Cranes lift and lower loads with a hoist that is attached to a trolley. The trolley moves back and forth along a bridge. The bridge moves along a runway. Some cranes – such as a jib crane – don’t have a bridge but still have a hoist attached to a trolley and can move a load in a horizontal direction.

A bridge crane is defined as a crane, fixed or able to move along track(s) having at least one primarily horizontal girder and equipped with at least one hoisting mechanism. There are four main types of overhead cranes - top running, under running, single girder and double girder.

**Double girder** - typically allow greater hook height than single-girder designs, as the hoist can be mounted on top of the bridge rather than underneath

**Single girder** - the hoist always rides the bottom of the crane girder in both top-running and underhung configurations

**Under running** - end truck rides on the lower flange of the runway beam

**Top running** - the end truck rides on top of the runway beam

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