

BlindshapersTM
Blindshapers

A Guide to
Measuring
Shaped
Venetian Blinds
(and getting it right)

Rule No. 1:

*If in any doubt after
reading this*

– talk to us. 😊

Introduction

We manufacture these shaped venetians in 25mm aluminium slat with either ordinary or privacy punching using a 21 micron thickness of slat, we cannot use any thinner slat as it will not support itself in shapes. We can also do privacy punching on the aluminium slats. This means that instead of the slots in the centre of the slats for the cords to run through we punch a small hole at the back of the slat, and with the additional slats needed the one above covers this hole when closed so giving the maximum darkening possible and a much neater finish.

Also in 25mm and 50mm woodslat using Decora's Timberlux range or Tropical's Elements 50mm range only. These slats have to be again individually shaped by hand sanded and stained to match.

Every one is priced up individually based on the amount of work involved on each shape, slat chosen etc. so a drawing with sizes is needed for us to quote. A photograph is also recommended so we can look for possible problems and we can 'see' what you can too.

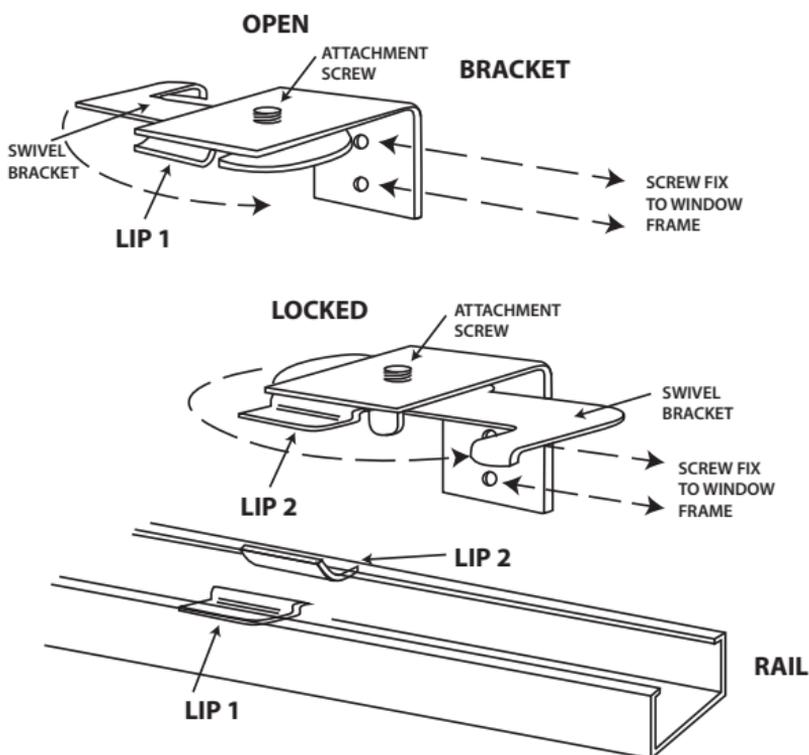
Our headrail that we shape is aluminium 30mm square and this is painted in our spray booth with 3 coats, undercoat, colour and clear lacquer. The dimensions you give us are checked on CAD before we start and these need to be exceedingly accurate so that the slats are level across the ladders. We have our rigs set up with angle settings for slopes and all the ladders are levelled with lasers so that where there is more than one blind hanging side by side the slats are all level across the whole window. The slats will only lift up to where the headrail starts with arches or slopes and due to the varying lengths of cord not always level. They will only tilt from flat level to either upwards or downwards closing, but not both ways. This is because of the shaping of the slats to follow the headrail and give the best coverage possible.

Perfect Fit International is used for shapes with straight angles such as apex or slopes but with only 25mm slat.

Brackets:

Top fix are a flat plate with a lug at each side and a lever with a lip. This is screwed straight up through the central hole into the lintel. The lugs go inside the headrail and will lock into the grooves on the inside of the tracking when the lever, (with the lip outside at the front, facing downwards) is swivelled anticlockwise to lock in place. The only part of the bracket showing on the front of the headrail is the small lip.

For top fixing the above flat plate is attached to an “L” shape and face fixed. Standard sizes are 30mm and 45mm as used in pleated blind fixing. For face fixing the above flat plate is attached to an ‘L’ shape bracket which can be 25mm 45mm or 65mm to throw the blind out to miss any handles etc.



Tilt/raise/lower Mechanism:

This is usually a Uniwand system. The lift cords go down the central core of the wand and are attached to the breakaway tassel at the base of the wand. There is universal joint at the top so the wand functions at a wide variety of angles which is why we use this rather than the hook on type of wand. This does not come apart and please do not attempt to take it to pieces. If this happens it is outside of any guarantee we give. Generally with this mechanism it is a lot safer for children etc.

To raise, hold the wand in one hand and gradually pull the knob and cords through. This releases the locking mechanism, which will automatically re-engage when the cords stop. If this does not happen just push the wand upwards as it may have got stuck. The slats will only lift to where the headrail starts. We also put a cord tidy on the wand to keep these out of the way.

To lower pull gently down on the wand whilst controlling the speed at which the cords feed back so that it does not crash downwards. Occasionally you may have to assist the slats to lower by applying a little pressure on the bottom rail. This is caused by the varying weight ratio within the shape.

With the shaping of the slats to the headrail, these will only tilt from flat level to down shut, or flat level to upwards closing. With 25mm aluminium slat we can do Privacy punching which means no slot holes showing when the blind is closed downwards, giving the best darkening possible. Woodslat does not close as well as straight blinds so upwards closing cuts out most light. To hold the shaped slats in position we use numerous slat clips on the outer ladders. This combined with the torsion rod tilt shaft means that slat closure will not be as good as on straight blinds and with wide blinds there may be a slight delayed reaction from one side to the other. Please allow time for this and be aware that over turning will damage the mechanism as can tilting the slats upwards too far. We cannot be held responsible for damage caused by over tilting.

Undue pressure can cause the torsion rod connector to come off the tilt mechanism within the headrail.

If this occurs the connector with a 'D' shaped hole on the lock should be correctly lined up with the one on the torsion cable (you can turn the flexible joint to alter) and pushed firmly back into place as per the diagram below.



Sloping Angled Headrail Blinds:

Sometimes these have a cosmetic very short slat to the highest possible level. Due to this slat being held by a single ladder its alignment will vary during tilting. This can be manually re-aligned once the remainder of the blind is satisfactory. You may find once a blind is fitted that some of the slats are not quite level, please check that the slat clips have not been moved in transit and only require a slight adjustment.

Generally a feather dusting once a week is sufficient for the blind to be kept clean. They can be wiped with a damp cloth for stubborn stains.

It must be remembered that wood is a natural product and must be treated as such. Colour, patina and grain variations occur as a natural phenomenon.

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

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safe**TM