

Cut the cable tray at any angle

Article Overview

Cutting a cable tray at a specific angle involves measuring, marking, and making precise miter cuts on one or more tray sections, then joining them to form the desired bend.

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Determine the Required Angle Decide the total bend angle needed for your installation. For example, a 45° bend is commonly achieved by cutting two pieces at 22.5° each . Smaller or larger angles can be calculated using the formula:

o Cut size (D) = Tray width (A) / (90 / Desired angle B) For instance, a 600 mm wide tray cut for a 22° angle: $600 / (90 / 22) = 146.7 \text{ mm}$. 2. Mark the Cut Lines

o Use a protractor or angle finder to mark the angle from a perpendicular line across the tray width.

o For compound or parallel offsets, calculate the cut size based on the offset distance and tray width to maintain smooth transitions . 3. Select the Cutting Tool

o Band saws or circular saws are preferred for clean, precise cuts with minimal burrs .

o Angle grinders can be used for flexibility but require careful handling to avoid sparks and injury .

o Avoid torches as they can damage surface coatings and weaken the tray . 4. Make the Cut

o Cut along the marked line, ensuring the tray is securely clamped.

o For a 45° bend, cut two pieces in opposite directions to form a miter joint . 5. Deburr and Smooth Edges

o Remove sharp edges using a file or deburring tool to prevent injury and protect cable insulation . 6. Assemble the Bend

o Join the cut pieces using appropriate cable tray connectors or hardware.

o Test-fit the assembly to ensure the angle is correct and the tray aligns with the planned route .

Safety Precautions

o Wear Kevlar gloves, safety glasses, and ear protection during cutting .

o Protect surrounding materials from sparks and heat.

o Do not mix cutting blades between different metals to avoid galvanic corrosion .

Tips for Accurate Installation

o For sweeping bends, divide the total angle into smaller segments (e.g., 90° bend as 2 x 45° or 3 x 30° cuts), .

o Use cable tray offset calculators to determine sloped section lengths and cut marks for complex layouts .

o Always consider cable bending radius and available space when choosing the bend angle . By following these steps, you can achieve precise, safe, and functional angled cuts for cable tray installations.

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