

**Sled-Mounted Bridge Derricks Lift Panelized Structural Steel**

For the construction of cable stayed bridges, sled mounted bridge derricks allow for bridge sections to be assembled on the ground or on a barge and lifted as a whole bridge segment. These bridge derricks provide heavy lifting capability and operate from the deck of the bridge. They replace the use of a launching gantry or the need for long-boomed crawler cranes operating from the ground or from barges. The low gross weight of the bridge derrick permits it to be placed directly on the already erected bridge deck. This is operationally safer than working from the water because there is no need to consider list conditions, anchoring arrangements, or large barges that interrupt navigation, as would be the case if lifting equipment was barge mounted. The weight of the derrick is distributed throughout the bridge, which allows for much bigger pieces to be picked and assembled.

Derricks can be placed and used simultaneously on each end of the balanced cantilevers of the bridge, which permits simultaneous construction in both directions. The bridge derrick progresses with the deck and construction crew. The sled allows the whole derrick assembly to be moved as the bridge cantilevers are extended, and also serves as a work platform where the crew can keep air compressors, tooling, and other equipment.

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