

# Improved efficiency of gritting operations for *Midland Mainline*

## Problem Identified

Midland Mainline operate train services between London, East Midlands and South Yorkshire. The company also manages seven railway stations, including Leicester, Market Harborough, Kettering and Wellingborough. Winter weather can create a number of challenges for train operators, including hazards at stations caused by snow and ice on platforms. Management at Midland Mainline found that the gritting method could be made more efficient, as large platform areas were being gritted by hand. This was a time-consuming activity, with high costs in terms of materials and man-hours.

## Solution

Midland Mainline were already aware of the range of Winter Safety products supplied by Glasdon, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of gritting operations. The company contacted Glasdon and met with a representative to discuss possible gritting solutions for Midland Mainline.

Following product demonstrations, the company purchased four Cruiser Turbocast 300™ manual broadcast grit/salt spreaders.

Cruiser Turbocast 300 has a wide spreading action due to its unique spinning mechanism. Large areas can be covered at speed and with minimum effort. The gritter can spread wet, dry or damp gritting material from 3-7 metres, and its balanced weight distribution means it is easy to push, even when fully laden. A range of settings allow accurate and controlled dosing for economic spreading, and the gritting mechanism can be disengaged for transportation between sites without losing any material. Cruiser Turbocast 300 has a slim design, which allows easy storage when the unit is not required.

## Resulting Benefits

Cruiser Turbocast 300 has greatly improved the efficiency of gritting operations for Midland Mainline. Platforms are safe for employees and members of the public, with a reduced risk of accidents caused by winter weather. Staff at stations can now grit the large platform areas very quickly and with ease, creating more time for other vital maintenance duties. Staff have found the gritter easy and economical to use, reducing the number of man-hours needed and allowing a more efficient use of gritting materials.

## What the customer says

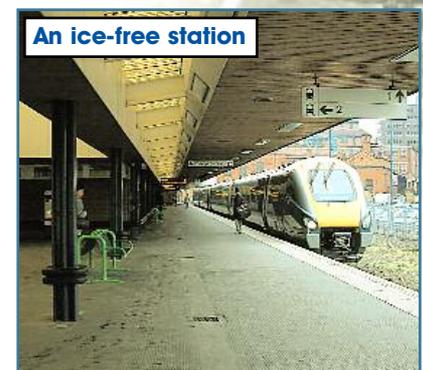
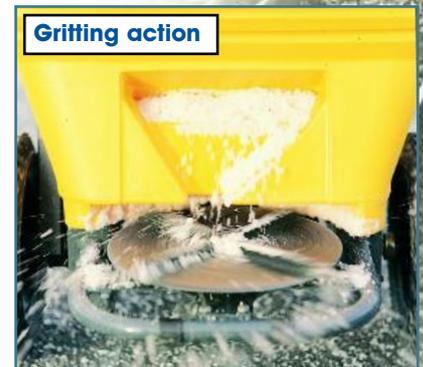
“The Cruiser Turbocast 300 has allowed us to treat large areas with grit very rapidly. We have been extremely pleased with the spreading performance and controlled effectiveness of this item of equipment.”

Malcolm Holmes, Area Station Manager, Midland Mainline.

We are grateful to Midland Mainline for the kind help given in the production of this case study.

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**Glasdon**®

**Glasdon U.K. Limited**  
Industrial and Commercial Division  
Preston New Road  
BLACKPOOL  
Lancashire  
FY4 4UL

Tel: (01253) 600414  
Fax: (01253) 792558  
e-mail: ic@glasdon-uk.co.uk  
web: www.glasdon.com

