

{TikZ-trackschematic}

A TikZ library for track schematics

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1. Introduction

1.1. About tikz-trackschematic

The *TikZ-trackschematic* library is a toolbox of symbols geared primarily towards creating track schematic for either research or educational purposes. It provides a *TikZ* frontend to some of the symbols which maybe needed to describe situations and layouts in railway operation. The library is divided into four sublibraries: `topology`, `trafficcontrol`, `vehicles`, `constructions`, and `messures`.

1.2. Acknowledgement

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 826347.

1.3. Requirements

The library uses *TikZ* and it is based the following packages: `tikz`, `lmodern`, `xcolor`, and `etoolbox`. Further more it uses the following *TikZ* libraries: `calc`, `intersections`, `patterns`, and `arrows.meta`.

1.4. License

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1.5. Alternatives

Apart from this library, there is also a [Signalschablone](#) with german (Deutsche Bahn) symbols for MS Visio.

2. Usage

2.1. A complete minimal example

The command `\usetikzlibrary{trackschematic}` will load the library; place it somewhere in your preamble. Here is a complete working minimal example which will produce a single PDF file with the figure on the right:

```
\documentclass[tikz]{standalone}

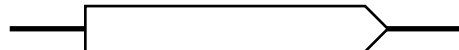
% loading the library
\usetikzlibrary{trackschematic}

\begin{document}
\begin{tikzpicture}

% draw a track
\maintrack (0,0) -- (6,0);

% place a train on the track
\train[forward] at (5,0) label ();

\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}
```



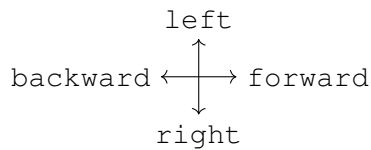
2.2. Placement

To place symbols in a track schematic, they need to be placed and oriented correctly. The placement is done through the given TikZ coordinate. There are a few assumptions made about the placement:

1. Parallel tracks are drawn at a distance of 1 cm (which is the base unit of TikZ).
2. Tracks are only drawn at an angle of $n \cdot 45^\circ$.

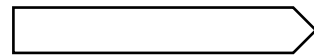
2.3. Orientation system

The orientation is controlled via given TikZ options or pgfkey. The orientation options/pgfkeys are named in relation to orientation-based coordinates, which inhibit their meaning from reading left to right being forward and relate left/right to that movement.

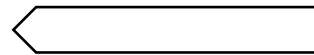


The main option/pgfkey is the `face` option to control in which direction an object will face. The key can take one of the following two values: `forward`, and `backward`.

```
\train[face=forward ] at (coordinate) label ();
```



```
\train[face=backward] at (coordinate) label ();
```



As a shortcut you may also just give the option `forward` or `backward` without the `face=` in front of it. If you have objects which branch either to the left or the right you have to give the `branch` option which takes one of the following two values: `left`, and `right`.

```
\turnout[forward ,branch=left ] at (coordinate) label ();
```



```
\turnout[forward ,branch=right] at (coordinate) label ();
```



```
\turnout[backward,branch=left ] at (coordinate) label ();
```



```
\turnout[backward,branch=right] at (coordinate) label ();
```



There is no shortcut and the key `branch=` must be given contrary to the key `face=`.

2.4. Left- and right-hand traffic

The traffic practice to divide bidirectional traffic has impact mostly on traffic control. The default traffic practice for this library is right-hand traffic. You can change it either globally or locally with

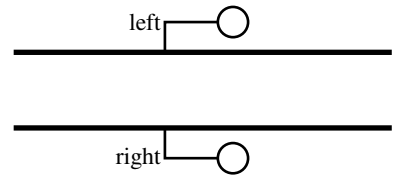
the key `traffic practice=left`. There is also the alias `position` for single local entries.

```
\documentclass [tikz] {standalone}

% load the library
\usetikzlibrary {trackschematic}

\begin {document}
\begin {tikzpicture}
% set the traffic practice
\tikzset {traffic practice=left}

\maintrack (0,1) -- (5,1);
\maintrack (0,0) -- (5,0);
\routesignal [forward] at (2,1) label (left);
\routesignal [forward,position=right] at (2,0) label (right);
\end {tikzpicture}
\end {document}
```



2.5. Colors: background and foreground

The two main colors `white` and `black` are set for the `background` and `foreground` keys by default. If you want to change them, provide a new value for the keys. For example like this:

```
\documentclass [tikz] {standalone}

% load the library
\usetikzlibrary {trackschematic}

\begin {document}
\begin {tikzpicture}
% set the colors
\tikzset {background=lightgray,foreground=violet}

\maintrack (0,0) -- (6,0);
\train [forward] at (5,0) label (grey train);
\end {tikzpicture}
\end {document}
```



3. Provided Symbols and their commands

Each sublibrary provides different symbols. The following section will go through each symbol their command and options.

3.1. Topology

3.1.1. Tracks

Drawing a track follows the same principal as drawing a line in TikZ. There are two generell options of track with different commands: `main` tracks, and `secondary` tracks.

► Main track



```
\maintrack (coord1) -- (coord2);
\maintrack (coord1) -- (coord2) -- (coord3) -- etc.;
```

No options available.

This command is equivalent to:

```
\path[draw=foreground,line width=2pt] (coord1) -- (coord2);
```

Beware of the placement assumption by the library (see Section 2.2).

► Secondary track

```
\secondarytrack (coord1) -- (coord2);
\secondarytrack (coord1) -- (coord2) -- (coord3) -- etc.;
```

For the secondary track you may also use the following alias:

```
\sidetrack (coord1) -- (coord2);
```

No options available.

The command is equivalent to:

```
\path[draw=foreground,line width=0.7pt] (coord1) -- (coord2);
```

Beware of the placement assumption by the library (see Section 2.2).

► Track number or track label

————— No. —————

```
\tracklabel at (coord) label (number);
```

No options available.

This command is equivalent to:

```
\node[fill=background,text=foreground] at (coord) {number};
```

► Buffer stops

—————] ————— [●

```
\bufferstop[options] at (coord);
```

values for options (comma separated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

friction=*length unit* (optional)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► **Track closures**



```
\trackclosure at (coord);
```

No options available.

3.1.2. Turnouts and similar

► **Turnouts**



```
\turnout[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

branch=left or branch=right (mandatory)

operation>manual (optional)

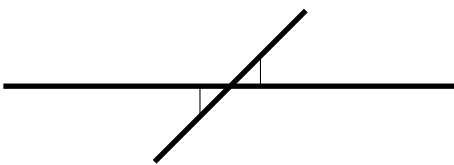
fouling point (optional)

points=left or points=right (optional)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=color (optional, default: black)

► **Diamond crossings**



```
\crossing[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

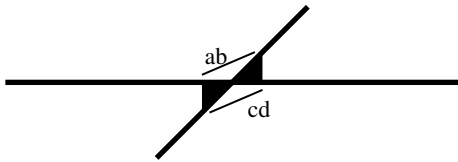
branch=left or branch=right (mandatory)

fouling point (optional)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=color (optional, default: black)

► **Slip switches or slip turnouts**

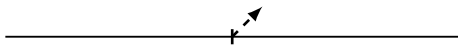


```
\slipturnout[options] at (coord) label (name1) (name2);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

- branch=left or branch=right (mandatory)
- slip=double (default), slip=none, slip=left or slip=right (mandatory)
- operation>manual (optional)
- fouling point (optional)
- forward points=left or forward points=right (optional)
- backward points=left or backward points=right (optional)
- shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))
- foreground=color (optional, default: black)

► **Derailers**



```
\derailer[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

- forward or backward (mandatory)
- branch=left or branch=right (mandatory)
- shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))
- foreground=color (optional, default: black)

3.2. Vehicles

► **Parked vehicles**



```
\parkedvehicles[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

- length=length unit (optional, default 4cm)

label at={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: *center*)

label align=left or label align=right (optional, default: center)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

background=*color* (optional, default: white)

The value for (*label-coord*) is relative to (*coord*). An absolute (*label-coord*) can be specified with the TikZ \coordinate command.

► Shunting movements



```
\shunting[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma separated):

movement (optional)

forward or backward (mandatory)

length=*length unit* (optional, default 4cm)

operation=manual or operation=automatic (optional)

bend left at={ (*bend-coord*) } (optional, default: *none*)

bend right at={ (*bend-coord*) } (optional, default: *none*)

label at={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: *center*)

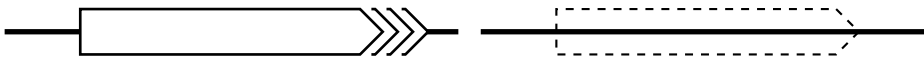
label align=left or label align=right (optional, default: center)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

background=*color* (optional, default: white)

The value for (*label-coord*) and (*bend-coord*) is relative to (*coord*). An absolute (*label-coord*) or (*bend-coord*) can be specified with the TikZ \coordinate command.

► Train runs



```
\train[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma separated):

run=slow, run=normal or run=fast (optional)

forward or backward (mandatory)

length=*length unit* (optional, default 4cm)
 operation=manual or operation=automatic (optional)
 ghost (optional)
 bend left at={ (*bend-coord*) } (optional, default: none)
 bend right at={ (*bend-coord*) } (optional, default: none)
 shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))
 label align=left or label align=right (optional, default: center)
 foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)
 background=*color* (optional, default: white)

The value for (*label-coord*) and (*bend-coord*) is relative to (*coord*). An absolute (*label-coord*) or (*bend-coord*) can be specified with the TikZ `\coordinate` command.

3.3. Traffic control

3.3.1. Stationary signals

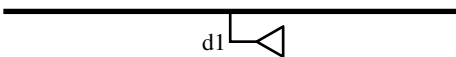
► Generic signal command

```
\signal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

at least one of the following: distant, speed type, block, route, shunt limit, shunting and/or berth
 forward or backward (mandatory)
 speed=*value* (optional)
 distant speed=*value* (optional)
 locked=false (default) or locked=true (optional)
 position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)
 shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))
 foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► Distant signal



```
\distantsignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

distant speed=*value* (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

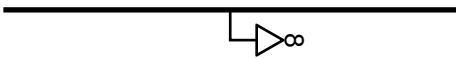
shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[distant,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Speed signal/sign



```
\speedsignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

For the speed signal you may also use the following alias:

```
\speedsign[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

speed=*value* (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

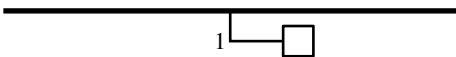
shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[speed type,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Block signal



```
\blocksignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

speed=*value* (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

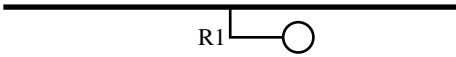
shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[block,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Route signal



```
\routesignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

speed=*value* (optional)

locked=false (default) or locked=true (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[route,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Shunting signal



```
\shuntsignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

locked=false (default) or locked=true (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[shunting,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► **Shunt limit**



```
\shuntlimit[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=color (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[shunt limit,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► **Berth signal/sign**



```
\berthsignal[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

For the speed signal you may also use the following alias:

```
\berthsign[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

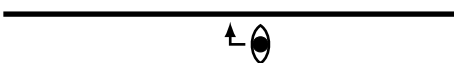
foreground=color (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\signal[berth,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

3.3.2. Non-stationary points

► **View point**



```
\viewpoint[options] at (coord);
```

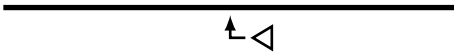
values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► **Braking point**



```
\brakingpoint[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

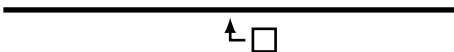
forward, backward or bidirectional (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► **End of movement authority**



```
\movementauthority[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward, backward or bidirectional (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► **Danger point**



```
\dangerpoint[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward, backward or bidirectional (mandatory)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

3.3.3. Clearing points

► Generic clearing point

```
\clearingpoint[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

at least one of the following: standard, block and/or route

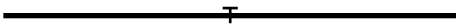
forward (default) or backward (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► Standard clearing point



```
\standardclearing[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward (default) or backward (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\clearingpoint[standard,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Block clearing point



```
\blockclearing[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward (default) or backward (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

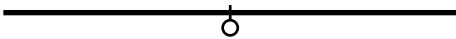
shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\clearingpoint[block,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► Route clearing point



```
\routeclearing[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward (default) or backward (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\clearingpoint[route,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

3.3.4. Transmitters

► Generic transmitter command

```
\transmitter[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

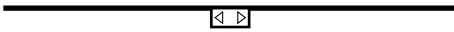
type=balise or type=loop (mandatory)

forward, backward or bidirectional (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► **Balise**

```
\balise[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

forward, backward or bidirectional (optional)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\transmitter[type=balise,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

► **Loop**

```
\trackloop[options] at (coord) label (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

shift label={ (label-coord) } (optional, default: (0,0))

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

This command is equivalent to:

```
\transmitter[type=loop,options] at (coord) label (name);
```

3.3.5. Miscellaneous► **Route**

```
\route[options] at (coord);
```

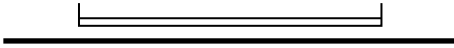
values for options (comma seperated):

forward or backward (mandatory)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

3.4. Constructions

► Platform



```
\platform[options] at (coord);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

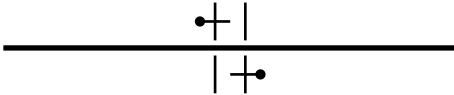
side=left, side=right or side=both (mandatory)

length=length unit (optional, default 4cm)

width=length unit (optional, default 0.5cm)

foreground=color (optional, default: black)

► Level crossings



```
\levelcrossing[options] at (coord);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

barrier=none (default), barrier=semi or barrier=full (optional)

side=both (default), side=left or side=right (optional)

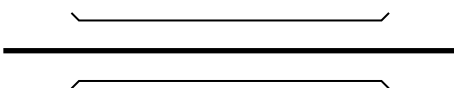
road width=length unit (optional, default 0.4cm)

width=length unit (optional, default 0.5cm)

no road (optional)

foreground=color (optional, default: black)

► Bridge



```
\bridge[options] at (coord);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

length=length unit (optional, default 4cm)

width=length unit (optional, default 0.5cm)

shift left=length unit (optional, default 0cm)

`shift right=length unit` (optional, default 0cm)
`side=both` (default), `side=left` or `side=right` (optional)
`foreground=color` (optional, default: black)
`background=color` (optional, default: white)
`no background` (optional)

► **Interlocking**



```
\interlocking at (coord);
```

No options available.

► **Hump**

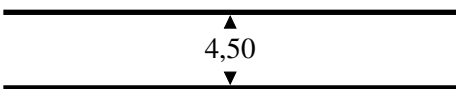


```
\hump at (coord);
```

No options available.

3.5. Measures

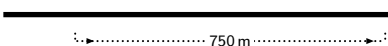
► **Track distance**



```
\trackdistance between (coord1) and (coord2) distance (value);
```

No options available.

► **Train berth**



```
\berth[options] at (coord) length (value);
```

values for options (comma separated):

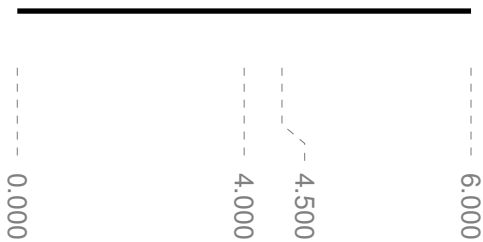
forward, backward or bidirectional (mandatory)

length=*length unit* (optional, default 4cm)

position=left or position=right (optional, default: *traffic practice*)

foreground=*color* (optional, default: black)

► Hectometer



```
\hectometer[options] at (coord) mileage (name);
```

values for options (comma seperated):

hectometer base={ (*base-coord*) } (mandatory)

orientation=left or orientation=right (mandatory)

shift label={ (*label-coord*) } (optional, default: (0,0))

hectometer color=*color* (optional, default: foreground!50!background)

The value for (*base-coord*) and (*label-coord*) is relative to (*coord*). An absolute (*base-coord*) or (*label-coord*) can be specified with the TikZ `\coordinate` command. Specify a common hectometer base and orientation if you have to place multiple hectometers, i.e. with: `\tikzset{hectometer base={ (base-coord) }, orientation=right};`

► Messure line









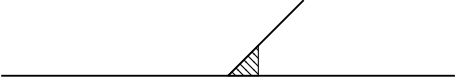
```
\messureline (coord1) -- (coord2);
\messureline (coord1) -- (coord2) -- (coord3) -- etc.;
```

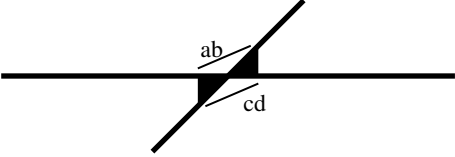
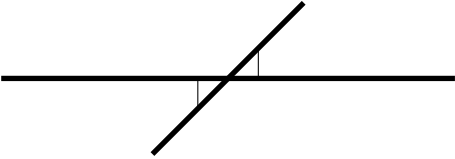
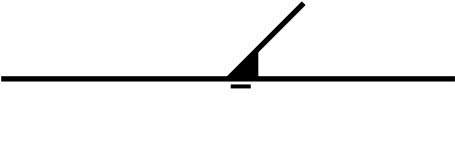
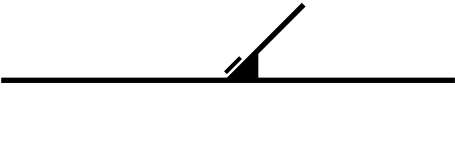
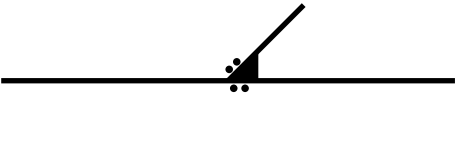
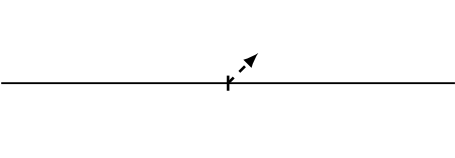
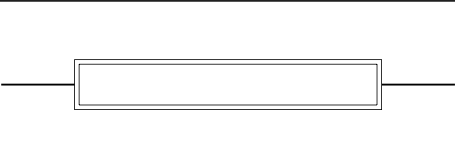
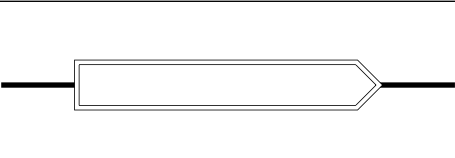
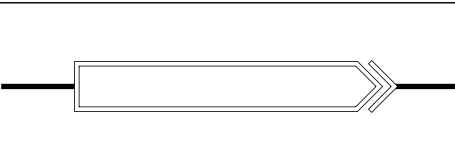
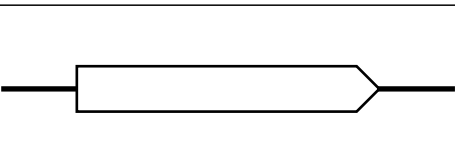
No options available.


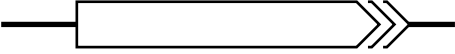
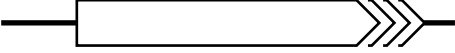
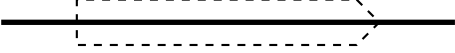

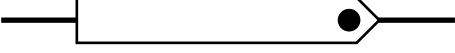
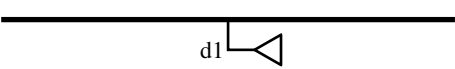
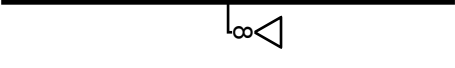
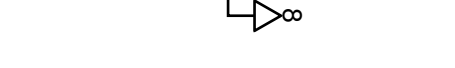
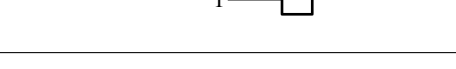
This command is equivalent to:

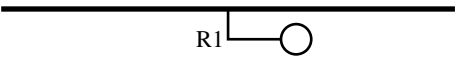
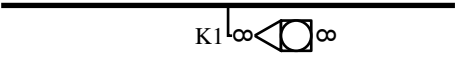








```
\path[draw=foreground!50!background,dashed,shorten <=0.75cm,shorten >=0.75cm] (coord1) -- (coord2);
```









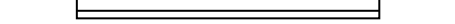
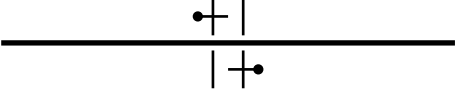
A. Symbology

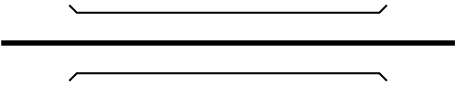


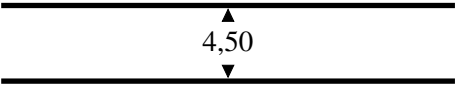
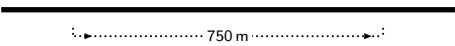


No.	Name	Symbol	See section
1	main track		3.1.1
2	secondary track		3.1.1
3	track number		3.1.1
4	bufferstop		3.1.1
5	friction bufferstop		3.1.1
6	track closure		3.1.1
7	turnout		3.1.2
8	turnout with fouling point indicator		3.1.2
9	turnout operated manually		3.1.2

No.	Name	Symbol	See section
10	double-slip turnout		3.1.2
11	diamond crossing		3.1.2
12	turnout with points in right position		3.1.2
13	turnout with points in left position		3.1.2
14	turnout with moving points		3.1.2
15	derailer		3.1.2
16	parked vehicles		3.2
17	train in shunting mode		3.2
18	train shunting		3.2
19	train		3.2

No.	Name	Symbol	See section
20	train moving slow		3.2
21	train moving		3.2
22	train moving fast		3.2
23	train ghost		3.2
24	train operated automatic		3.2
25	train operated by human		3.2
26	distant signal		3.3.1
27	distant signal with speed indicator		3.3.1
28	speed signal		3.3.1
29	block signal		3.3.1

No.	Name	Symbol	See section
30	route signal		3.3.1
31	combined signal (distant, block and route signal)		3.3.1
32	shunt signal		3.3.1
33	shunt signal locked		3.3.1
34	shunt limit		3.3.1
35	train berth sign		3.3.1
36	view point		3.3.2
37	braking point		3.3.2
38	end of movement authority		3.3.2
39	danger point		3.3.2

No.	Name	Symbol	See section
40	clearing point		3.3.3
41	block clearing point		3.3.3
42	route clearing point		3.3.3
43	transmitter		3.3.4
44	transmitter effective forward		3.3.4
45	transmitter bidirectional		3.3.4
46	loop transmitter		3.3.4
47	route		3.3.5
48	platform		3.4
49	level crossing		3.4

No.	Name	Symbol	See section
50	bridge		3.4
51	hump		3.4
52	interlocking		3.4
53	track distance (in m)		3.5
54	train berth shape		3.5
55	hectometer		3.5
56	Messure line		3.5

B. Revision History

Revision	Date	Author(s)	Description
0.1	2018-09-14	MS	Basic concept of a library with railway topology symbols and some examples.
0.2	2018-12-19	MS	Added transmitters and minor improvements.
0.3	2019-04-04	MS	Moved snippet folder to root folder and defined and used color foreground and background.
0.4	2019-07-21	MS	Reworked library for common tikz library layout.
0.5	2020-01-14	MS	Introducing new syntax and providing a documentation.

Martin Scheidt (MS)