

CURVED TRACK INFORMATION

In certain applications it is advantageous to curve tracks either horizontally ('A' bend) or vertically ('B' bend).

Curved track may be needed to give a traveller car a required path of movement or to match the mounting surface to which it is fixed. It can also ensure maximum performance is obtained from a traveller car by ensuring load and connection remain vertical. Or that tension in an attached purchase system or linkage remains constant.

Horizontal Plane – 'A' Bend

In situations where cars and fittings are required to rotate around a central pivot point, horizontal 'A' bending of the track will ensure the load applied to the car remains vertical. This results in maximum strength and free rolling ability being maintained by the car. Maintaining this vertical alignment also ensures tension in an attached purchase system remains constant, a feature often sought after in sailboat mainsheet and boom winch traveller systems.

Vertical Plane – 'B' Bend

Traveller tracks can also be bent vertically to fulfil certain requirements.

They can be top mounted or underhung mounted with either concave or convex track bends.

'B' Bends are often required to match the mounting surface to which a track is to be fixed; as when matching deck camber on a sailboat.

'B' bending can also be used to maintain constant tension in a rotating purchase system

mounted on a traveller car. This application is very popular on sailboat mainsheet and self-tacking jib systems where the increased load applied to the car during tacking or gybing may affect sail trim or cause the car to stick.

It should be noted that:

- ▶ Although track bends may appear desirable to provide ideal alignment and avoid angular loads being applied to the car, in an R.C.B. (ReCirculating Ball) system this same bend will actually reduce the load capacity of the system by loading the balls unevenly throughout the length of the car.
- ▶ Not all track types are suited to both types of bends, and some tracks cannot be curved at all.
- ▶ A minimum track radius is specified for each type of traveller car. This is the tightest curve a car will run around freely. Refer to the recommendations on the product pages for each track type regarding suitability and minimum radius values.

- ▶ 'A' and 'B' bends cannot be combined.
- ▶ Light bends can be 'sprung in' sometimes when mounting track, however considerable care must be taken to ensure that the curves are even with no tight spots and that the track is not overbent (permanently deformed) during installation.

For the best results, track should be ordered pre-bent from Ronstan. (Prices on application.)

Ordering

1. Specify the type of track profile (by product no.)
2. The type of bend required
'A' Bend (horizontal)
or
'B' Bend (vertical)
Concave or Convex

Note: 'A' and 'B' bends cannot be combined. Order 'A' or 'B' only.

3. Provide the appropriate dimensional specifications as described below.

Top Mount 'B' Bend	Convex Bend 	Concave Bend 
Under Hung Mount 'B' Bend	Convex Bend 	Concave Bend 

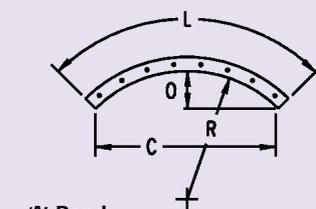
CURVED TRACK SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Specifications are required for each type of bend, including two critical dimensions (three if possible), and clear drawings where possible.

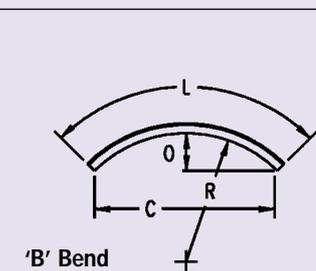
Critical Dimension Required

Radius R	and	Offset O
	OR	
Radius R	and	Length of Track L
	OR	
Radius R	and	Chord Length C
	OR	
Offset O	and	Chord Length C

In many 'B' bend situations, the radius R is not known and it is easiest to specify the curve by C (chord length) and O (offset) values. In these cases, the radius the track is to follow MUST be constant.



'A' Bend
(Plan View)



'B' Bend
(Side View)

SYSTEM VERSATILITY

Ronstan traveller control end components are extremely versatile. With the use of cam cleat plate and block addition kits, options possible include: single or double control blocks, take-off becket, right or left hand cam positioning and vertical or horizontal lead control line.

