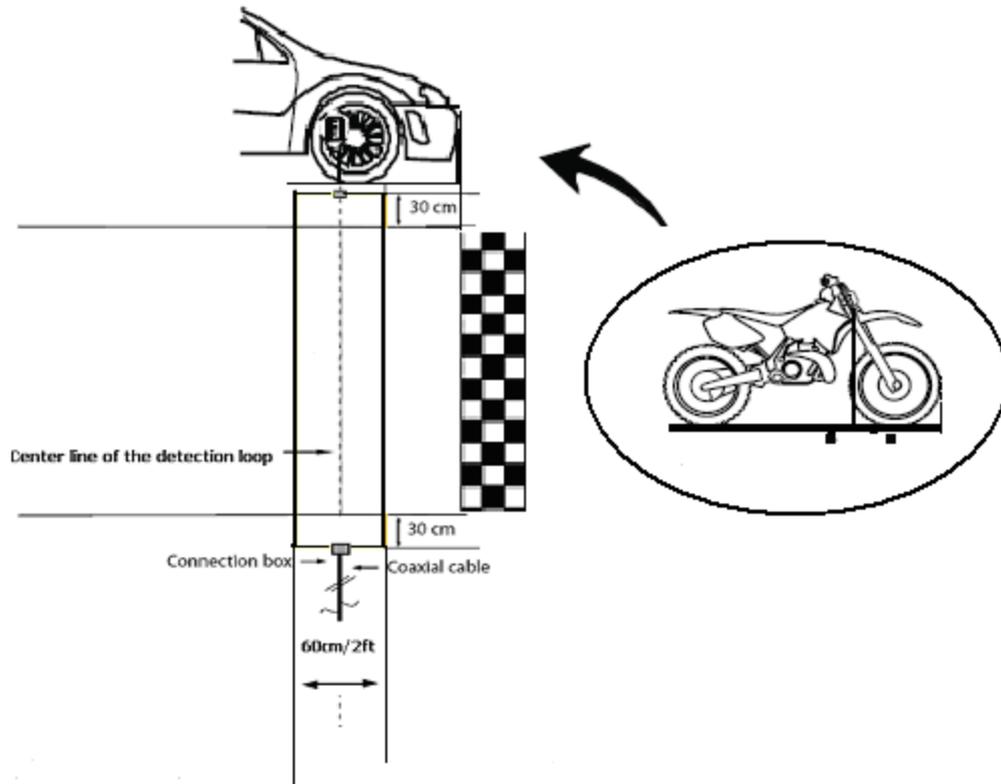


## How to install a detection loop on an asphalt track?

### 1 Positioning the detection loop

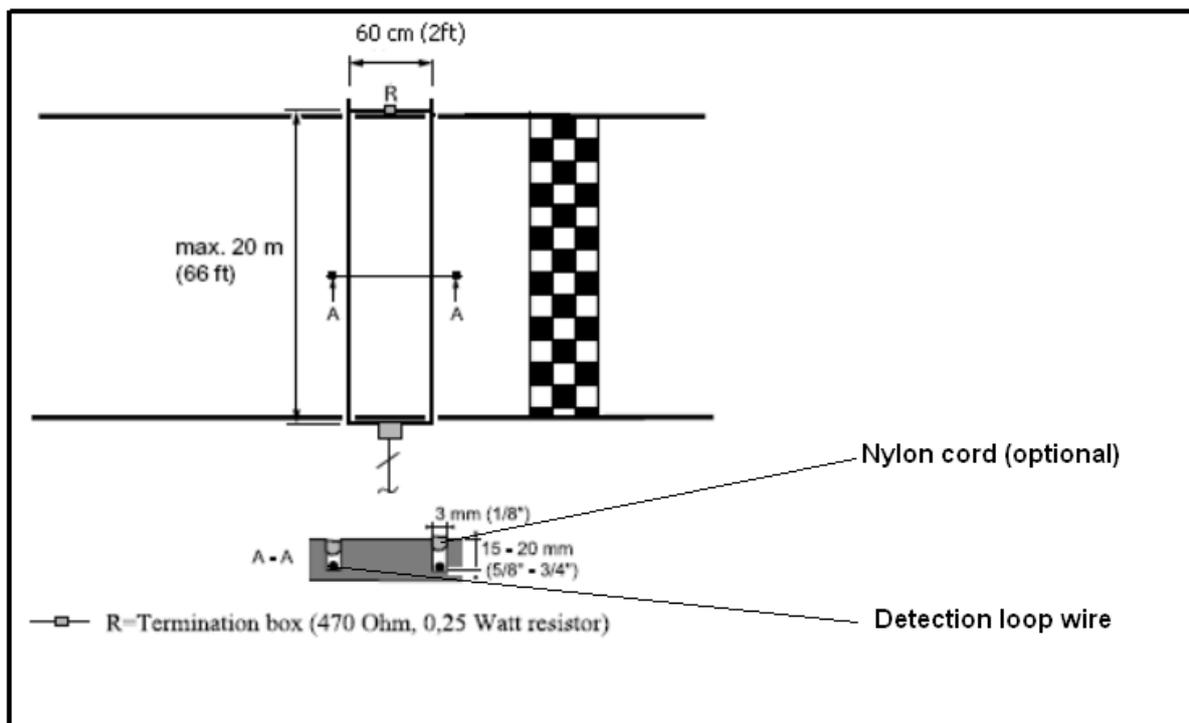
All wiring of the detection loop must be installed according to the drawing below in order to avoid a serious degradation in the performance of the system.



#### Pre-Installation considerations:

- The detection loop must be positioned in such a way that the transponder is above the center of the detection loop when the front of the vehicle crosses the finish line.
- The width of the detection loop should exceed the width of the track by 60cm/2ft (30cm/1ft on each side, see overview above).
- The detection loop can be used for a track width of a maximum 12 m (66 ft).
- The detection loop is sensitive to interference, sometimes emitted by cables. If possible, keep other cables 5 m (15 ft) away from the detection loop.
- In order to avoid false inputs, make sure vehicles on other parts of the track will not get closer than 5 m (15 ft) to the detection loop.

## 2 Installation of a permanent detection loop in asphalt



### Installation overview

- Cut the slots in the track a maximum of 2 cm (3/4") deep and 60 cm (2 ft) apart. Make sure the slots are clean and dry. This will ensure a perfect seal when the silicone is applied after the installation of the wiring. Put the wires of the detection loop in the slots and cut the excess length of the detection loop wires.
- Widen the slot with a chisel where the small connection box of the loop is to be installed. Place the connection box vertically.
- When all wires are installed, put the heat shrinkage sleeve over a detection loop wire end.
- Solder the loop wire to the wire end of the connection box with activator. When soldering the wires together, the solder should flow through the entire connection and not only around it.
- Put the shrinkage sleeve over the soldered connection and hold it over a heat source to shrink the sleeve.
- Repeat c, d, and e for the second wire of the detection loop.
- Test the loop as described in section 3.
- Fill the slot with silicone.

Be sure not to overfill the slots and that the silicone is fully under the surface of the track, otherwise tires may pull out the silicone. If any silicone spills out of the slot, remove the excess silicone by scraping the top with a small piece of cardboard. This also ensures that the silicone is pressed into the slot for a perfect seal.

### LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE

If you wish, you may pad the slots with a backing rod or nylon cord before sealing the slot with silicone. This helps to prevent the excessive use of silicone and is also useful when pulling out the silicone if the detection loop has to be replaced.

### Silicone types

There is a wide variety of silicone types available in hardware stores; it is important that the right type is used. Silicone that can withstand different temperatures as well as both wet and dry conditions (since weather situations can vary) should be used. If you are unsure, check the specifications of the silicone.

The following types of silicone have been shown to yield lasting results and are recommended by MYLAPS:

- Dow Corning 890SL is a self-leveling silicone kit. It is applied as a liquid and fills the slot completely.
- Purflex is a polyurethane-based silicone that retains its elasticity under a wide range of temperatures.

### 3 Testing the detection loop installation

Once the loop has been installed, it should be tested to ensure that it is functioning correctly. We also recommend repeating the same procedure at the start of each race event.

You can determine if your loop is functioning correctly by doing the following tests:

- a) Connect the detection loop to the decoder and computer running MYLAPS timing software.
- b) Check the background noise, updated every five seconds in the MYLAPS timing software. The measured background noise level value should be between 0 and 40 points.  
A higher value may indicate interference by other electrical equipment in the area or a bad loop installation.  
Try switching off any suspected equipment or removing nearby objects and check for improvements.  
Especially at night, short-wave radio transmitters may cause an increased background noise.
- c) On a correctly installed detection loop, a transponder signal should be picked up at the same distance along the entire detection loop. Consult the Periodic testing loop document.
- d) Check the signal strengths of the transponders as they are picked up by the system during a test with karts:
  - A good loop will yield consistent transponder signal strengths of at least 100 points with a hit rate of at least 10 points.
  - The hit rate may vary depending on the speed of the transponder passings (slower passings yield higher hit counts), but the signal strength should be consistent (< 10 points variation).