

Motor Industry News Leyland Australia

November, 1972



MINI ON THE RIGHT TRACK

It's always been said of the Mini that it goes around corners "as if it was on rails".

Well, Canadian National Railways has made that a literal description instead of figurative.

Canadian National is currently experimenting with a Mini converted to run exclusively on railroad tracks.

The company is evaluating the "Minirail" as a possible replacement for the traditional road-master's railcar.

The Mini was found to meet most of CN's basic requirements, among them light weight, ultra compact size and the ability to power 30-watt two-way radios.

Weight and size are vitally important because, on occasion, such track cars must be turned around or moved on and off the tracks by a lone crewman.

The "Minirail" has been fitted with a power-jack and turntable to assist in the manhandling process, but the cars must still be light enough to allow the work to be done manually in emergencies. Another modification is the complete removal of the car's steering gear.

Testing of the "Minirail" is not yet completed. But railway operators have already reported it is quieter and more comfortable than conventional rail cars.

Which must go to prove Leyland was on the right track with the Mini all along.

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