Manual rigging consists of a balanced set of weights that are controlled by pulling on ropes to raise and lower scenery, lighting, and other equipment with minimal effort. Manual rigging can be found in nearly every theatre worldwide. First introduced in the early 1900s, it's still a practical solution for new theatres of all sizes. Manual systems can also be upgraded to include "push button" or "touch screen" control. To learn more or discuss your rigging needs visit us online or contact us today.

Round Weights
The round weight is the same as a drum. It contains round weights that balance against each other to turn the lift lines. The round weight is usually turned with a rope or a capstan, allowing the tension to be adjusted.

Safety Chains
These are heavy steel chains that are attached to the stage structure and support the curtain. If the lift lines fail during a fire, the weight of the chains helps keep the curtain from falling.

Automatic Safety Curtain
This system is designed to block the spread of an on-stage fire without human intervention or electricity. Two curtain sections are separated by a coated fabric that spreads the heat, preventing "hot spots" from forming that could start a fire.

Trim Chain
The trim chain is the part of the rigging system that supports the pipes and other equipment. It is attached to each pipe batten and is used to control the curtain's descent.

Idler Blocks
These blocks are used to support small equipment and are attached to the back of each counterweight arbor.

Left Block
The left block is a simple pulley that turns the lift lines 90° toward the stage. Mounted overhand at grid level, our left blocks feature precision ball bearings so the show turns smoothly and quietly as the shaft. To minimize wear, double depth grooves in the sheaves should be precisely molded so they support the line through at least 130° of its circumference.

Manual Release
Fire lines also have a manual release lever located at each side of the opening. When the release lever is pulled, the fire curtain falls in a controlled fashion.

Smoke Pocket
The fire curtain is stored in a pocket, which is a shallow, metal box. The curtain is stored against the smoke pocket, sealing the edges of the prosenium opening.

Pipe Batten
The pipe batten is the part of the rigging system that supports the pipes and other equipment. It is shown in yellow and has 1/2" pipe batten spacing to allow for easy adjustment of lighting and other equipment.

Button Clamp
Button clamps grip the pipe batten along its length, usually on 10 ft. centers. They should be loaded for safety. Another common tension option is button clamps with turnbuckles.

Index Light
Index lights, attached to the outrigger batten, allow the flyman to see in darkened wings. A reflector hides this light from the audience.

Lattice Track Arbor
The lattice track arbor is a simple pulley that turns the lift lines 90° toward the stage. Mounted overhand at grid level, our left blocks feature precision ball bearings so the show turns smoothly and quietly as the shaft. To minimize wear, double depth grooves in the sheaves should be precisely molded so they support the line through at least 130° of its circumference.

J-Guide System
J-guides present the arbor from seteng side to side as it moves up and down through the guide shoes, which are attached to the back of each counterweight arbor.

Counterweight Arbor
Counterweight arbors carry the weights and should be manufactured with heavy steel top and bottom to support the weights. Each root has a rotating collar with an easy-to-grasp plastic handle for convenience.

Hand Line
A hand line is used to raise and lower the curtain. Our Clancy SafeRing hand lines are stronger and easier to use than steel and have a wear indicator for added safety.

Outrigger Batten and Bracket
The outrigger batten is a convenient rest for ladders, scenery, and other equipment, ensuring they won't interfere with the hand lines and counterweight arbors.

Rope Lock
Once a batten is positioned, the rope lock holds the batten in place. Rope locks can also be used for added safety.

Locking Rail
Rope locks are attached to the locking rail. You can also use the locking rail to label lines, so crew members can quickly identify the purpose of each line for various performances.

Floor Block
The floor block is a simple pulley that turns the lift lines 90° toward the stage. Mounted overhand at grid level, our left blocks feature precision ball bearings so the show turns smoothly and quietly as the shaft. To minimize wear, double depth grooves in the sheaves should be precisely molded so they support the line through at least 130° of its circumference.
How Automated Rigging Works

In 1965, J.R. Clancy introduced the SceneControl® console, the first ever automated control system. Today, venues from international performing arts centers to middle schools benefit from the programmability, creativity, and enhanced safety of automated rigging.

Intuitive Controls, Ease of Use, and Enhanced Safety

Automated rigging allows accurate, pre-programmable movements that can be executed with the push of a button. With automated rigging, there is no need to pull ropes, load heavy weights, or climb high loading galleries. In the past, automated rigging was built on a customized basis, so it was typically affordable only for major performing arts centers. That meant smaller theatres with limited budgets had no choice but to install manual rigging. Today, J.R. Clancy offers a full line of automated systems as standard products with a range of speeds, capacities, mounting options, and control systems that fit the needs of most theatres, including schools and universities. To learn more or discuss your rigging needs visit us online or contact us today.

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