

BULL HEADED RAIL



Bull Headed Rails

Bull Headed Rails are a type of rail section where the head dimensions are greater than those of the foot. This design involves making the rail head thicker and stronger by adding more metal to it, resulting in a cross-section where the head is noticeably wider and more robust compared to the foot.

Characteristics and Usage:

- **Design:** In Bull Headed Rails, the head is reinforced to withstand higher stresses and wear. The foot of the rail is narrower, which requires additional support for stability.
- **Support:** These rails are typically supported by cast iron chairs, which hold the rails in position and are secured with wedges or keys to maintain alignment and stability.
- **Common Usage:** Bull Headed Rails are most commonly used in the United Kingdom and are known for their historical significance in rail transport.

Advantages:

- **Enhanced Strength in the Rail Head:** The thicker rail head offers increased durability and resistance to wear, particularly in high-traffic areas.
- **Support Structure:** The use of cast iron chairs and secure fastening methods helps maintain the alignment and stability of the rails.



Challenges:

- **Requirement for Chairs:** Bull Headed Rails necessitate the use of chairs for positioning, which adds to the complexity of track construction and maintenance.
- **Maintenance Needs:** The fastening system and the need for chairs can complicate maintenance and repairs compared to other rail types.

In summary, Bull Headed Rails provide robust performance with enhanced strength in the rail head, supported by a traditional system of chairs and fastening methods. However, their use is accompanied by specific maintenance requirements and construction considerations.