PLACEMENT: LINES, SPAN & NEGATIVE LINES

Mastering Manual Grid Control

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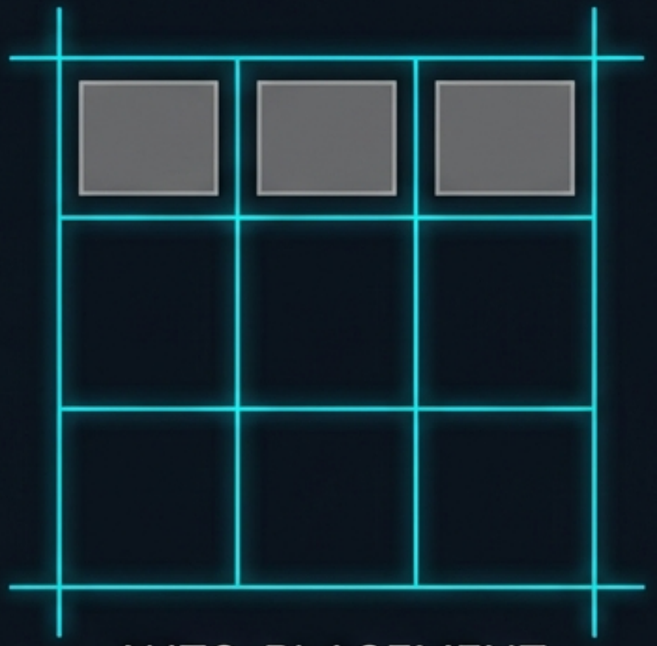
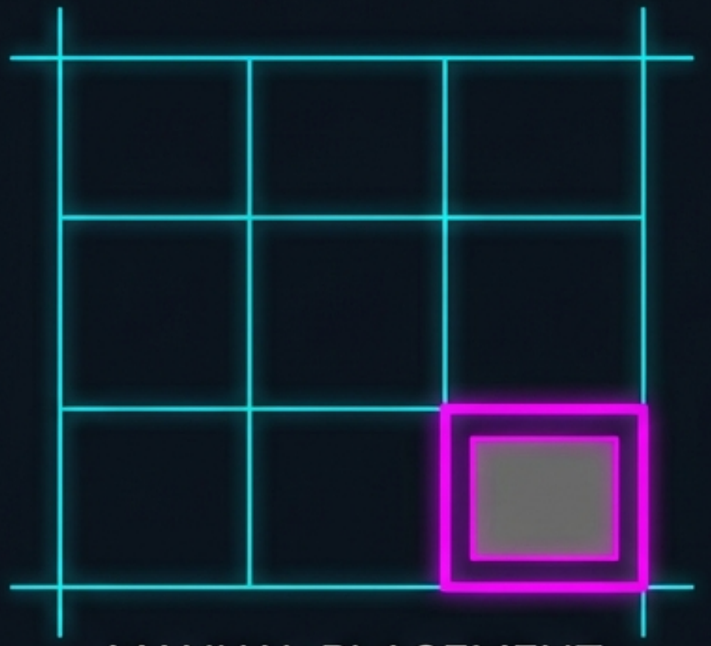
PLACEMENT IS A CHOICE



AUTO-PLACEMENT



MANUAL PLACEMENT

Auto-placement is the default. It’s convenient, but it doesn’t always reflect your intent.
Manual placement is **explicit**. You declare precisely where an item belongs.

> “Auto-placement is polite.
> This is where you stop being polite.”

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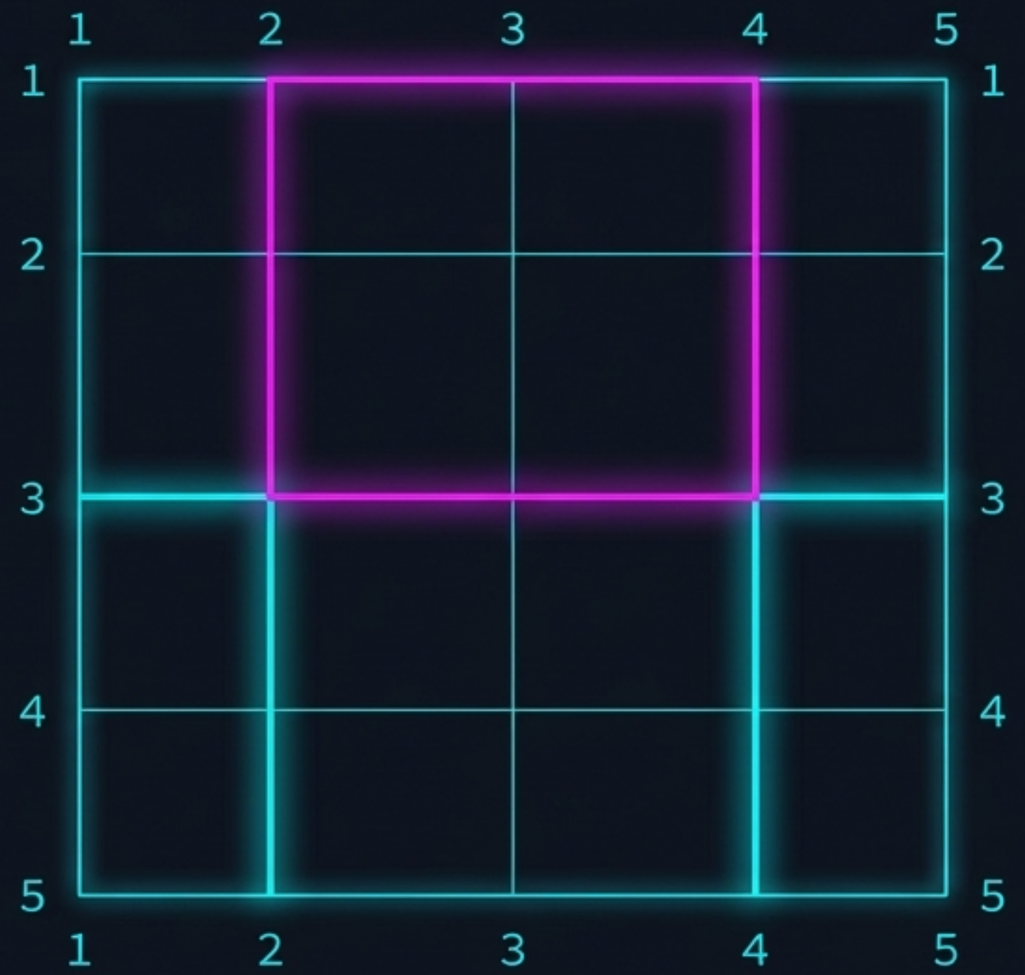
METHOD 1: PLACE BETWEEN THE LINES



Define an item's position by specifying its start and end grid lines. The mental model is simple: **you are drawing a box between two known points.**

```
.item {
  /* [column-start] / [column-end] */
  grid-column: 2 / 4;

  /* [row-start] / [row-end] */
  grid-row: 1 / 3;
}
```

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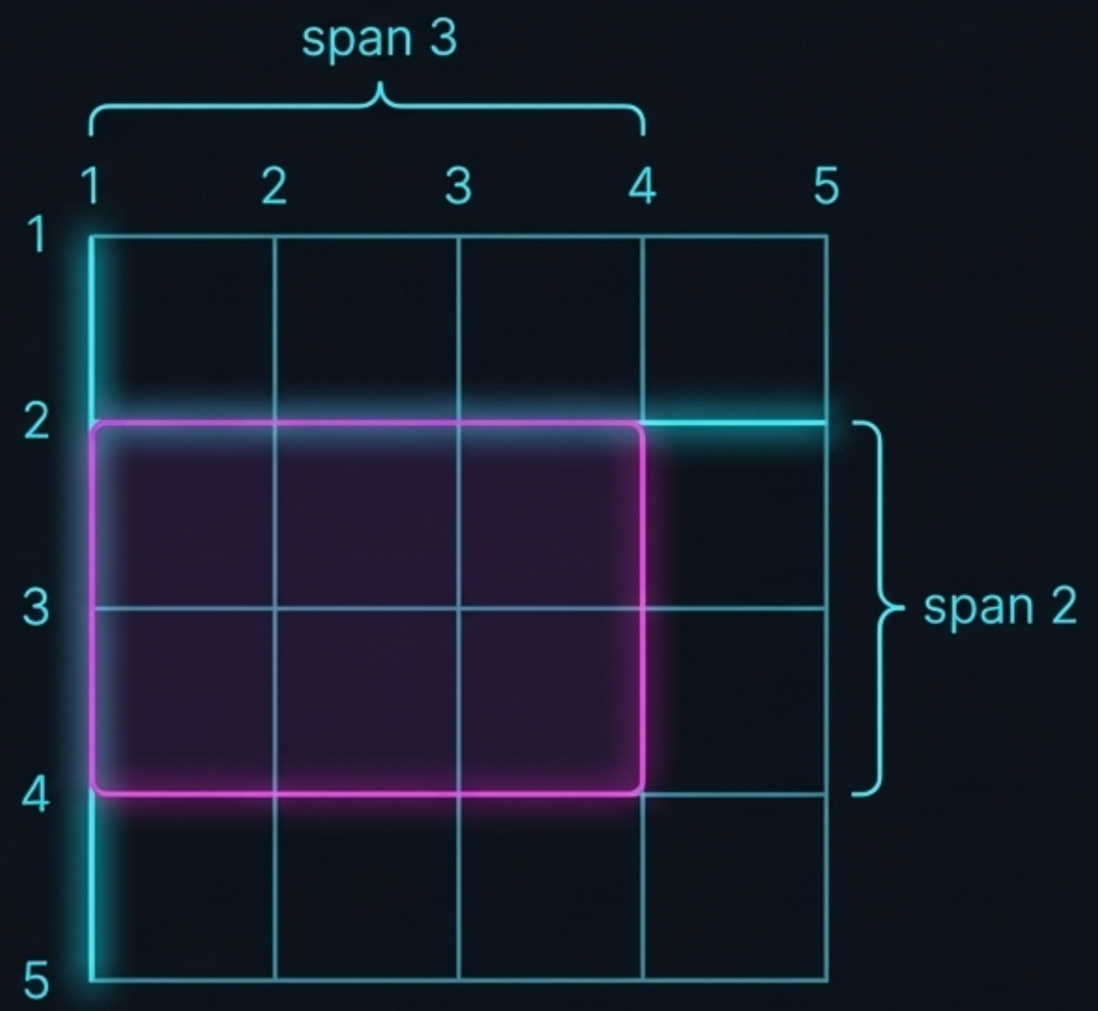
METHOD 2: PLACE BY DISTANCE



Define an item's position by its starting line and how many tracks it should **span**. It's the same power, just a different mental model: **place a starting pin and define the item's size.**

```
.item {
  /* [start] / span [distance] */
  grid-column: 1 / span 3;

  /* [start] / span [distance] */
  grid-row: 2 / span 2;
}
```

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THE SECRET WEAPON: ANCHOR TO THE EDGE

Grid lines also count backward from the end, starting with -1. This allows you to place items relative to the far edge **without needing to know the total number of tracks**. You just aim for the edge.

```
.sidebar {
  /* Start at the 3rd line from the end. */
  /* End at the 1st line from the end. */
  grid-column: -3 / -1;
}
```

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PLACED ITEMS OPT OUT OF THE FLOW

When you manually place an item, you take it out of the normal grid flow. All other items that are not explicitly placed will continue to flow into the available grid cells around the items you've positioned.

Anything not placed stays in auto-flow.

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#PLACEMENT IS INTENT.

#NEGATIVE LINES MAKE IT DURABLE.

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p.s., keep learning!

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