

BlindshapersTM
Blindshapers

A Guide to
Measuring
Curved/Shaped
Vertical Blinds
(and getting it right)

Rule No. 1:

*If in any doubt after
reading this*

– talk to us. 😊

Systems information:

We bend the **Louvolite Slimline** in curves and shallow arches. This will only take one bend, so splay bays are not possible.

The **Vogue** headrail can only be curved and cannot be made up in two tracks butting up in the centre, as the end caps are too large so you cannot get an overlap of fabric.

Both of these systems have fixed gear components so they do not self align when you pull the chains. The wide-bodied **Benthin Decomatic** system does have self-aligning components. The tilt rod is in small interlocking sections over a steel torsion rod so this operates far smoother and quieter than the single solid rod used in the others. You do not get the spiralling delayed reaction of the solid rod when taken too far so square and splay bays in one track work well. In our opinion it is an equivalent to the Silent Gliss systems.

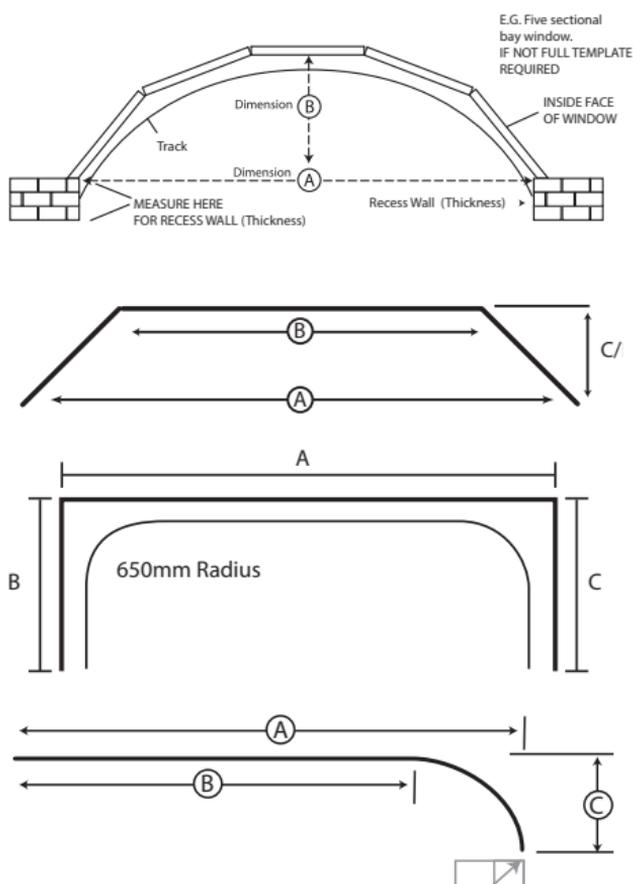
Controls: All these three systems can be controlled by cords and chains split draw or one way. The Benthin can additionally have a single wand which draws and tilts on either one way or split draw, we can also motorize these with the Benthin IQ2 motor with the Somfy RTS control by handset or switches hard wired in to a control system.

Bay windows

are usually made up of five individual panes as per the diagram at the base of our order sheet, all of similar sizes. There is also usually a recess wall of between 150mm – 230mm (6" – 9").

We curve the rail to the sizes of the window frame so that when fitting you bring it back from the middle window by enough for the fabric to miss the window frame and any handles that protrude. The ends of the track will then be positioned back alongside the recess wall.

N.B. If the recess walls are doing anything other than normal, i.e. turning in or out or very shallow – 4" or 100mm is the minimum needed, please tell us as this makes a lot of difference on how we make it.



Measuring:

Firstly check there are no beams, RSJ's or coving which may affect the size of track. See below.

Check the depth of the recess wall and note on order sheet.

You will need 2 strong steel tape measures. Place the first across the bay from where the window frame ends and joins the recess wall, to the same place on the opposite side. This is the 'A' size we need.

Then with this tape locked in position, place the second tape going from the centre of the width tape to the inside frame of the centre window. This is the 'B' size.

If the 'B' size when multiplied by three is nearly equal to the 'A' size then the blind will have to be in two tracks. This is because at that degree of curve the nylon tilt rod will have a delayed reaction spiral and the far end does not close the vanes.

More often than not we can bend this out of one length of track so the only extra is the £6.50 for the extra end sets, cord chain etc.

If the 'B' size is more than one metre (39") then we may well need the two halves of the bay measuring separately giving us 2 x 'A' and 'B' s. Remember that this will be an order for 2 separate tracks and charged accordingly, as we would not be able to bend this out of one piece of track and cut in half.

Four, six and eight pane bay windows often go to a point in the centre, so they need to be measured for separate tracks. When it does not flow as a true curve we need a template of each half.

Square, Splay bay or Hockey-stick shaped windows.

I.E. the window has a long straight centre with one or two smaller angled windows at the ends. Whilst we can bend at right angles, for the track to work it has to flow around.

Work on 45 degrees as maximum. There is a minimum of 800mm radius in Louvolite Slimline, so the track will start to go into the bend roughly 800mm before the corner and approximately 800mm after. These are always bent and made up as two separate tracks and are charged as this.

These are noisy and jerky on tilting and drawing.

On the Benthin wide-bodied this changes to 650mm average radius which can be in one track even as a square bay. The components in these are self aligning and the tilt rod is small sections on top of a torsion rod so the running is smooth and quiet.

Beams / RSJs above

There is only you who can decide on the finished size of the track for this situation. You have to make all deductions for the fabric tilt, window handles etc. You must get a straight line from the RSJ down to the window sill to see where the track is to end vertically. Then use a face fix bracket to position the ends horizontally.

This will also show if there will be a gap between the track and the recess wall.

Order this track as Blind size.

Templates or Patterns:

Using wallpaper or something similar that keeps its shape, cut to fit each frame's section along the windowsill and stick/staple together.

Show where any window handles stick out and by how much, plus what happens after the end of the window frame with the recess wall, how deep it is and at what angle it comes away from the frame.

Arched Vertical Blind Tracks

Smaller than 1 metre x 500 mm does not work and we will not do these.

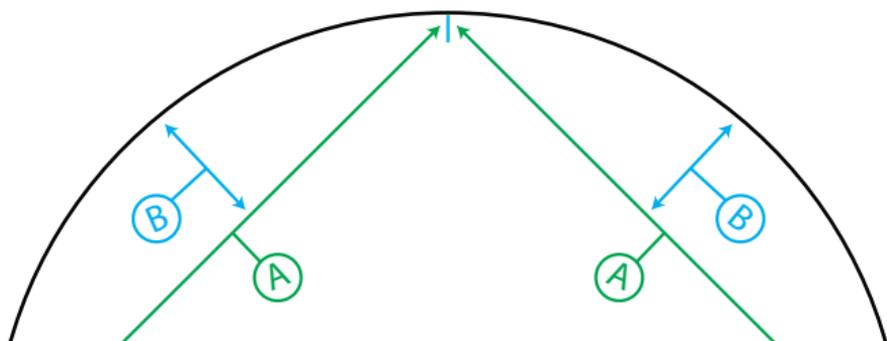
The maximum bend we can do is half of the width. I.e. semi circular. The fabric is hung well below the track on various sizes of 'droppers' (sloping head assemblies) which means there will be 'steps' of light all the way around between the rail and fabric. The 'droppers' provided have to be attached to the components starting with the shortest in the centre and working outwards equally finishing with the longest ones at the end so that the fabric falls below the end of the headrail and its mechanisms.

Shallow arches can be made in the Slimline system but for a more substantial system the Benthin can be made in a full semi circle. With the tooth type components the fabric does not fall off and will run smoothly, these can also be made with proportional spacing so there is an even spread of fabric across the width of the blind.

Gothic arches – going to a point rather like a church window need to be done in two tracks so we would need two separate sets of sizes and full sized templates so that they can be joined and braced at the right angle in the centre. Remember these will be chargeable as two tracks.

Fabric: The vanes of fabric should be manufactured to the longest drop with either the louvre hangers or the tops finished. The bottom of the vanes must be finished after the headrails are fitted. Our recommended way of doing this is as follows. Place a batten of wood of approx. 7 mm./ one quarter inch depth on the window cill. Hang the centre vanes and turn the fabric over so that it just touches the batten. Cut to size according to the ballast weight pocket required and glue with a hot melt glue gun or sew up as usual. (Clothes pegs used carefully can assist in hold the pocket until the glue has set properly.) Continue outwards as with the centre vanes. Alternatively adjustable hangers can be supplied so that the tops have to be turned over on site and adjusted. Very time consuming.

Measuring a bay that has to be in 2 blind tracks

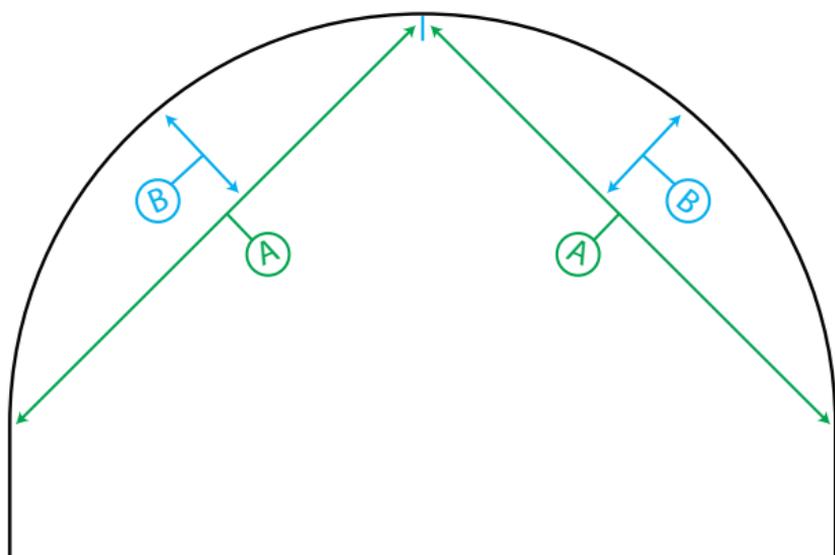


Please also be aware that if there is NO REVEAL we will not make any allowances, so please be accurate with your sizes.

These measurements are needed because the window has to be split into 2 blinds, also measure where the blind is being fitted with a 5" face fix bracket so it will pull it forward of the handles.

If the overall length is more than 4.4m it has to be made from two separate pieces of tracking which is chargeable as two separate blinds.

Measuring an Arch that has to be in 2 blind tracks



These measurements are needed because the window has to be split into 2 blinds.

The end components/vanes will not tilt or move on semi circular arches as if they did they would foul the ones next to them.

They will tilt only and NOT draw unless they're within the 6 - 1 ratio of $B \times 6 = \text{less than } A$

Important Information – Curved/Arched Vertical Tracks

The aluminium tracking we use is not the one you normally get. It is not fully 'cooked' and it sets over a 6 month period. It can twist occasionally after bending in which case we supply you with screw top fix brackets. These hold the track in the right horizontal level whilst it sets.

1. After unpacking the track please check that the cord has not become caught up in the steel spacer links.
2. Always keep the track in the shape it has been bent to. The brackets must be fitted to the track and NOT the track to the brackets. If it is pulled out of shape by even 2- 3 mm it will not work as the components will bind and stick.
3. We recommend that the tracks are either top fixed or face fixed, using adjustable face fix brackets.
4. The components used are fixed gear carriages in the Louvolite Slimline and Vogue systems. They do not align when the tilt chain is pulled after tilting. The hooks can get pushed into the component during transit, disengaging from the worm gear and trapping the cords. When hanging the fabric please gently pull down on the hook to make sure they are not even slightly pushed in.
5. If any of the hooks become out of line on the fixed gear components then by pushing the hook down into the component, turning the

other hooks to match, then pulling it out, you can re-align them quite easily.

6. To fit the tracks firstly check if the window handles stick out beyond the window frame. If so add this amount on to half the width of your fabric and allow an extra 10mm and mark the ceiling this amount out from the centre window. This is where the first bracket should be fitted.
7. With assistants holding the outer ends of the track, slot the track into this bracket and then mark where the other brackets should be positioned. Take the track out of the way and fit the brackets accordingly. This stops any dust or plaster fragments getting into the track, which would foul the mechanisms.
8. Position the track and push into the brackets which should 'click' into position.
9. Pull the cord to draw all the components across and tilt both ways to ensure nothing has been trapped before hanging the fabric.
10. If the window has been measured correctly then the track should fit snugly against the recess walls whilst still allowing for the fabric to tilt as desired.

If on delivery a parcel is signed for as being received in good condition, then later when unwrapping, found to be damaged, we cannot claim for this or accept any responsibility. Please check all packages properly or otherwise sign for them as 'damaged'. We usually wrap them in bubble wrap with cardboard over the components/ends, and then brace them with wood roofing laths. If your parcel arrives with no wood on please definitely sign as damaged.

*Any other questions,
please do not hesitate
to ring us.*

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**make it
safe**