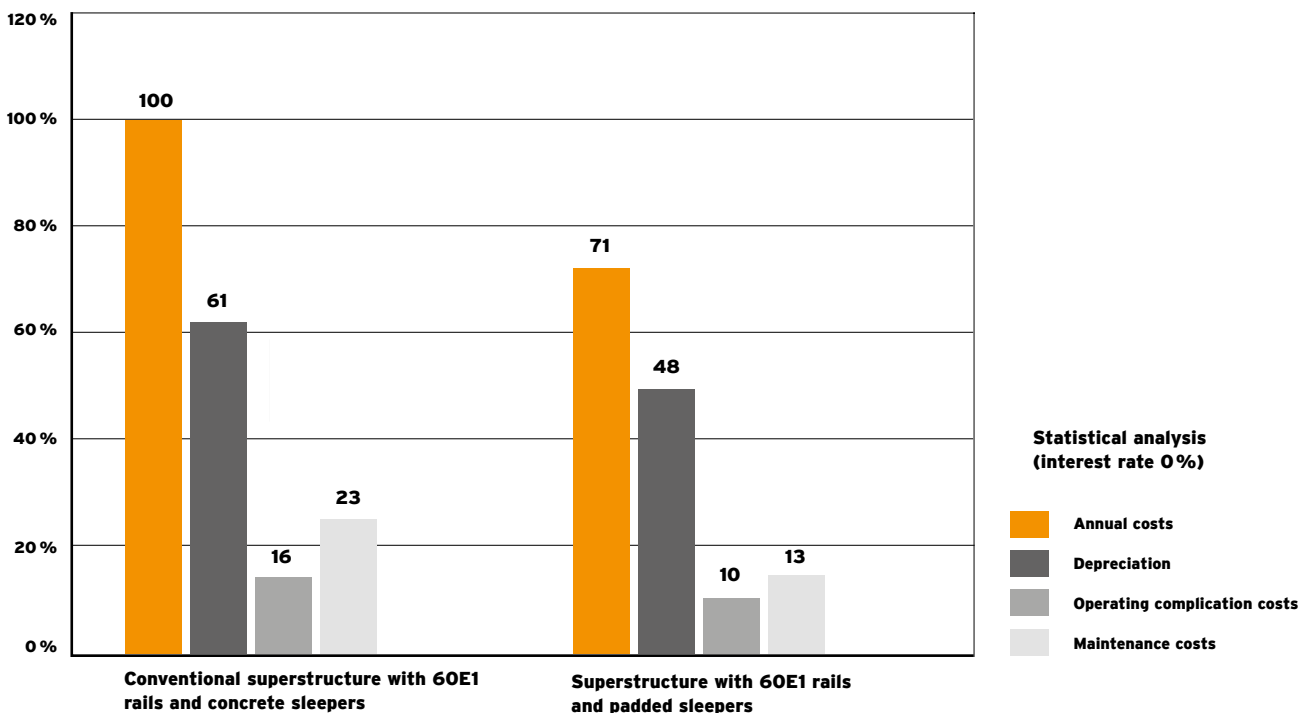
Consideration of the life cycle costs (LCC) when using under sleeper pads

The extent to which the use of under sleeper pads alters the track geometry quality has been systematically recorded for several years. The results are continuously influencing development work.

One observation is a lengthening of intervals between tamping work by a factor of 2 to 2.5 thanks to the use of under sleeper pads. If one considers the tamping cycle as an indicator for the achievable service life of a track, longer periods between tamping work point to a significant lengthening of the life of the entire track bed.

In addition, if costs for operating complications that arise from track closures for maintenance work are considered, under sleeper pads are an extremely economical investment, particularly on track sections subject to heavy loads.

Composition of the normalized annual costs (heavily used track)



WIDELY PROVEN



Getzner's large scale test rig



Getzner padding SLB 2210G after 190 million total tons. The plastic impressions in the material prevent shifting by the top ballast layer. No cracks or perforations can be seen in the padding.

Experience with under sleeper pads

Almost all major railway companies in Europe have successfully used sleeper pads from Getzner.

Under sleeper pads are used for vibration protection, to provide elasticity for large bridge structures, to improve track geometry quality and to reduce track maintenance costs.

The under sleeper pads from Getzner have outstanding long-term properties. This is demonstrated by sleepers with Getzner pads that have been removed for testing. In addition, measurements taken on padded track sections also verify the excellent quality of the sleeper pads.

To ensure a long service life for sleepers, the durability of all types is inspected according to EN 16730. These tests are either performed externally at a certified testing agency (e.g. Munich University of Technology) or internally on Getzner's large scale test rig.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORESUND BRIDGE IS PROTECTED IN THE TRANSITION ZONES BY SYLODYN® UNDER SLEEPER PADS FROM GETZNER.

Oresund Bridge

PRODUCT RANGE

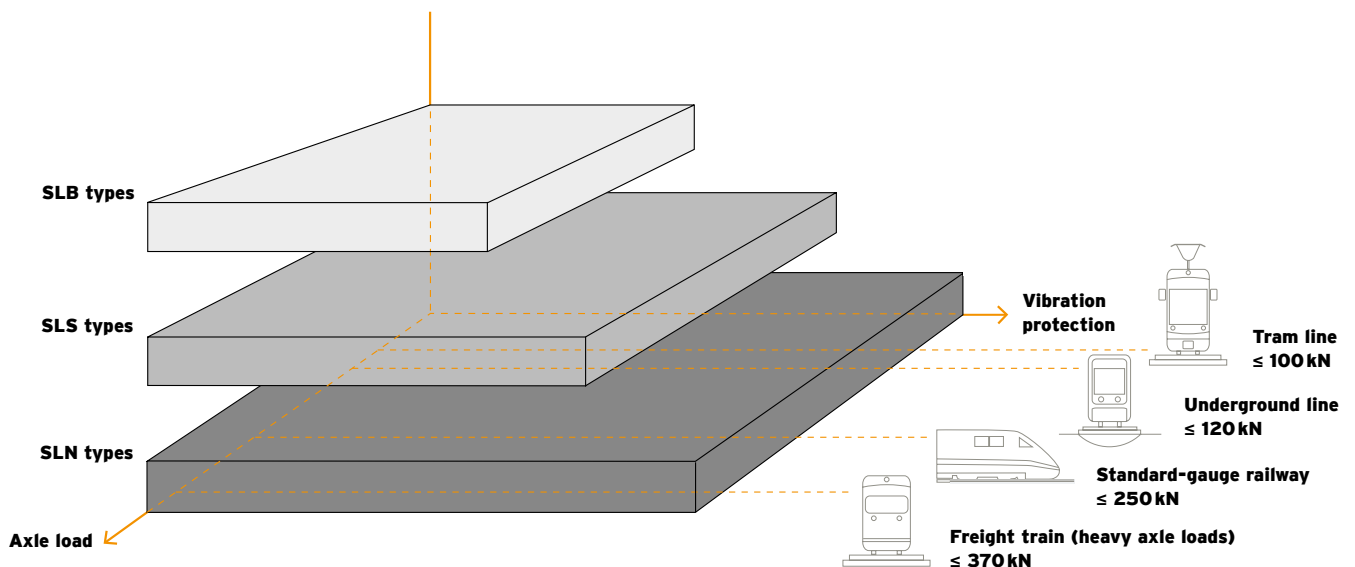


THE THREE MATERIALS

- SLB - Elastoplastic material
- SLS - Elastic material with damping properties
- SLN - Highly elastic material without damping

The right Getzner pads for every application

Three materials - available with different stiffness values - completely cover the application spectrum from highly effective vibration protection to improvement of track geometry quality.





The right pad for every track

Getzner's specialty is micro-cellular polyurethane elastomers with a wide range of properties for railway superstructures. Sylomer® and Sylodyn® components have proven themselves for decades under extreme conditions in a wide range of industries.

Getzner offers the optimal under sleeper pad for every application: from the elastoplastic SLB types exclusively for improvement of track geometry quality to the highly elastic pads made of Sylomer® (SLS types) and Sylodyn® (SLN types) for effective reduction of vibrations.

SLB-type elastoplastic pads are used to reduce the load on the ballast. The optimized material properties of these types permit a particularly stable embedding of the ballast. The high damping of these pad types has a positive effect on the vibration behavior of the sleeper.

Elastoplastic pads reduce the annual maintenance costs and lengthen the service life of a track. If a reduction of vibrations is the primary aim, SLS-type (Sylomer®) elastic pads and the highly effective SLN (Sylodyn®) types are used.

While pads made of Sylomer® still exhibit certain damping properties, solutions with Sylodyn® achieve a nearly identical relationship between static and dynamic stiffness. This makes an extremely effective solution possible even with minimal additional rail deflection.



Sleeper production



Installation train with turnout padding

Selection of the ideal Getzner pad

Getzner has the optimal pad type for every application. The appropriate types are selected according to the maximum permissible rail deflection under a defined load.

The individual pad types within a material group differ primarily in terms of their elasticity. The elasticity is determined using the bedding modulus. This takes place according to EN 16730 in a test on a ballast profile slab (geometric ballast plate). Getzner provides optimized pad types for tram lines, underground lines, rapid transit, standard-gauge railways, high-speed tracks and special applications, such as heavy axle loads of up to 37 tons.

Assembly at the sleeper plant

Under sleeper pads from Getzner can be adapted to every sleeper type.

Pads for concrete sleepers are typically manufactured with an installation grate ("G" at the end of the type designation). This unique installation grate from Getzner is integrated into the padding and permits a full-surface attachment of the pad to the sleeper. The installation grate is pressed into the concrete while it is still moist during the production of the sleepers. The form-fitting, full-surface connection ensures a lasting bond between the pad and the concrete sleeper independent of the production process and concrete consistency.

The connection process requires no additives or extensive preliminary work while fulfilling even the very high requirements of the standard EN 16730. If desired by the customer, pads can also be attached to concrete sleepers that have already hardened. In such cases, the sleeper pads are delivered without an integrated installation grate. The pads are glued on with a suitable adhesive, which Getzner can also supply, if desired.



Installation of under sleeper pads on the Berlin-Cottbus ABS



Installation of sleepers at the RailOne plant

Installation of padded concrete sleepers

Padded sleepers can be installed using all typical methods.

Due to the relatively low weight of the pads, the number of sleepers per car can remain unchanged. There are also no restrictions on track maintenance work.

At the transitions between padded and unpadded tracks, it may be necessary to change the stiffness in stages. This applies primarily to soft pads (bedding modulus $< 0.15 \text{ N/mm}^3$). Getzner recommends using padding with a higher stiffness over a length of 20 to 30 meters for such stiffness adaptation.

GETZNER PROJECTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



Getzner solutions can be found around the world - as can the Getzner team.

Sleeper Padding for Ballasted Track reference list (excerpt)

Goal: Ballast preservation and improvement of track geometry quality

ÖBB, AT	Bane Denmark, DK	Infrabel, BE
DB, DE	KR, KP	ADIF, ES
SBB, CH	Jernbaneverket, NO	
SNCF, FR	CR, CZ	

Goal: Under sleeper pads for vibration isolation

Metro Amsterdam East Line, NL	Britomart Station, NZ	Feldkirch, AT
Bruchsal Tunnel, DE	Matstetten-Rothrist, CH	Hallwang, AT
Umeqa Oka Line, JP	Timelkam, AT	

Goal: Elastically supported switches

ÖBB, AT	CR, CZ
DB, DE	Pro Rail, NL
SBB, CH	Jernbaneverket, NO



[getzner.com/
references](https://www.getzner.com/references)



Installation of under sleeper pads Ankara-Sivas



**Reduction
of vibrations**



**Lowered
noise levels**



**Less wear and
maintenance**



**Longer service
life of bedded
components**

ENGINEERING A QUIET FUTURE

We are proud to be the leading global expert
in vibration isolation and protection for the
railway, construction and industry sectors.

getzner.com

Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH

Herrenau 5
6706 Bürs, Austria
T +43-5552-201-0
info.buers@getzner.com