

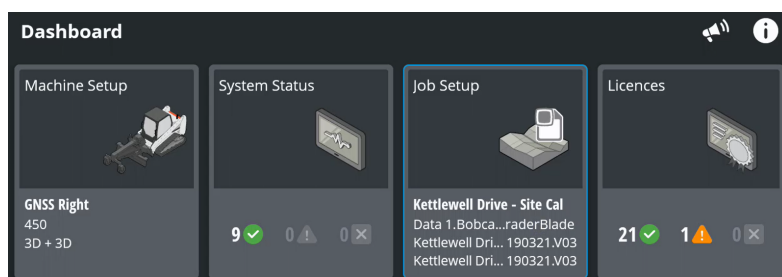
# Sort your skid steer

This section explains how to sort out your skid steer with Trimble Earthworks. [Watch an expert operator](#) in action or take it step by step.

## Tour the Dashboard

The Dashboard is like the home screen for your machine. When you log into Trimble Earthworks, it gives you a snapshot of your setup:

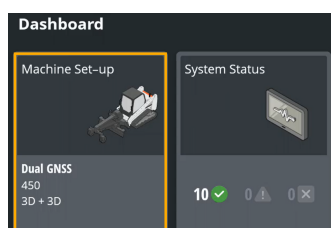
- **Machine Setup** – how your machine is set up
- **System Status** – the status of the devices in your Trimble Earthworks system
- **Job Setup** – how your project and designs are set up
- **Licences** – the status of your licenses



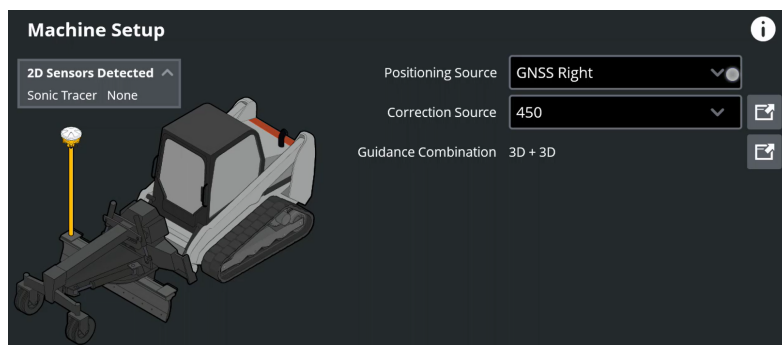
**NOTE** – If any of these areas need attention, they'll be orange or red. For example, if a license will expire soon, it will be orange.

## Step by step

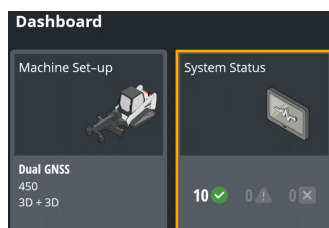
1. Open Trimble Earthworks.
2. To check or change how your machine is set up, tap the **Machine Setup** tile on the Dashboard.



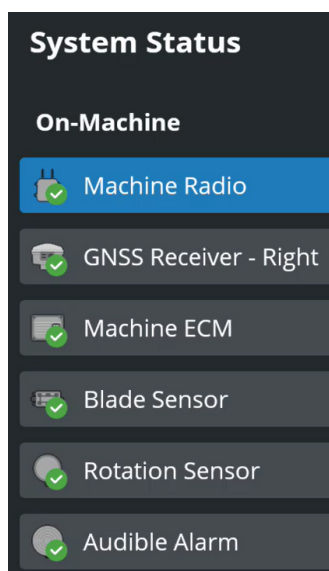
You'll see your machine's settings for positioning source, GNSS correction, guidance/sensor combination, and more.



3. To check the status of the devices in your Trimble Earthworks system, tap the **System Status** tile.

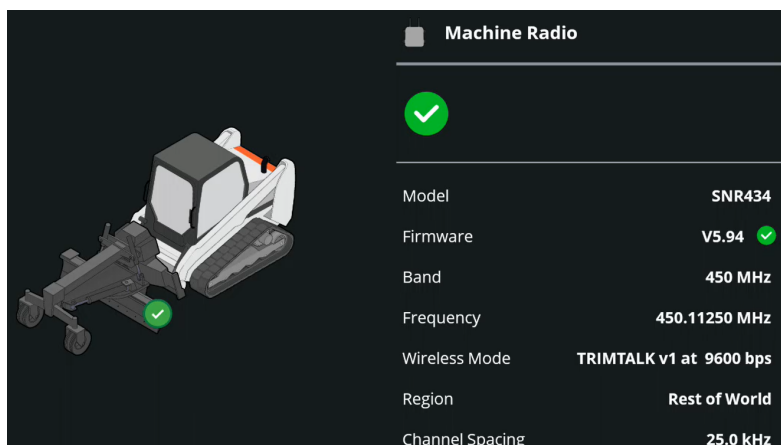


You'll see which devices you need on your machine, whether they're connected, and their operating status.

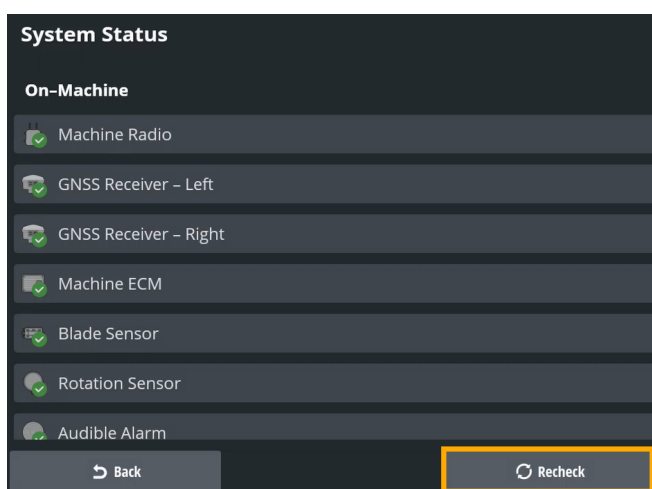


**NOTE** – If any devices are orange, it means they're configuring and you'll need to wait while they get set up. If a device is red, something is wrong. A cable might be damaged or the device might be disconnected.

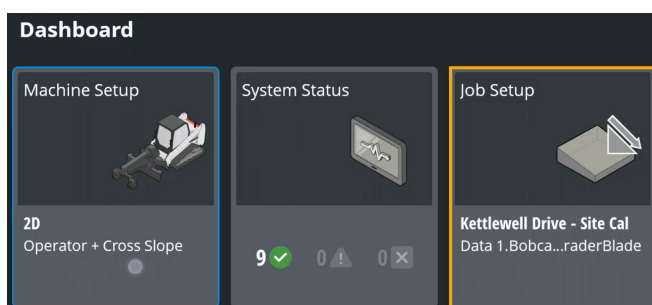
4. Tap a device to see more details about it.



5. If a sensor is orange or red, tap **Recheck** to see if it turns green.

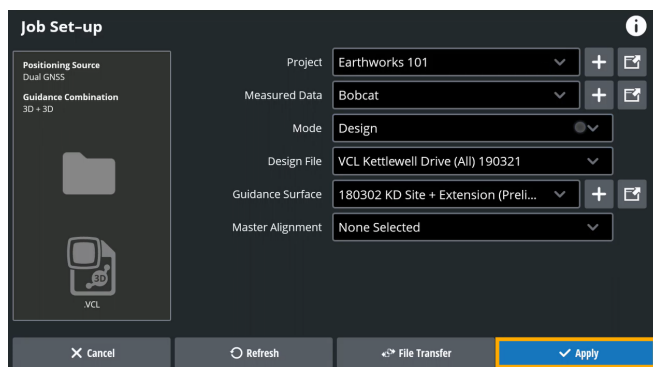


6. To select your project and the design you want to use, tap the **Job Setup** tile.

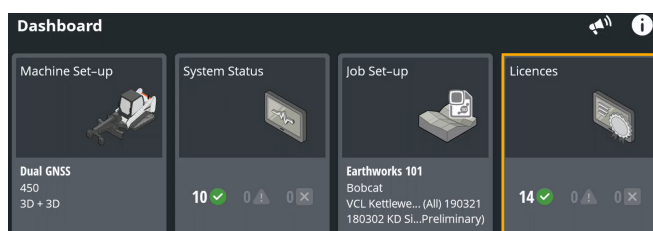


**TIP** – You can also import a design file from a USB or sync from the cloud.

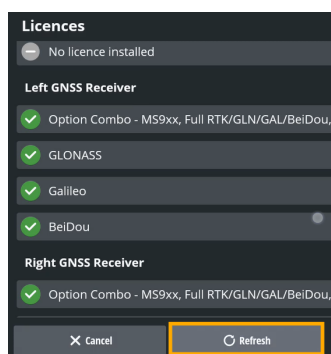
7. When you're happy with the settings on the Job Setup screen, tap **Apply**.



8. To see the licenses you need for your machine and which ones are installed, tap the **Licenses** tile.

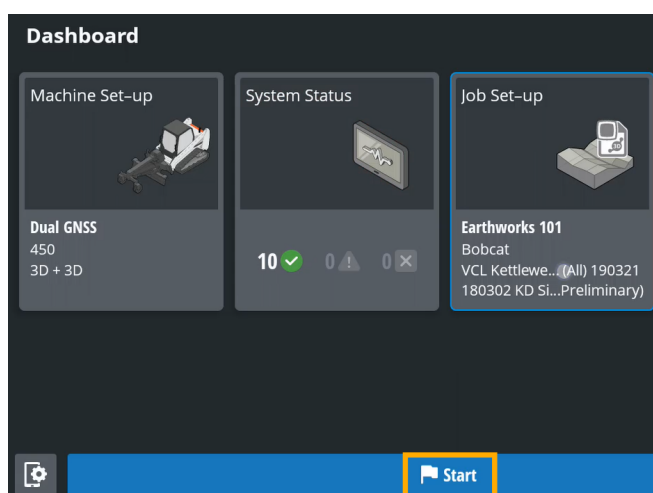


9. If any licenses are orange or red and your machine is connected to the internet, tap **Refresh**.

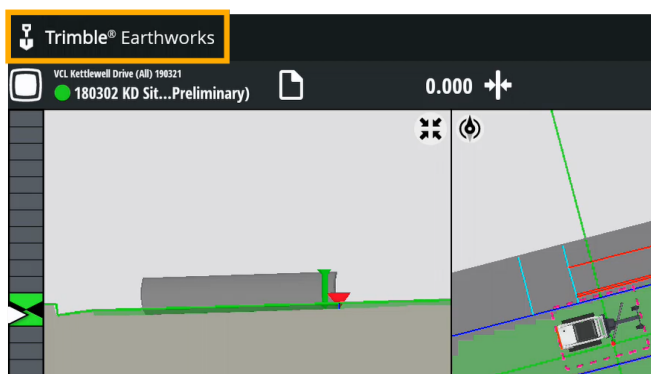


**NOTE** – If a license is red, it's missing or expired. If it's orange it's about to expire. If a license doesn't go green, you'll need to contact your dealer.

10. When you're ready to begin your job, tap **Start**.



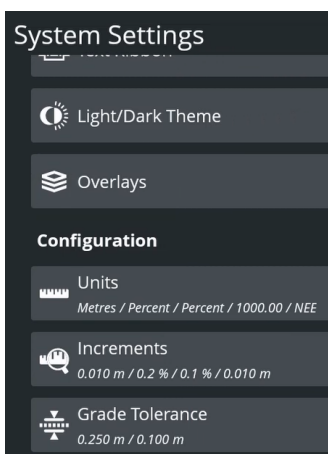
11. To go back to the Dashboard from any screen, tap the Trimble Earthworks logo.



12. To access general settings for your system, tap the System Settings  icon.



This is where you can switch between light and dark mode, change units and increments, set up lightbars, change your sound settings, and more.



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*Trimble Earthworks v2.25. Updated October 2026*

# Get help in the cab

Most screens in Trimble Earthworks have an Information  icon. You can tap these icons to learn a bit about the screen you're on.

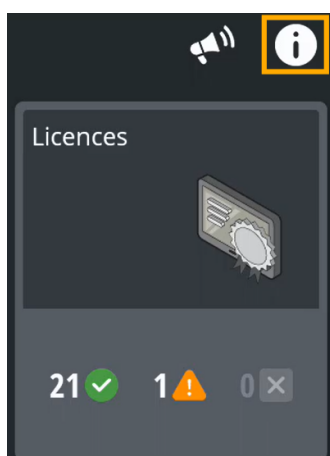
You can also get help from the Trimble Earthworks Assistant app. This is updated with each product release and available to download free from the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) app stores.

**TIP** – When you open the app you can select the version of Trimble Earthworks your system is running.

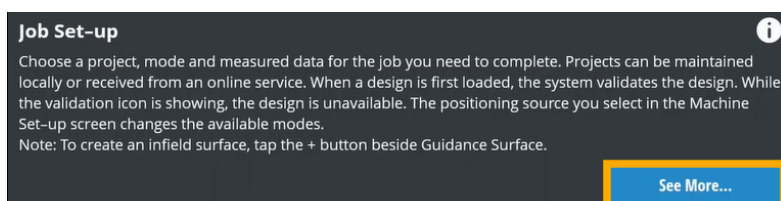
## Step by step

### GET HELP ON THE SCREEN

1. Open Trimble Earthworks.
2. Tap the **Job Setup** tile on the Dashboard.
3. To learn a bit about the screen you're on, tap the Information  icon.

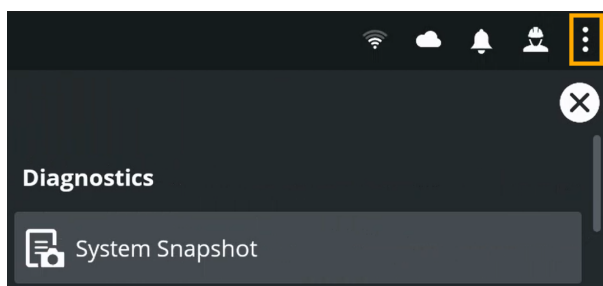


4. For more information about the screen, tap **See More**.

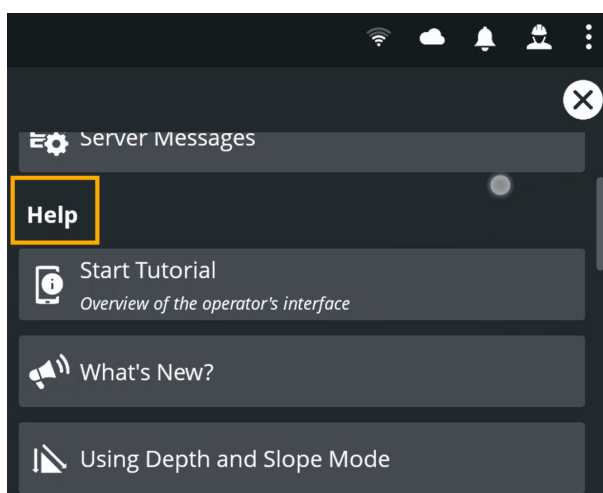


5. For more in-depth help guides:

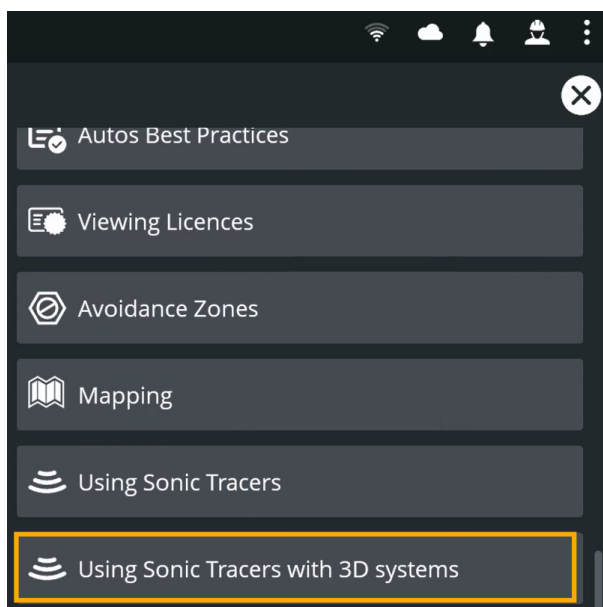
- a. Tap the overflow  icon.



- b. Swipe down to the **Help** section.



- c. Tap the help topic you want to read.

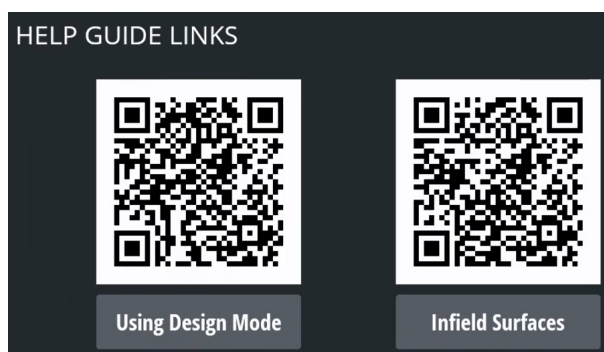


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## GET HELP ON THE APP

To access the help guides on the Trimble Earthworks Assistant app:

1. Point your phone camera at the Trimble Earthworks screen.
2. Scan the QR code of the guide you want to read.



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*Trimble Earthworks v2.25. Updated October 2026*

## Connect a UTS

If you're doing a high-precision job you need to know exactly where you are in the world. You can achieve this by setting up and connecting a Universal Total Station (UTS) to Trimble Earthworks.

### Step by step

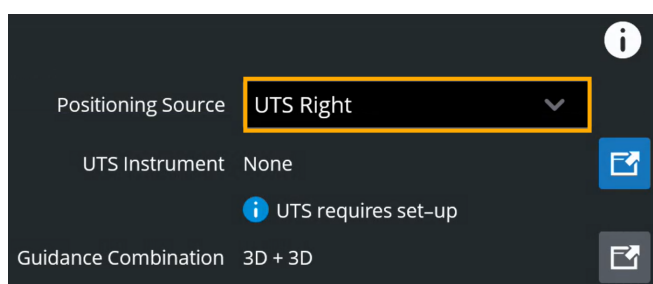
#### SET UP A UTS

1. Make sure the UTS is pointing at a target on your machine.
2. Note the channel, network ID, and target ID – You'll need these details to connect the UTS to Trimble Earthworks.



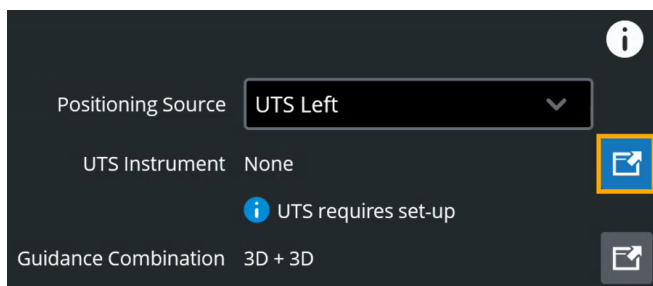
#### CONNECT A UTS

1. Tap the **Machine Setup** tile on the Dashboard.
2. Expand the Positioning Source drop-down > Select **UTS Right**.

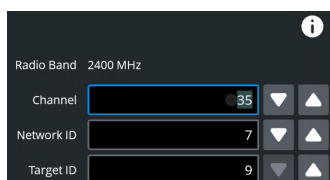


**NOTE** – In this example the UTS target is on the right of the machine.

3. Wait while the UTS positioning source configures.
4. Tap the Quick Change  icon beside the **UTS Instrument** field.

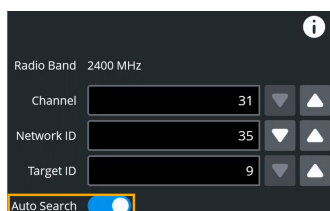


5. Enter the channel, network ID, and the target ID.

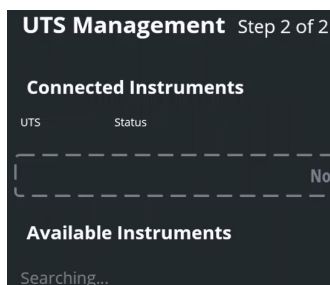


**NOTE** – The Target ID must be unique. Make sure no other machines on the site are using it.

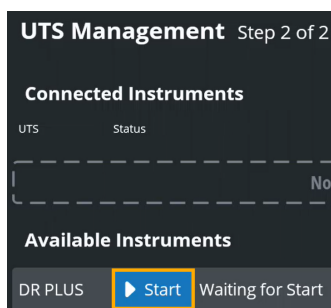
6. To let the UTS locate itself if it loses connection with the target, toggle **Auto Search** on.



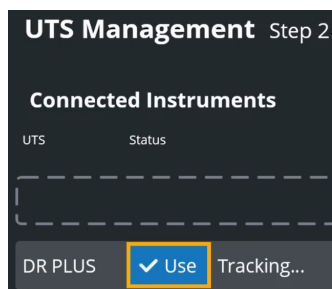
7. Tap **Next** and wait while Trimble Earthworks searches for available instruments.



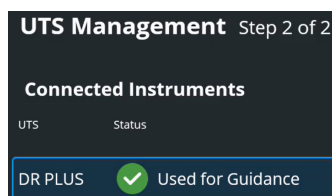
8. Tap **Start** beside the UTS you want to connect to.



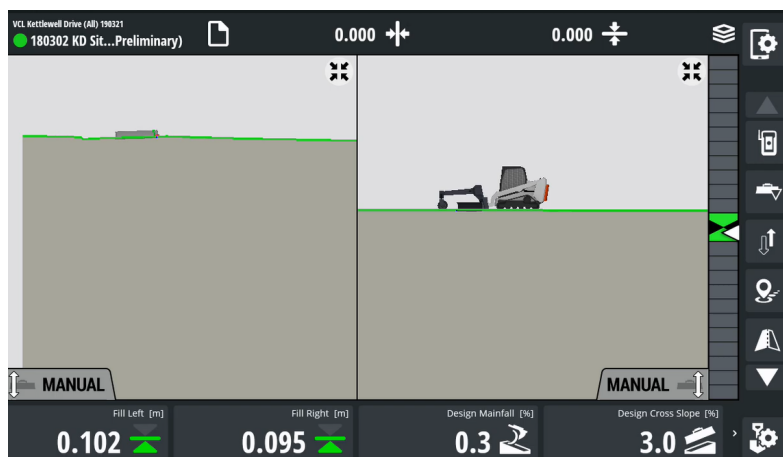
9. Wait while it configures.
10. To confirm you want to use the UTS you've connected to, tap **Use**.



11. Tap **Done** – The UTS you've chosen will be selected.



12. Tap **Apply**.
13. To begin your job with precision guidance, tap **Start!**



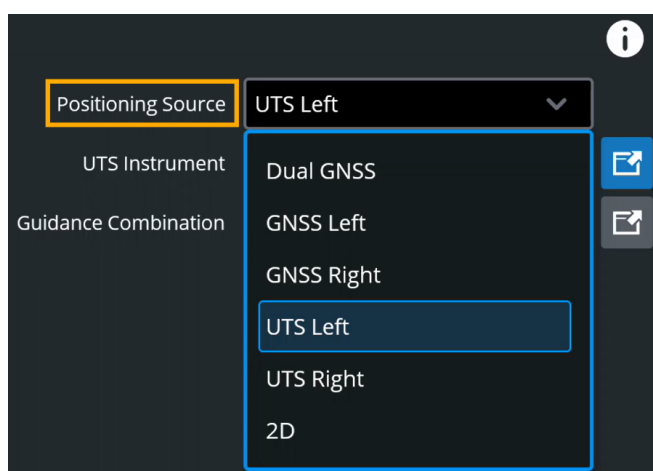
## Change positioning source

Depending on your job you might need to change your positioning source.

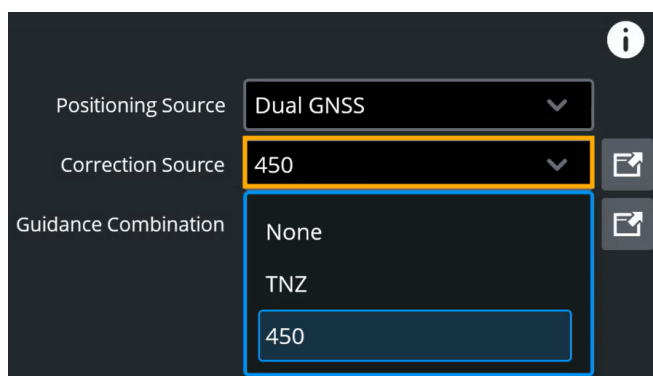
**EXAMPLE** – If you're changing from bulk grading to a final trim, you might change your positioning source from Dual GNSS to UTS.

### Step by step

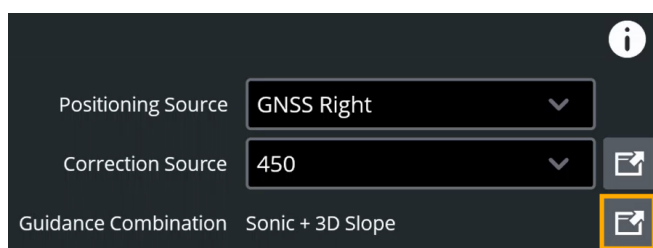
1. Tap the **Machine Setup** tile on the Dashboard.
2. Expand the **Positioning Source** drop-down > Select the positioning source you want to use for guidance.



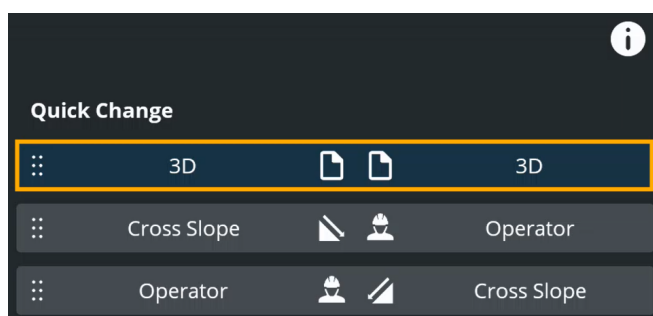
3. Expand the **Correction Source** drop-down > Select the correction source you want to use.



4. To specify your guidance combination, tap the Quick Change  icon beside the **Guidance Combination** field.



5. Select your guidance combination.



**NOTE** - In this example we're using 3D + 3D. This means guidance on the left and right blade tips will be available in the 3D design you chose on the Job Setup screen.

6. Tap **Apply** and start your job!

# Level a surface with lasers

You can use [laser receivers](#) and a laser transmitter with Trimble Earthworks to easily level a surface.

**EXAMPLE** – This is handy if you're making a flat pad or a car park.

## Step by step

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### SET UP THE LASERS

1. Attach two laser receivers to masts on your machine.
2. Position your machine with the blade on grade.
3. Use a grade rod to measure the height of your laser receivers.
4. Put a laser transmitter on a tripod and switch it on.



5. Use the grader rod to set the height for your laser receivers.

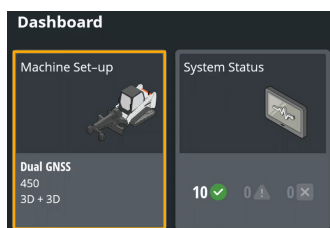


**TIP** – Make sure the laser can strike the middle of each receiver – You'll hear a solid beep when this happens.

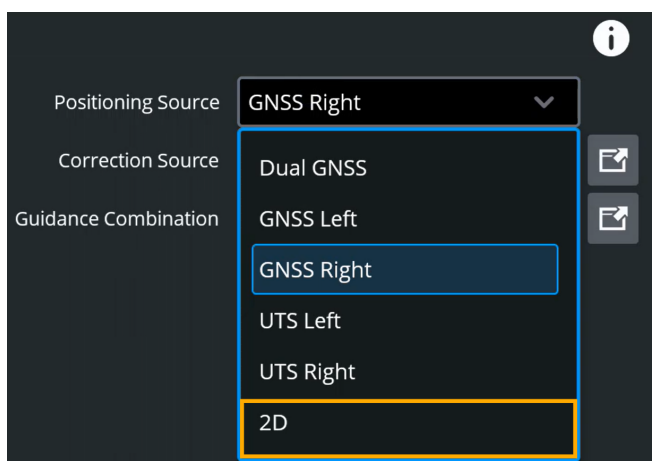
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### CONNECT THE LASERS

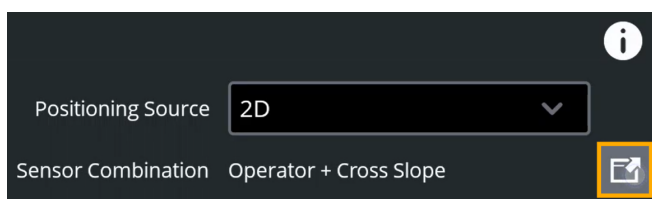
1. Tap the **Machine Setup** tile on the Trimble Earthworks Dashboard.



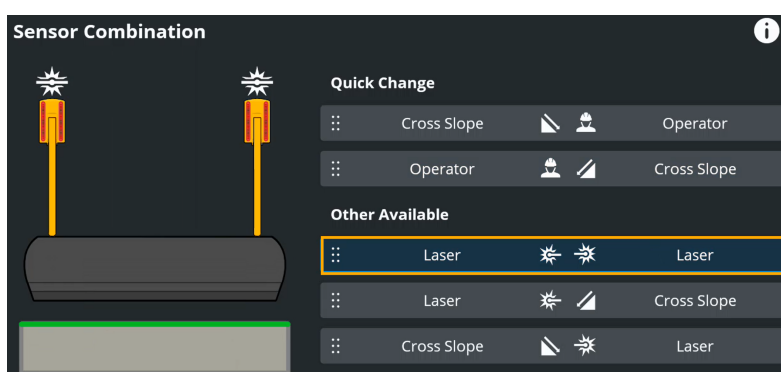
2. Expand the Positioning Source drop-down > Select **2D**.



3. Tap the Quick Change  icon beside the **Sensor Combination** field.



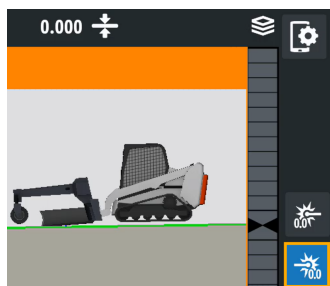
4. Tap **Laser + Laser**.



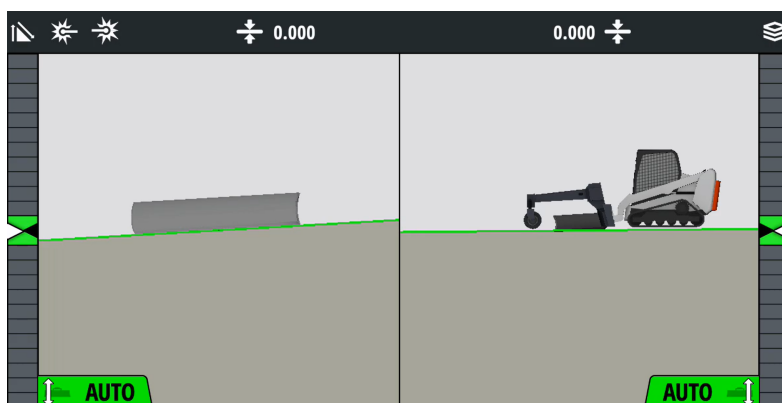
5. Tap **Apply**.
6. Tap **Start**.
7. To bench where the laser transmitter hits the left laser receiver, tap the Bench Left Laser  icon.



8. To bench where the laser transmitter hits the right laser receiver, tap the Bench Right Laser  icon.



9. Tap **Autos** and start leveling your surface!



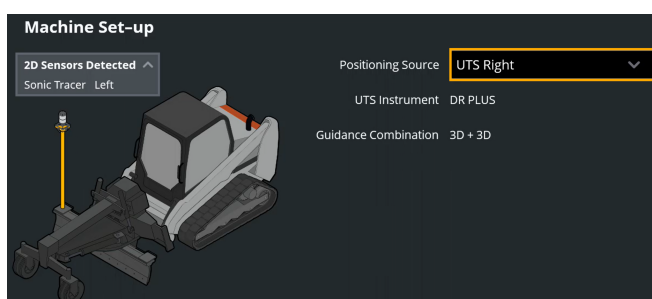
## Stay smooth with sonics

A [sonic tracer](#) can help you maintain consistent elevation as you work. It uses ultrasonic signals to measure distance from a reference surface. If you use a sonic tracer for elevation you only need to bench the device. No need to measure up.

**EXAMPLE** – There might be a curb onsite that doesn't quite match your 3D design. To get the elevation, you can attach a sonic tracer to your machine and use it to follow the curb.

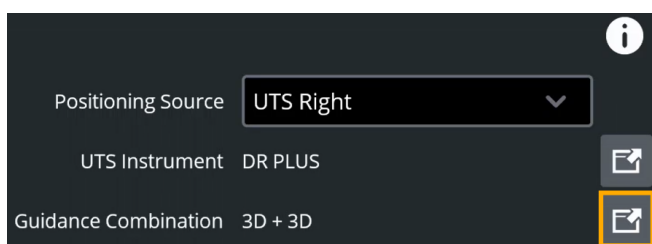
### Step by step

1. Attach a sonic tracer to your machine.
2. Tap the **Machine Setup** tile on the Dashboard.
3. Make sure the positioning source is set correctly.

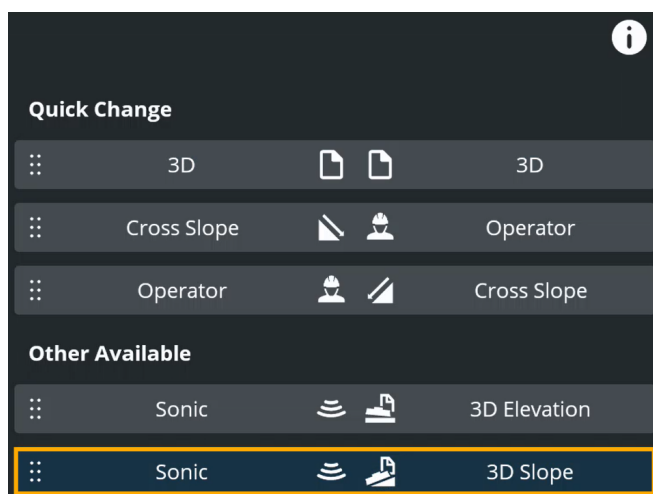


**EXAMPLE** – You might have a sonic tracer on the left of the machine and a Universal Total Station (UTS) on the right.

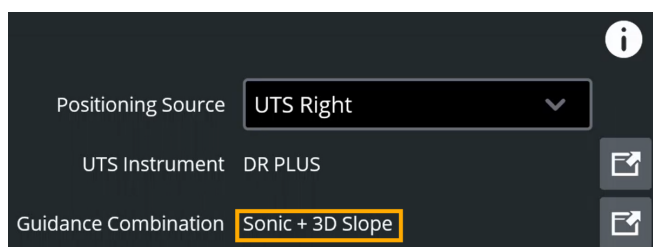
4. Tap the Quick Change  icon beside the **Guidance Combination** field.



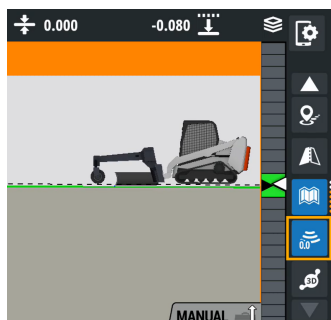
5. Select **Sonic + 3D Slope**.



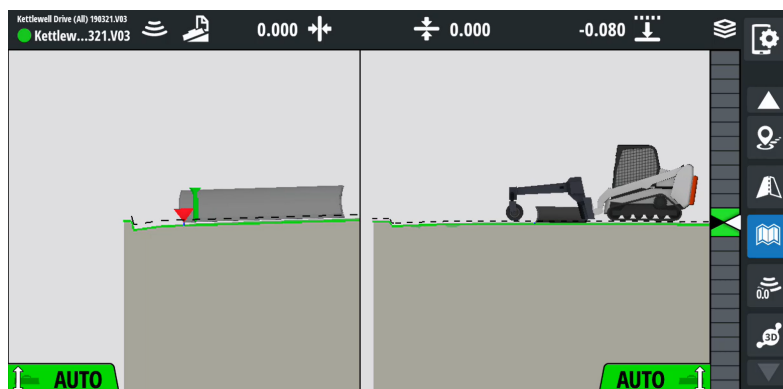
6. Tap **Apply** – You'll see your guidance combination selected on the Machine Setup screen.



7. Tap **Apply**.
8. Tap **Start** and move your machine to where you want to get the heading.
9. Position your blade relative to the sonic tracer.
10. To bench the sonic tracer, tap the Bench Sonic  icon.



11. Enable **Autos** and drive your machine along the curb, making sure you keep the sonic tracer above the curb.



The sonic tracer shows how close you are to grade as you move your machine:

- If you move the sonic tracer up, one down orange arrow will flash. This shows you're off design.
- If you bring the sonic tracer closer to grade, two down orange arrows will flash.
- If you're almost on grade, one orange arrow and a straight green line will flash.
- When you're on grade, the straight green line will light up.
- If you go below grade, one orange up arrow will flash.
- If you're way below grade, two orange up arrows will flash.



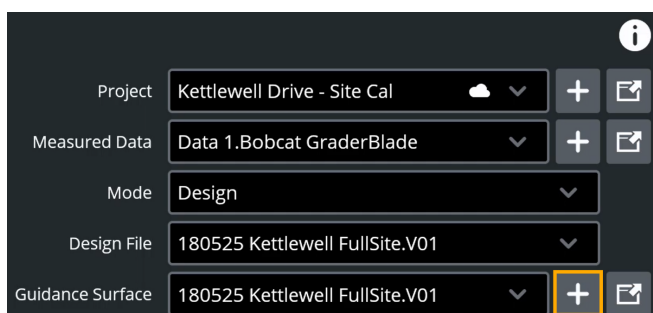
# Design an access ramp

You can create your own design for an access ramp in Trimble Earthworks and save it to reuse later.

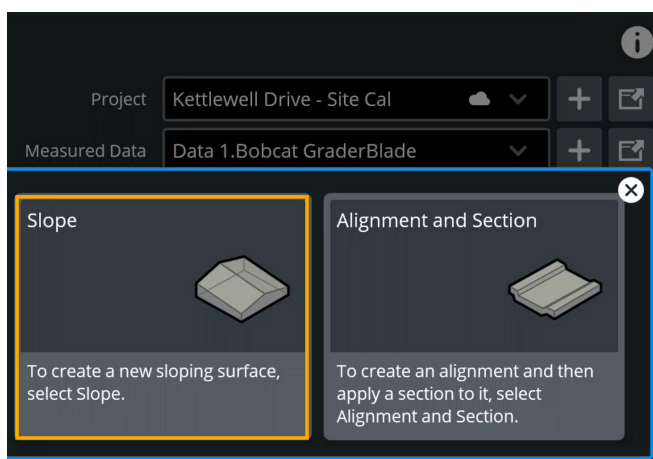
**EXAMPLE** – You might need to create a ramp for trucks to access a steep part of a site.

## Step by step

1. Tap the **Job Setup** tile on the Dashboard.
2. Tap the Add  icon beside the **Guidance Surface** field.

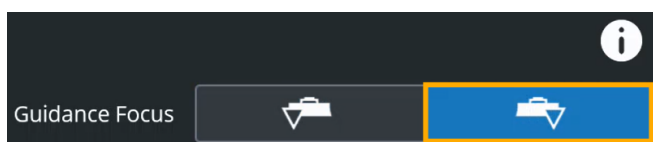


3. Tap the **Slope** tile.

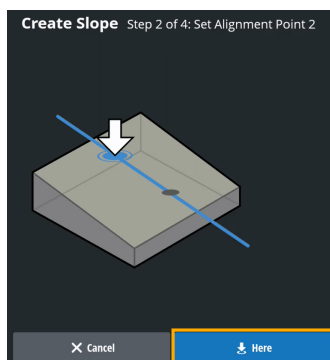


4. Make sure the Guidance Focus is on the correct side of the blade.

**NOTE** – In this example we want the focus on the right blade tip.



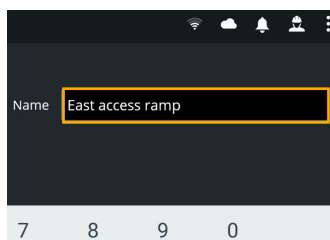
5. Put the machine's blade down where you want the ramp to start.
6. To mark that as the focus point, tap **Here**.



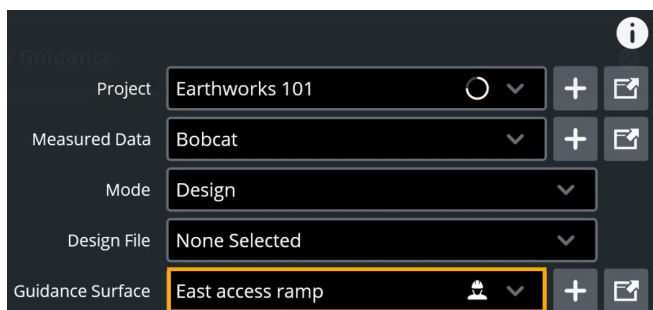
7. Tap **Next**.
8. Drive to the top of the slope and put the blade down where you want the ramp to end.
9. To take the second point for your alignment, tap **Here** > Tap **Next**.

**NOTE** – In this example we don't want a cross-slope for the design so we won't adjust the values.

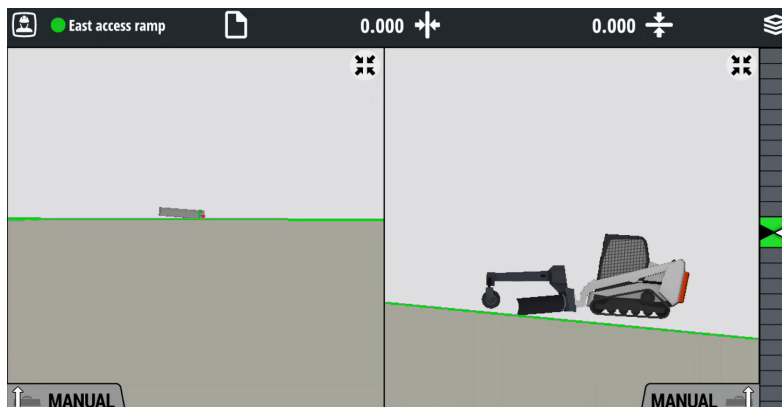
10. Tap **Next** and enter a name for the design.



11. Tap **Apply** and wait while your design loads – It will be preselected in the Guidance Surface field.



12. To begin building a ramp according to your design, tap **Start!**



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*Trimble Earthworks v2.25. Updated October 2026*

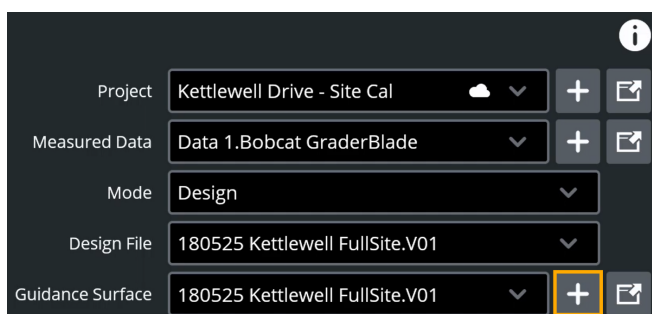
# Design a car park

If you need to build a car park but you don't have a design, you can create one in Trimble Earthworks.

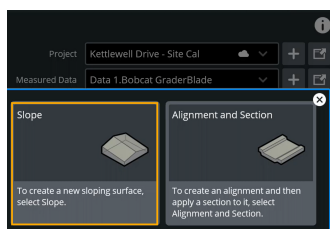
**EXAMPLE** – You might need to design a car park with a V-drain in the middle.

## Step by step

1. Drive your machine to the middle of where your car park will be.
2. Put the blade down.
3. Tap the **Job Setup** tile on the Trimble Earthworks Dashboard.
4. Tap the Add  icon beside the **Guidance Surface** field.



5. Tap the **Slope** tile.



6. To specify which side of the blade your focus is on, tap the Focus Left  icon or the Focus Right  icon.



7. To take your first point, tap **Here** > Tap **Next** – You'll see the northing, easting, and elevation data.

Guidance Focus  

Northing  m

Easting  m

Elevation  m

8. Drive your machine to where the car park will end and put the blade down.
9. To take your final point, tap **Here** > Tap **Next**.

Slope Type  

Guidance Focus  

Northing  m

Easting  m

Elevation  m

10. Enter the percentages you want for your slope.

Cross Slope Type  

Slope Angle   %  

Right Angle   %  

11. Tap **Next** and enter a name for your slope.

Name

12. Tap **Apply** – Your design will be preselected in the **Guidance Surface** field.

 **New infield surface set to Guidance** 

Dual GNSS

Guidance Combination 3D + 3D

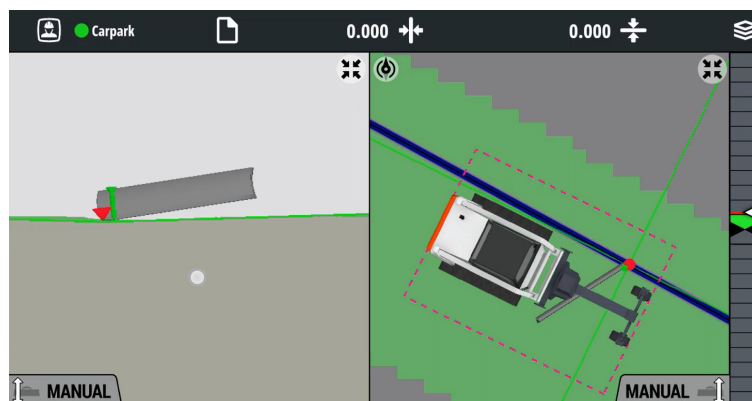
Measured Data    

Mode  

Design File  

Guidance Surface    

13. To start building a car park according to this design, tap **Apply** > Tap **Start**.



Trimble Earthworks v2.25. Updated October 2026

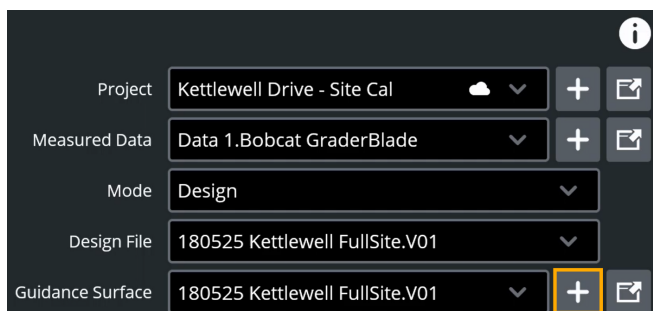
# Design a V-drain

If you need to build a V-drain but you don't have a design, you can create one in Trimble Earthworks.

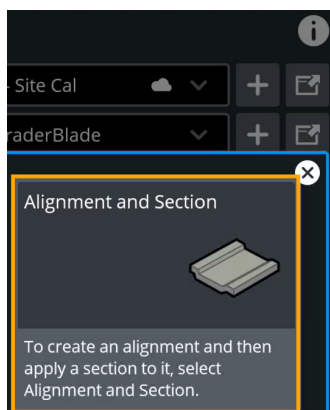
**EXAMPLE** – If you manage a drain that often fills up with shingle, you can create a custom design to reuse whenever you need to clean it out.

## Step by step

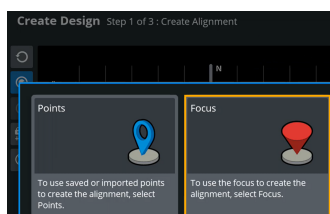
1. Tap the **Job Setup** tile on the Trimble Earthworks Dashboard.
2. Tap the Add  icon beside the **Guidance Surface** field.



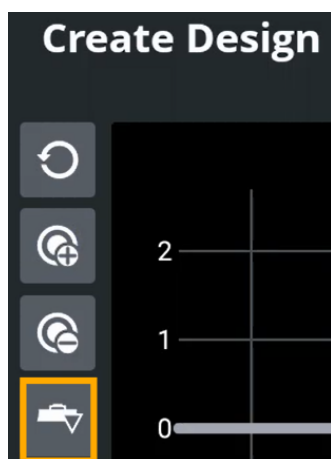
3. Tap the **Alignment and Section** tile.



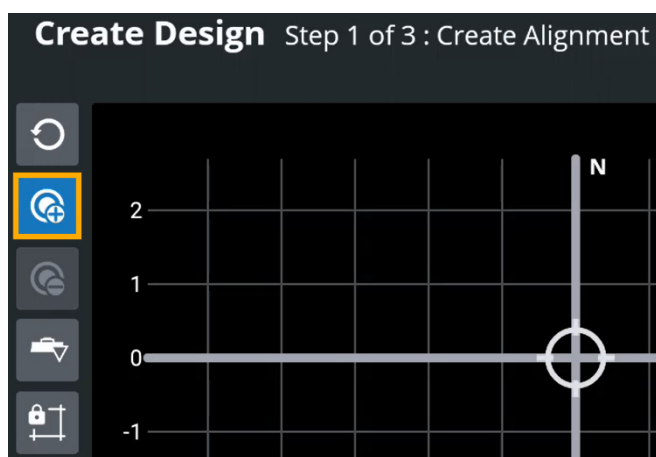
4. Tap the **Focus** tile.



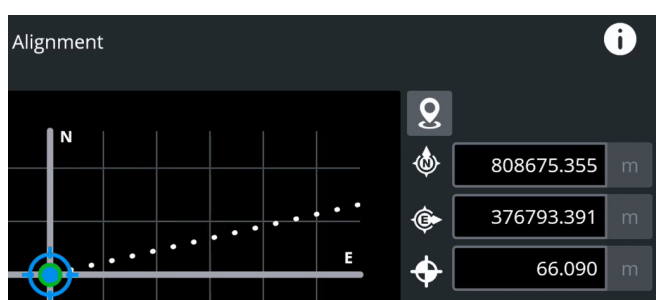
5. Make sure the focus point is on the correct side of the machine blade – on the right blade tip, for example.



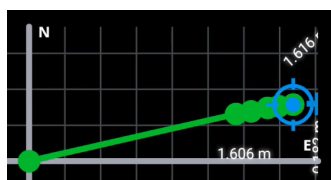
6. Drive your machine to where you want the drain to start and put the blade down.
7. To mark this point, tap the Add Point  icon.



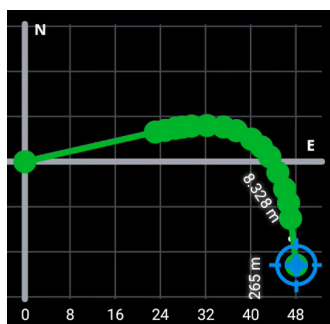
8. Lift the blade up and drive your machine along the drain you want to build.



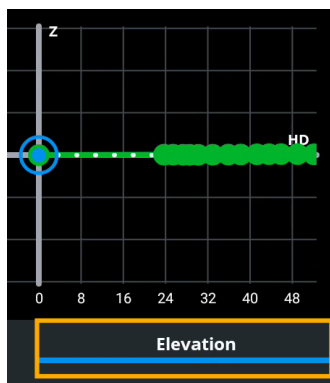
9. Add points as you drive to mark where your drain will go.



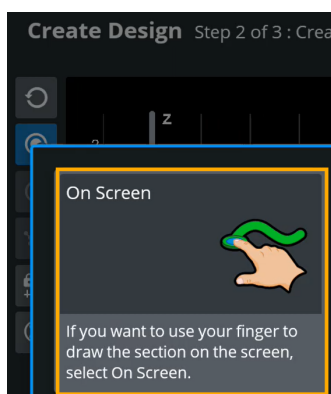
**TIP** – If you're working along a curve, add more points for a smoother finish.



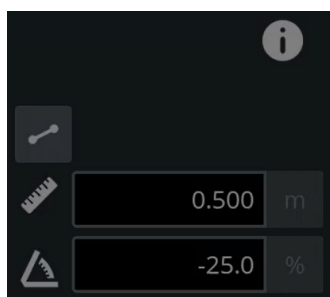
10. To check the fall for your drain, tap the **Elevation** tab.



11. Tap **Next**.
12. Tap the **On Screen** tile.

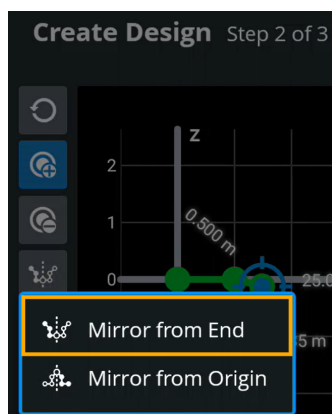


13. Draw the shape of your drain on the screen.
14. Enter the values for each section of the drain.

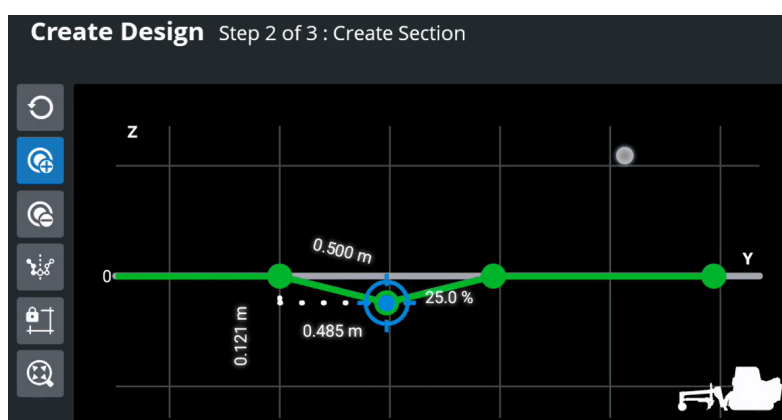


**EXAMPLE** – If you want the drain to fall by 25%, enter **-25** in the % field.

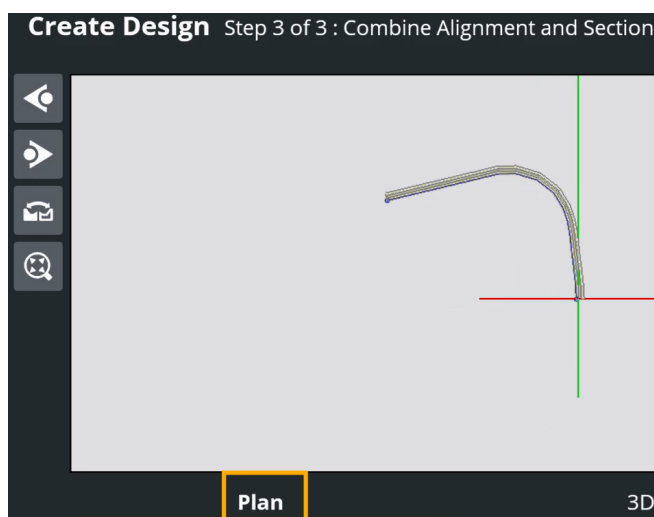
15. To mirror the shape you've drawn, tap the Mirror  icon > Tap **Mirror from End**.



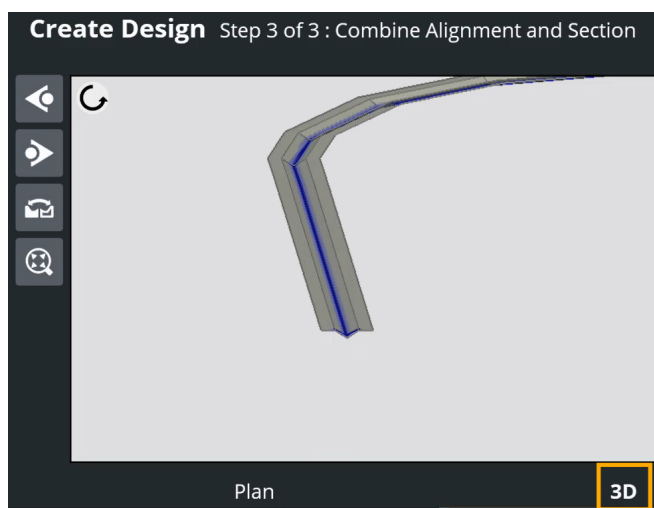
16. Use two fingers to zoom in and see what the drain will look like.



17. Tap **Next** – You'll see a preview of the drain in Plan view.

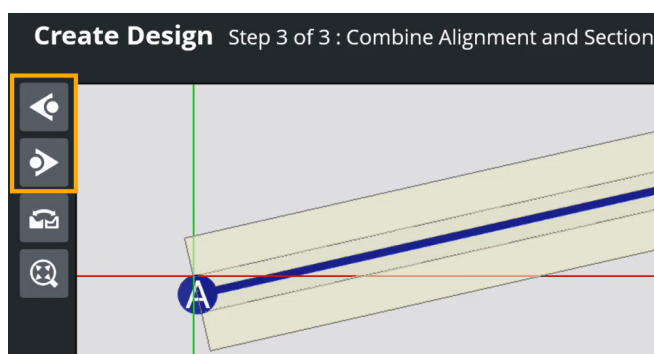


18. For another view of your drain, tap **3D**.



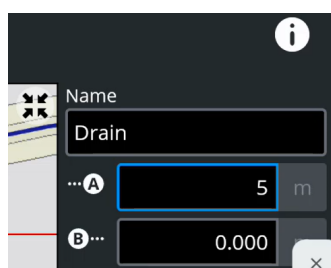
**TIP** – Use two fingers to move your design around the screen and view it from different angles.

19. To change the alignment for your drain, tap the alignment arrows.

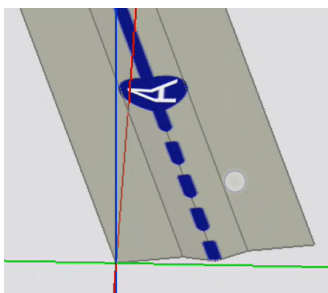


**EXAMPLE** – You might want to change the alignment if you want the drain to start at the edge of a road.

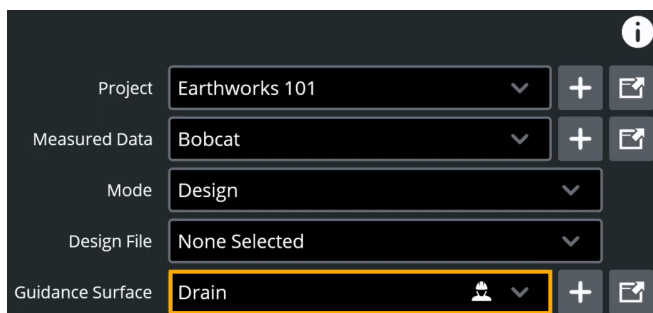
20. Enter a name for the drain.
21. Use the fields provided to adjust where the drain will start (**A**) and end (**B**).



**TIP** – If your drain isn't long enough you can extend it. For example, you might want to add five meters to the end of it.



22. To create your design, tap **Apply** – You'll see it preselected in the Guidance Surface field.



23. Start using your design to build your drain!

