A guide by **Grants Blinds** to inspire and inform anyone working on new build residential projects

Guide to Blinds Concealment

Ideas • Options • Considerations

GRANTS

Est. 1982

BESPOKE WINDOW TAILORING

0800 652 2190 | GRANTSBLINDS.COM | SALES@GRANTSBLINDS.COM

Windows & Doors

How to conceal blinds in floor-to-ceiling glass, bi-folding and sliding doors and windows.

Skylights

How to conceal blinds in modern and traditional rooflights.

Gable End Windows

Options to conceal blinds in gables and shaped windows.

Grants
Guide to Blinds
Concealment

Contents

For Inspiration

Two sets of doors with no corner post have blinds concealed within the ceiling.

For Inspiration

A complete home with concealed
motorised blinds in every window opening.

For Inspiration

Cinema room with corner feature windows and blackout blinds for maximum control of light.

For Inspiration

Every window has hidden blinds for a consistent design throughout.

For Inspiration

Renovated and extended London Home has concealed blinds within traditional wooden architrave detail.

For Inspiration

Renovated & extended London Home has concealed dual blinds in all the glazed areas shown here.

For Inspiration

Renovated & extended London
Home has fully concealed lantern blind.

Photo by GG Archard

Think Ahead

"I wish I had known about this earlier."

The growing trend towards minimalism, larger windows, glass doors and skylights, together with motorised window treatments have all resulted in a growing demand to hide blinds when not in use.

Provision for blinds within the structure of the building requires early planning and involvement from the architect.

With multi-purpose rooms and the ability to future-proof windows, knowing of the right concealment products will enable you to decide what blinds to install at a later date without affecting the room design.

If you have the option, why wouldn't you?

Disclaimer - In this guide we have tried to give as much general information as possible however it is essential that you get any drawings signed off by your chosen supplier prior to any building work being actioned.

Structural Space

In order to conceal blinds it is important that any blinds are easily accessible if access is ever needed to change blinds, carry out maintenance etc.

When designing a new build it means simply changing the structural detail around the windows. This can be by lifting the lintel, designing a split lintel detail or something similar.

Once the detail has been established this can usually be adapted for all the windows around the new build.


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1 Glenheim Screen 3% white/white material provides 97% shading, the light colour reduces visibility through the blind

2 Brampton blackout cloth faced material demonstrating the light ingress that occurs with a conventional roller blind with headbox only.

3 Concealment box corner detail, this option of running main blind into the corner and 2nd blind up to it gives best fabric coverage when blinds are closed.

4 Concealment box corner detail, here the comer is mitred and the covers also giving the most aesthetically pleasing solution for the corner detail.

5 Traditional window architrave has had lintel lifted during renovation enabling the roller blind to be concealed when not in use

6 In this room the ceiling was lowered by 100mm to allow for the concealment boxes. The completed installation, concealed blinds will never spoil the design.

Single Roller Blind

The most popular blind to be concealed is the single roller blind, most often motorised. The blind can concealed within the ceiling or wall, with the blind towards the window or towards the room.

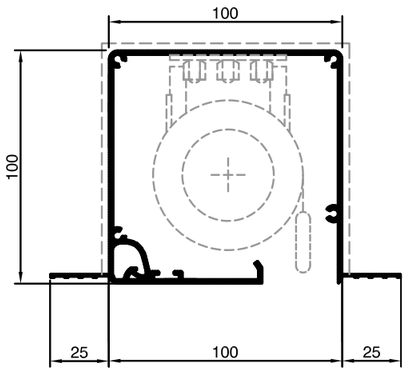
Is cavity needed?

For standard windows, floor-to-ceiling glazing, sliding and bi-folding doors, a 100x100 mm concealment box can be used. To have more blinds options, easier installation and the ability to go wider, a 110x130 mm box can be used.

Concealment boxes can be provided in any size and very large blinds, such as 6m wide or 9m high, box size can be 210x270 mm.

Things to consider for single blind installations.

- Will a single roller blind with no side channels be enough for the window?
- Will a standard roller blind with no side channels be installed towards the room or towards the window?
- What wiring provision is needed for a motorised blind in the future electric blinds?
- Should the single roller blind be combined with a recessed curtain track?

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1 Blackout blinds with side and sill channels have bee installed during this total renovation project. The blinds are concealed when not required

2 Neat corner detail, the corner side channels have been concealed within the structural post detail.

3 This window has a concealed headbox but the side channels have been left exposed – compromise solution when the space for the side frames is not available.

4 Blackout blinds appear effortlessly when the motor is activated providing a discrete maximum blackout blind

5 The same window as no 3 showing how maximum blackout blinds drop from the window head when full blackout is required within this bedroom

6 The same window as no 2 & 3 showing the detail at the opposite end where side frames within the main building structure have been installed and plastered in.

Blackout Blind

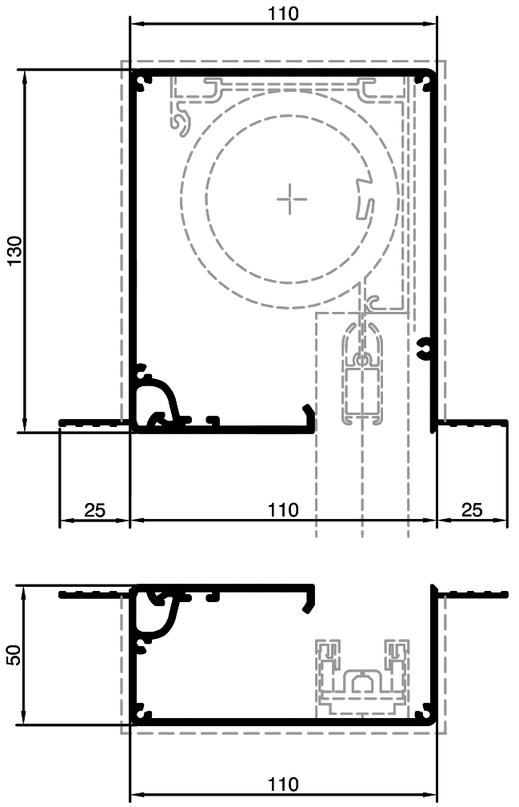
Some rooms such as, Bedrooms, Cinema Rooms often need maximum blackout blinds.

Standard roller blinds have approximately 20mm side gaps resulting in a significant light ingress around the edges.

Using the concealment system you also have 50mm deep side frames, reducing these light gaps.

Maximum blackout blinds (Zip or similar) however do require side channels & these can be housed within the side frames leaving a slot for the blinds to operate when required.

What space is needed for maximum blackout blinds?
A 110 x 130mm head box will work with an opening size up to 2900mm wide or 3000mm high with maximum blind area of:



What space is needed for maximum blackout blinds? (all dimensions in mm unless otherwise stated)

Headbox110 x 130 – 2900 wide or 3000 high with maximum blind area of 6.4m2
135 x 155 - 3900 wide or 4200 high with maximum blind area of 13.1m2
175 x 235 – 4800 wide or 6100 high with maximum blind area 28.2m2
Larger size window solutions available on request.

Side & Sill Frame dimensions
The width of the frame always matches the headbox, ie 110, 135, 175 etc by a depth of 50mm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1 This window (same detail as No 2,3 & 6) has stacked double blinds - standard roller and maximum blackout roller blinds installed within a complete concealment frame

2 Close up showing the blackout blind fitting with the slot on all sides and the Sheer blind fitting within the recess with reduced gap behind.

3 Aintree voile material in white colour sits behind Antracite blackout material

4 Side by side dual blinds fully retracted into head-boxes – same as No 5

5 Branpton Blackout cloth faced rear blind is fronted by Glenheim Screen White/White 3% material

6 Total light control with maximum Blackout blind in front and Aintree Voile White blind at rear.

Dual Blinds

There are many reasons that you may install more than one blind in each window.

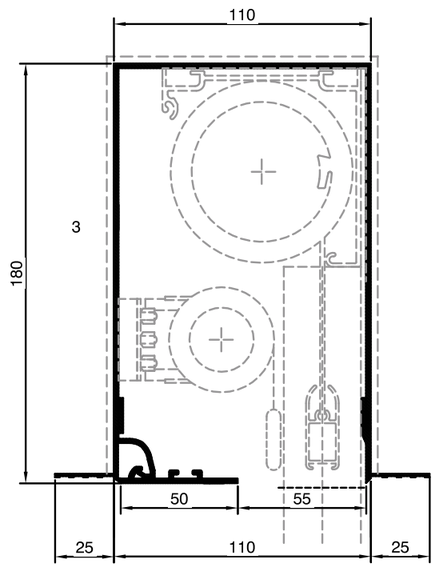
- Roller Screen and Roller privacy blinds
- Roller Screen and Roller blackout blinds
- Roller blind & Roman blind

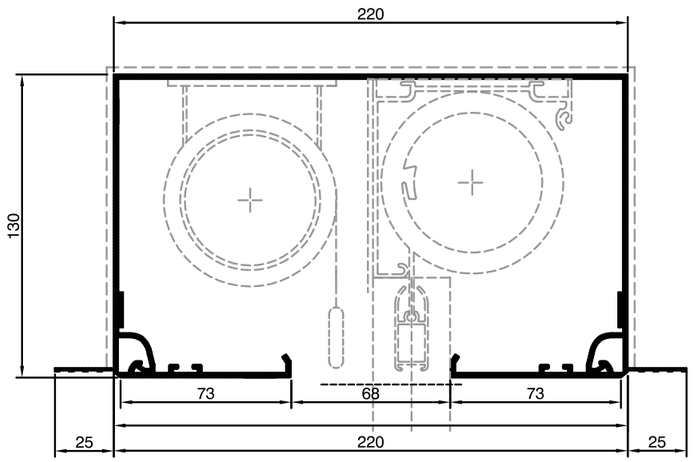
Headbox only - side by side blinds
200 x `100 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high
220 x 130 for windows up to 4000 wide x 4000 high

Headbox only – one blind above the other
110 x 180 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high
140 x 210 for windows up to 4000 wide x 4000 high

Standard Roller blinds with maximum Blackout Roller blind (Zip or similar
220 x 130 for windows up to 2700 wide x 3000 high

Larger size window dimensions available on request



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1 Full length recessed curtains are fitted in front of a screen roller blind

2 Traditional style Curtain & Blind installation with Feature curtain pole with lined and interlined curtains, matching roman blinds and a screen roller blind fitted behind.

3 Recessed motorised curtain tracks and concealed blinds are installed adjacent to each other and flush with the main ceiling with great effect

4 Twin motorised & concealed recess track curtains have been installed flush to ceiling with a set of Lined curtains and a natural sheer linen curtain behind.

5 Sheer voile Wave curtain on motorised Lutron track with maximum blackout blinds behind in this living/Cinema multi-purpose room.

6 Total light control with maximum Blackout blind in bedroom with Voile curtains installed in front.

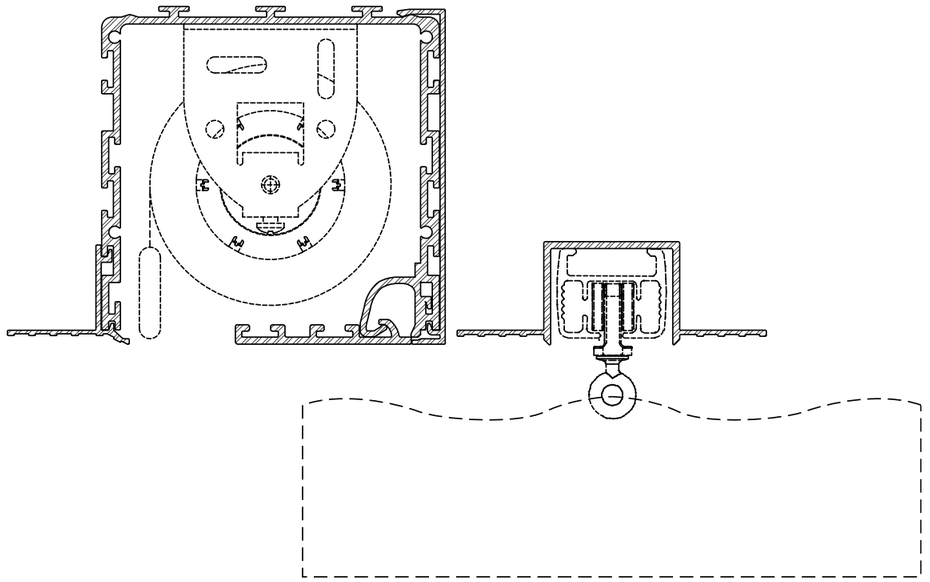
Blinds and Curtains

Whilst there is a demand for blinds that completely disappear and work at the press of a button there is also often the need to bring in some soft furnishings such as curtains to provide some dressing and homely feel to your design.

If you like the minimalistic style it can work to apply the principle of controlling the light and privacy with concealed roller blinds and then bring in curtains as necessary,

Wave voile curtains can be very effective in softening the room with the visibility through the Voiles retaining the minimal style. These curtains can often be ineffective at reducing solar heat gain from the large expanses of glass but when used with screen, privacy or blackout roller blinds work well.

What dimensions are needed when using both curtains and concealed blinds?
A minimum of 150mm is required between the operating line of the blind (slot) and the canter of the curtain track – it is best to check these details with your supplier.



1 2.4m x 4.5m lantern with concealment frame to conceal Screen Zip Roller blind when not required.

2 Large 5m x 6m lightwell with Screen blind made using Glenheim Screen 1$ material.

3 Dual skylight blinds for opening roof light. Insect screen as well as Glenheim 3% Screen material

4 Blinds are completely concealed when not in use.

5 Lutron Blackout and screen blinds have been installed in this family come Cinema room

Skylight Blinds

Roof windows are an excellent way of allowing light into living spaces however it is extremely important that you can control the amount of light and heat that can come in through the areas directly facing the sun.

Often included over workspaces such as Kitchens these roof areas can become a source of light, glare, heat and privacy issues.

Where lightwells are designed for basement extensions, bedrooms and home cinema's blackout blinds may be required.

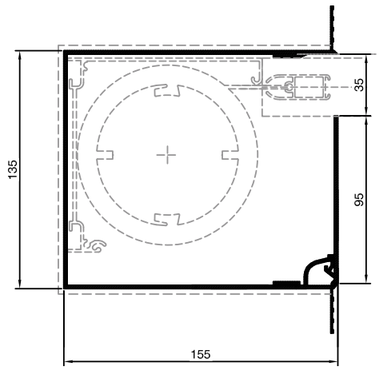
A well planned roof shading system may include a dual day/night solution to give the best of all situations. These will sit within a concealment blind frame which will hide the blinds when not required.

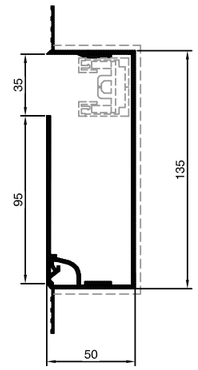
What space is required for skylight blinds?

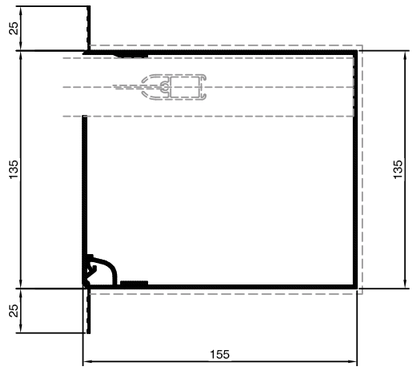
A 110 x 130 headbox both ends and 2 side frames 110 x 50 will do a skylight 1900 x 2900 opening size

A 135 x 200 headbox with 100 x 135 on remaining 3 sides will do a skylight 2800 x 2800 opening

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited





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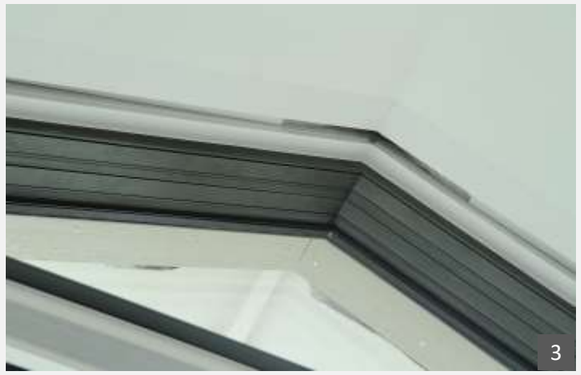
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1 Honeycell Duette Blinds have been concealed in the ceiling and drop down as required

2 Honeycell Duette Blinds have been concealed in the ceiling and the lower blinds are concealed above the doors.

3 The blinds in No 1 when concealed

4 The blinds in no 2 lowered on the upper section.

5 Branpton Blackout cloth faced rear blind is fronted by Glenheim Screen White/White 3% material

6 Total light control with maximum Blackout blind in front and Aintree Voile White blind at rear.

Gable blinds, top down, no wires

Gable windows are easy to build into a design but not so easy to find a cost effective blind solution for. These large shaped feature windows areas are often in bedrooms where light exclusion is often a requirement

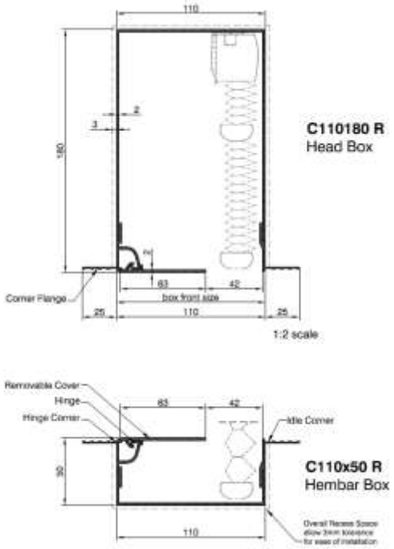
Top down blinds are popular for not needing any permanent wires across the glazing but they do allow extra light seepage around the edges and irregular gaps between blinds.

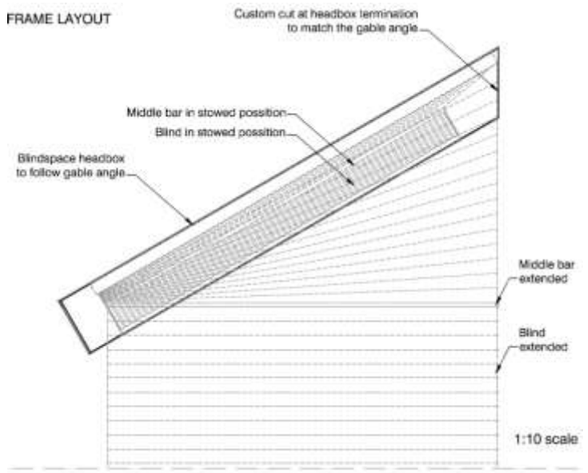
What space is required for top down gable blinds?

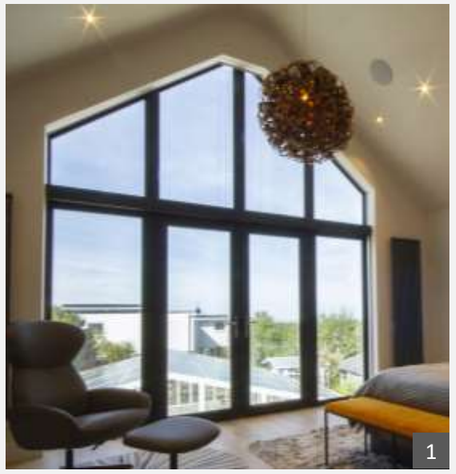
A 110 x 180 headbox both angled sides will be suitable for most gable blinds

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited

It is best to get expert advice prior to deciding on the glazing bar configuration as this will affect the options you have available to you







1 Feature window left unaffected by blind installation when blinds are not required.

2 Blinds emerge from above and below the horizontal custom made S shaped pelmet when the motors are activated.

3 Upper blind works upwards towards slot within light exclusion frame built in during construction.

4 Other windows in the same room are treated in a similar way.

5 Close up of the Custom made S shaped pelmet powder coated to match window structure colour.

Gable blinds, bottom up with minimal wires

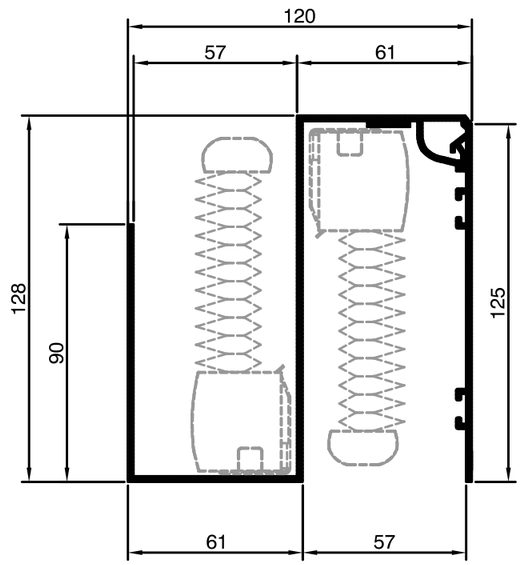
Gable windows are easy to build into a design but not so easy to find a cost effective blind solution for. These large shaped feature windows areas are often in bedrooms where light exclusion is often a requirement

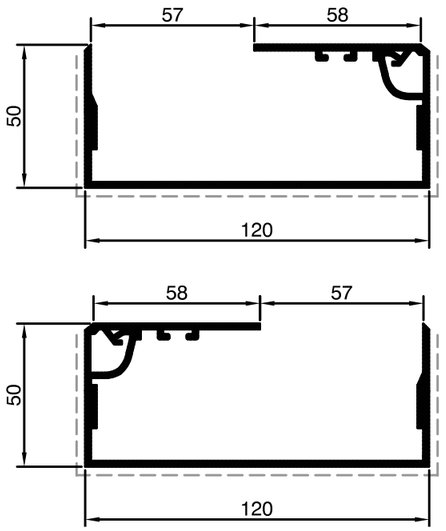
Bottom up gable blinds are the only way to get maximum blackout solution and for best results a light exclusion frame is built in around the window during construction.

What space is required for bottom up gable blinds?
A 120 x 125 S ox is needed to be installed across the horizontal line of the glazing.

Blinds vary from supplier to supplier and it is best to establish your supplier before deciding on the boxes sizes or your choices will be limited

It is best to get expert advice prior to deciding on the glazing bar configuration as this will affect the options you have available to you



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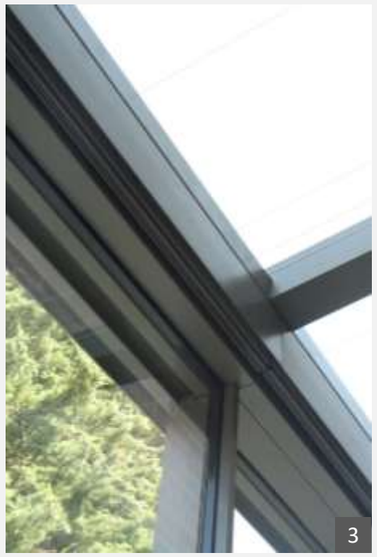
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1 Retrofit Zip Roof blind fitted within a surface mounted concealment box powder coated to match structure

2 The blind in No 1 is fully concealed when the blinds are not required and is lost into the cornice detail

3 Surface mounted pelmet concealment has been installed so blinds are fully hidden when blinds not used.

4 The blinds in no3 emerge when the motors are activated from the remote handheld control

5 Surface mounted modular concealment box with black anodised inside and powder coated external faces provide a smart retrofit installation

Surface-Mounted

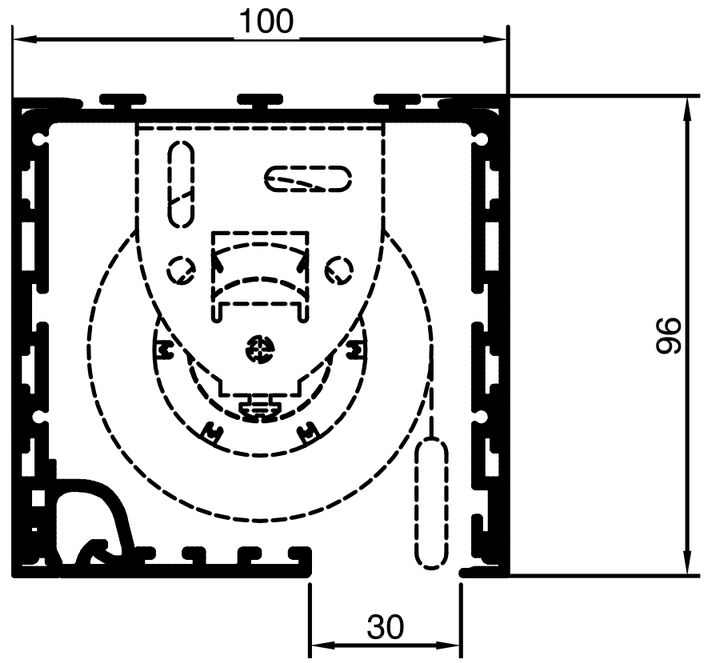
Whist in theory any blind can be concealed given time and consideration before construction situations do occur that call for a surface fit concealment solution.

When the structure does not allow for the blind to be concealed with the structure. This may be down to the design detail, the stage of the project on site or simply not planning for blinds ahead of the time.

Very neat retrofit concealment solutions are available which will hide cables, protect blinds etc once installed

What space is required for surface mounted blinds?
There are 2 standard box sizes available in the M series modular concealment solution. These come with black anodised interior and the covers can be powder coated to any standard RAL colour.

100 x 100 for windows up to 2700mm wide and 3000mm long
135 x 135 for windows up to 4000mm wide and 4000mm long



Act now!

If you like the idea of fully integrated window solutions the time to look into what is possible in your project is now.

We recommend the following process to be followed where time permits.

Initial client/architect meeting

Detailed product & price proposal

Include architect or builder as appropriate

By including for concealment from the outset your project can run without interruption. Services can be run to the window areas.

Final detail decisions can be left until the survey stage at a time when your project is coming together and you are ready to focus on style, colouring etc.

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Dear Sir/Madame

Thank you for looking at this design guide, we trust you found it helpful & inspirational.

Your project deserves the highest attention to detail and it is important that you get the right detail and drawings for your project. We can provide a cost and product proposal from plan.

We recommend a client meeting to discuss what are the best solutions for you and your project. as the next step.

We have showrooms in Chelsea, Amersham & Swindon were a meeting can be arranged by appointment with one our team.

To contact us to discuss your project please call 0800 652 2190 or email enquiries@grantsblinds.com and we can decide the next steps.

We look forwards to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards

Gaius Guest
Managing Director