

**BOWENS**



# Hi Glide System

## The Working

The working studio is a busy place. Photographer, models, props and subjects are competing for space with cameras, tripods, lighting stands and cables. Bowens Hi-Glide can transform even the smallest of studios into an effective and creative shooting environment. By removing the need for lighting stands and trailing cables, Hi-Glide can not only increase your shooting space but improve studio safety by reducing the risk of injury or damage to you, your customers and your valuable equipment.

As well as increasing the shooting space, and doing away with trailing cables, Hi-Glide also creates incredible lighting flexibility. Lights, accessories, powerpacks and backdrops can all be suspended and positioned just where they are needed, making the best use of your studio space.

Bowens Hi-Glide is a strong, lightweight, precision engineered system which will give many years of trouble free service.

The floating rails allow quick and easy horizontal positioning and the range of adjustable mountings and extension tubes provide full vertical height control. Locking devices hold everything in place so there is no chance of disturbing your carefully created lighting set-up.

Hi-Glide can be used in just about any studio and the wide range of hardware and accessories ensure that your system will be perfect for your studio. The rails can be mounted to most ceiling types and you won't need to employ a specialist fitter. This guide shows what can be achieved with Bowens Hi-Glide, the items that make up this system and how to go about designing a system that will be perfect for your shooting space.



## ing Studio



- BW-2600 3m Hi-Glide Support Rails (2) inc. End Stops
- BW-2601 4.5m Hi-Glide Support Rails (pair) inc. End Stops
- BW-2603 Double Carriage
- BW-2604 Single Carriage
- BW-2605 Universal Fixing Bracket Assembly
- BW-2606 End Stops set of 4
- BW-2607 Cable Transfer Runners (set of 5)
- BW-2608 Litelift Pantograph (5/8" spigot, springs and safety cable)
- BW-2608/s Litelift Pantograph - short drop (5/8" spigot, springs & safety cable)
- BW-2609 Adaptor Spigot 5/8."
- BW-2610 Type 1 Spring
- BW-2611 Type 2 Spring
- BW-2612 Type 3 Spring
- BW-2613 Type 4 Spring
- BW-2614 Spring Removal Key (Spare)
- BW-2615 30cm Extension Tube
- BW-2616 60cm Extension Tube
- BW-2617 90cm Extension Tube
- BW-2618 Cable Fixing Kit - small band (set of 10)
- BW-2619 Safety Cable
- BW-2620 Double Carriage with Brake
- BW-2622 Centre of Gravity Bar
- BW-2625 Cable Fixing Kit - large band (set of 10)
- BW-2626 Scaffold Clamp
- BW-2628 6 Wheel Single Carriage
- BW-2629 Short Fixing Kit (for fixing to a flat ceiling)
- BW-2631 2m Radius Rails (2) inc. End Stops
- BW-2632 Back to Back Rail Clamp
- BW-2633 Rail Joining Plates (21cm)
- BW-2634 Curtain Runners (set of 10)
- BW-2635 Fixed Rail Clamp with spigot
- BW-2638 61cm Drop Ceiling Tube
- BW-2642 Rail Side Mount Bracket (for wall fixing single rail)
- BW-2646 Triple Side Mount Bracket (for wall fixing up to three rails)
- BW-2648 6 Wheel Single Carriage with Brake
- BW-2649 3 Hook Background Paper Carrier (2) on carriages
- BW-2650 Adjustable Girder Clamp
- BW-2652 5/8" - 1 1/8" Spigot Converter
- BW-2656 2m Hi-Glide Support Rail (2) inc. End Stops
- BW-2657 Adjustable Drop Ceiling Support Flanges (2)
- BW-2658 Side Mount Bracket
- BW-2659 Cross Mount Bracket
- BW-2660 Addalite Carriage
- BW-2661 30cm Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2662 50cm Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2663 100cm Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2666 30 - 40cm Adjustable Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2667 50 - 60cm Adjustable Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2668 100 - 110cm Adjustable Drop Ceiling Support
- BW-2681 Top Running Cable Carriage
- BW-2682 18m 10 amp Mains Cable
- BW-2699 Spring Retainer Clip for Litelift Pantograph BW-2608/s

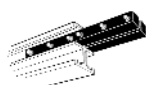
# The System

## A

### RAILS



- BW-2656 Rail 2m
- BW-2600 Rail 3m
- BW-2601 Rail 4.3m
- BW-2631 Radius Rail 2m 90°



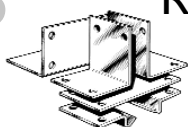
- BW-2633 Rail Joining Plate

Hi-Glide support rails are manufactured from structural grade aluminium combining supreme strength with lightness of weight. Rails are supplied in pairs and include end stops.

The Joining Plate is used to increase the length of fixed rails or to join together a perimeter track. The Joining Plate cannot be used to lengthen floating rails.

## B

### RAIL FIXING & ATTACHMENT



- BW-2605 Universal Fixing Bracket

The Universal Fixing Bracket is a full set of brackets, rail clamps and fittings to attach rails to a flat or vertical surface either parallel or at right angles to the rail.



- BW-2629 Short Fixing Bracket

For fixing rails to flat ceilings.



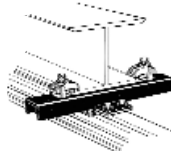
- BW-2626 Scaffold Clamp

The Scaffold Clamp allows rails to be mounted parallel to a standard scaffold pole. (Can be used with BW2632).



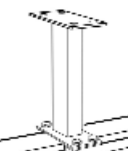
- BW-2632 Back to Back Clamp

The Back to Back Clamp is used for mounting rails at 90° to the fixing bracket or to each other.



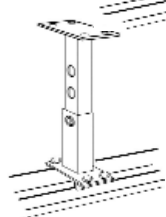
- BW-2650 Adjustable Girder Clamp

The Adjustable Girder Clamp attaches rails to girders (RSJ or I Beams) with widths from 6 to 20cm. (Can be used with BW2632).



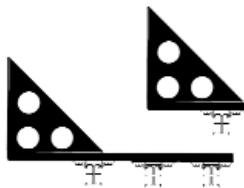
- BW-2661 Drop Ceiling Support 30cm
- BW-2662 Drop Ceiling Support 60cm
- BW-2663 Drop Ceiling Support 100cm

The fixed length Drop Ceiling Support allows the rails to be fixed at the correct height for effective operation (we recommend 3.5m from the floor).



- BW-2666 Adjustable Drop Support 30-40cm
- BW-2667 Adjustable Drop Support 50-60cm
- BW-2668 Adjustable Drop Support 100-110cm

The Adjustable Drop Supports are designed to be used when ceiling height is uneven. Drop Supports are recommended when mounting Hi-Glide through false or suspended ceilings which would not themselves be able to support sufficient weight.



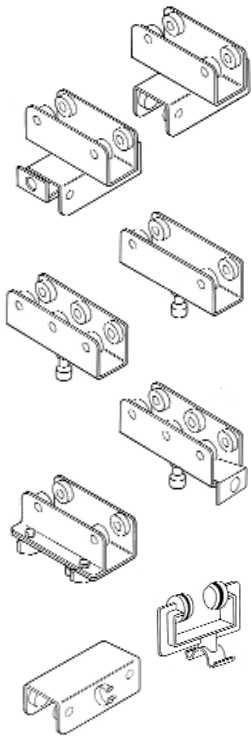
- BW-2642 Rail Wall Mounting Bracket

This allows a single rail to be mounted from a wall

- BW-2646 Triple Rail Wall Mounting Bracket

Up to three rails can be simultaneously connected for mounting perimeter curtains and cycloramas.

## C CARRIAGES



BW-2603 Double Carriage

The Double Carriage allows two rails to be attached to each other but allowing full movement between them.

BW-2620 Double Carriage with Brake

The Braked Carriage will stay locked in position and should be used at least one per rail to ensure that lights stay in their desired position.

BW-2604 Single Carriage

The Single Carriage attaches equipment to the rail.

BW-2628 6 Wheel Single Carriage

For heavier items, the 6 Wheel Carriage ensures smooth operation.

BW-2648 6 Wheel Single Carriage with Brake

A braked version of the smooth running 6 Wheel Carriage.

BW-2660 Addalite Carriage

This specially designed carriage can be subsequently added to the rail without removing the rail end stops.

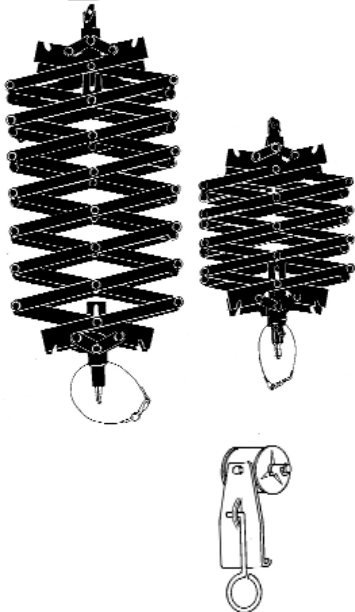
BW-2607 Cable Transfer Runners

Cable Transfer Runners carry the cable along the rails.

BW-2681 Top Running Cable Carriage

This transports cable along the top of the rail.

## D LITE-LIFTS, EXTENSIONS & ACCESSORIES



BW-2608 Litelift Pantograph with 5/8" spigot inc. springs and safety cable

The Litelift extends from 34cm (minimum) to 189cm (maximum extension) includes two compensator springs, safety cable and a spring removal key.

BW-2608/S Litelift Pantograph (short) with 5/8" spigot inc. springs and safety cable

The short Litelift has a minimum extension of 28cm and a maximum of 121cm and is designed for lower ceiling heights. Supplied with two compensator springs, safety cable and spring removal key.

BW-2615 30cm Extension Tube

Extension Tubes connect directly to the 5/8th spigot either on the carriage or below the Litelift for longer drops.

BW-2616 60cm Extension Tube

BW-2617 90cm Extension Tube

BW-2610 Type 1 Spring

Springs ensure that the Litelifts hold their desired position. Higher numbered springs are designed to support greater weights. Springs can be used individually or in pairs. The table shows recommended combinations.

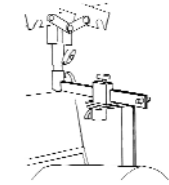
BW-2611 Type 2 Spring

BW-2612 Type 3 Spring

BW-2613 Type 4 Spring

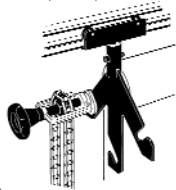
Weight kg	Springs
1.8 - 2.7kg	1 x Type 2
2.7 - 3.6kg	2 x Type 1
3.6 - 5.4kg	1 x Type 1 & 1 x Type 2
5.4 - 7.3kg	2 x Type 2
7.3 - 8.2kg	1 x Type 3 & 1 x Type 2
8.2 - 9.0kg	1 x Type 3 & 1 x Type 4
9.0 - 10.0kg	2 x Type 4
18 - 20.0kg	4 x Type 4

## D ACCESSORIES cont.



BW-2622 Centre of Gravity Bar

Some large accessories such as softboxes or spotlights may have a different centre of gravity that may distort the Litelift. Using the COG Bar restores the centre of gravity to the correct position.



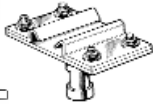
BW-2649 Background Paper Carrier

A pair of hooks to carry up to three rolls of background paper on a floating rail.



BW-2634 Curtain Runners

Use these to connect curtains or canvas and muslin background cloths directly to the Hi-Glide rail.



BW-2635 Fixed Rail Clamp with Spigot

This is to attach items to the rail system that will not be required to move.



BW-2606 Set of End Stops

A spare set of rail End Stops.

BW-2609 Adaptor Spigot

This converts the female end of the Extension Tubes to a male spigot for attaching lighting units.



BW-2614 Spare Spring Removal Key

A Spring Removal Key is supplied with every Litelift and spring.



BW-2619 Safety Cable

A single Safety Cable is supplied with every Litelift.



BW-2618 Cable Fixing Kit Small Band (10)

Tool and bands to attach mains cables to the outside of Litelifts and Cable Transfer Runners.



BW-2625 Cable Fixing Kit Large Band (10)

Tool and large bands appropriate for larger diameter or multiple cables.



BW-2652 Spigot Convertor (5/8 - 1 1/8")

Converts the standard 5/8" spigot to 1 1/8".

BW-2699 Spring Retaining Clip

Spare retaining clip for attaching spring to Litelift.

## E STARTER OUTFIT

**BW-2630A Hi-Glide Kit Without Rails** This set contains everything, except the rails, to create a three head Hi-Glide system. It is also a good basis for many other Hi-Glide configurations and is perfect for most small to medium sized studios.

this kit comprises:-

- 6 x BW-2629 Short Fixing Kit
- 2 x BW-2603 Double Carriage
- 2 x BW-2620 Double Carriage with Brake
- 3 x BW-2604 Single Carriage
- 3 x BW-2608 Litelift (inc springs, safety cable, spigot and cable fixings)
- 5 x BW-2607 Cable Transfer Runners

# Designing Your System

Designing a Hi-Glide system for your studio is really a lot easier than it may first appear! Follow these simple steps and you will soon know which items you need to transform your studio into a flexible and creative shooting space.

## Step 1 - Can I Use Hi-Glide in My Studio?

First check whether you have enough clearance height for Hi-Glide to be effective. We recommend that 2.8m from floor to ceiling is the minimum requirement and 3.5m the optimum height. Secondly, is the ceiling going to be strong enough to support the weight? Remember that it will have to carry the combined weight of the rail system and all your equipment.

## Step 2 - The Design

This is largely up to you but here are some basic rules. You will need a minimum of two fixed rails which will be attached parallel to each other on the ceiling. These should be placed about 1.8m apart (depending on the fixing points available) so that the floating rail, when placed at 90° to the fixed rail, has about 60cm overhang at each end. If the fixed rails are too far apart the floating rails will only be able to move at right angles to the fixed rail. For larger spaces, three or more fixed rails can be used, and we would recommend three fixed rails when using the longer 4.5m floating rails.

Consider where you will want to place your lights and be sure your design allows you to do this. You may want to always shoot in the same direction, though the flexibility of Hi-Glide allows you to create more adventurous set-ups. If you draw a plan of your shooting space you can start to design a system that will be best for you. Remember that floating rails can extend beyond the fixed rails so you will gain shooting space well beyond the position of your fixed rails.

## Step 3 - The Rails **A**

By now you should have an idea how long the rails will need to be for your studio. If you need longer rails, the fixed rails can always be extended using BW-2633 Rail Joining Plates (floating rails cannot be extended). At every point where a fixed rail crosses a floating rail you will need a BW-2603 Double Carriage and for stability we recommend that you use at least one BW-2620 Double Carriage with Brake on each floating rail.

## Step 4 - Fixings **B**

It is very important that you use the correct fixings for your ceiling, and that you use enough of them to safely carry the weight of the Hi Glide and the equipment being supported - it is better to have too many than too few! Always attach to a load-bearing part of the structure (wall or ceiling). If the ceiling height is too high, use the Drop Supports to lower the height of the fixed rails so that they are at the correct level. It is important that the fixed rails are spirit level when secured otherwise the floating rails will not hold their desired position.

## Step 5 - Attaching Lights to the Rail **C**

Now you have to decide what you are going to hang from the rails and how you will do it. Everything will need a carriage to mount it onto the rail. For lighter weight items use a BW-2604 Single Carriage, for heavier items the BW-2628 6 Wheel Carriage will give better performance. To add items after your Hi-Glide has been installed, use the BW-2660 Addalite Carriage which can be fixed to a rail without dismantling the whole system.

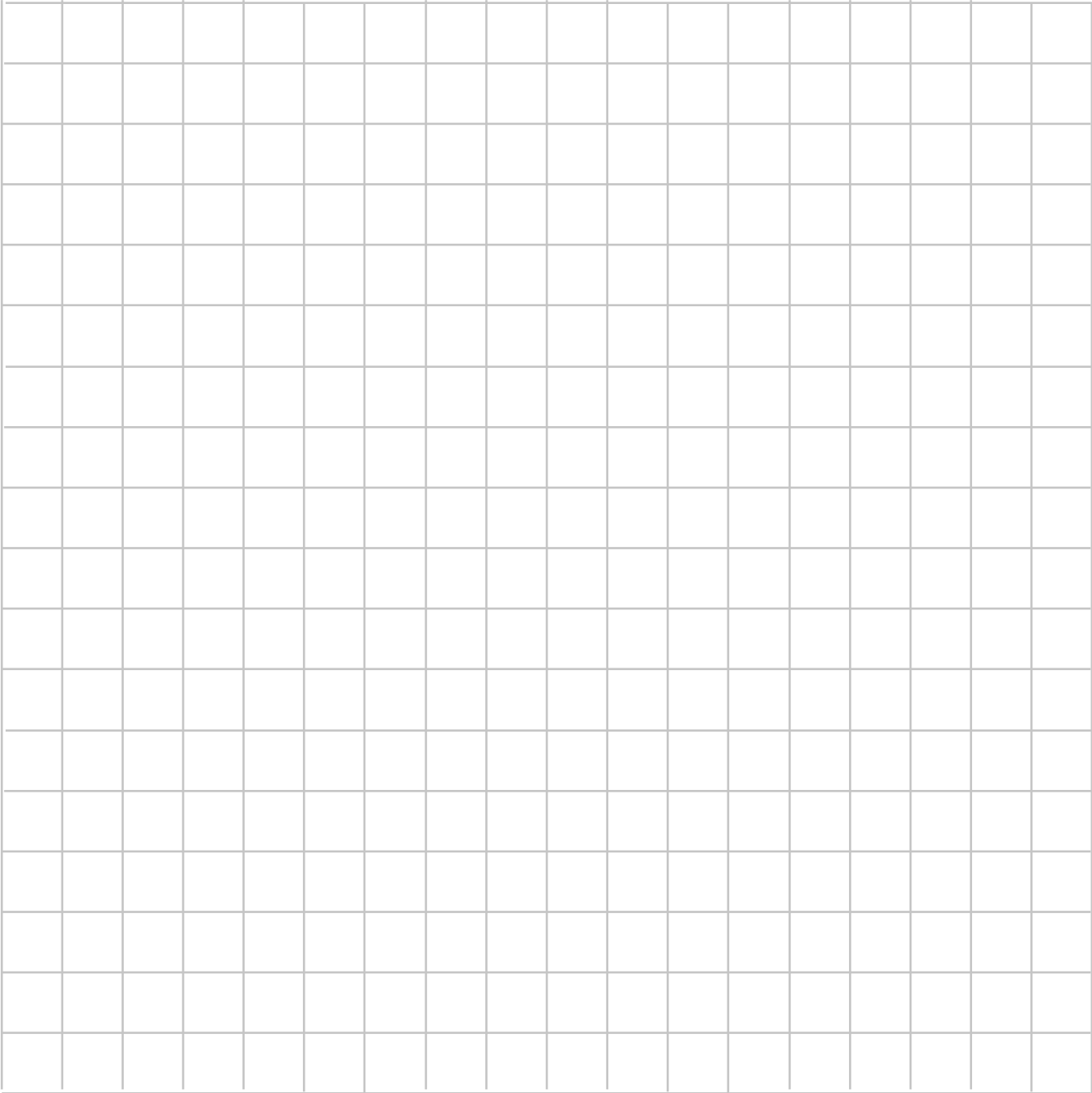
## Step 6 - Attaching Lights to the Carriages **D**

If you wish to always have lights at the same height then a fixed length Extension Tube can be used (with an additional adaptor spigot BW-2652), otherwise the Litelift Pantographs allow the units to be easily raised and lowered. The Litelifts are supplied with two springs (a Type 1 and Type 2 spring). If the item you are mounting weighs more than 5.4kg you will need to purchase additional springs (consider the weight of the light and any accessory that may be attached to it). If you plan to use heavy accessories on your lighting (such as large softboxes or spotlights), a BW-2622 Centre of Gravity Bar should be used to reposition the centre of gravity and avoid unnecessary damage to the Litelifts.

As everything will have cable attached, these too will need to be tidied away. BW-2634 Cable Runners clip onto the rail and support cable. If too many cables are needed to run along a rail then the BW-2681 Top Running Cable Carriage is designed to run on top of, rather than beneath, a rail and will help to keep all the cabling neat and tidy.

Finally do you need any extra accessories such as the BW-2643 Background Paper Hook for hanging paper or BW-2634 Curtain Runners to hold a curtain or large canvas background?

# Plan your studio here



**BOWENS**  
INTERNATIONAL

355 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RH, UK  
Tel: +44 1255 422807 Fax: +44 1255 436342  
[www.bowensinternational.com](http://www.bowensinternational.com)

D I S T R I B U T E D B Y :