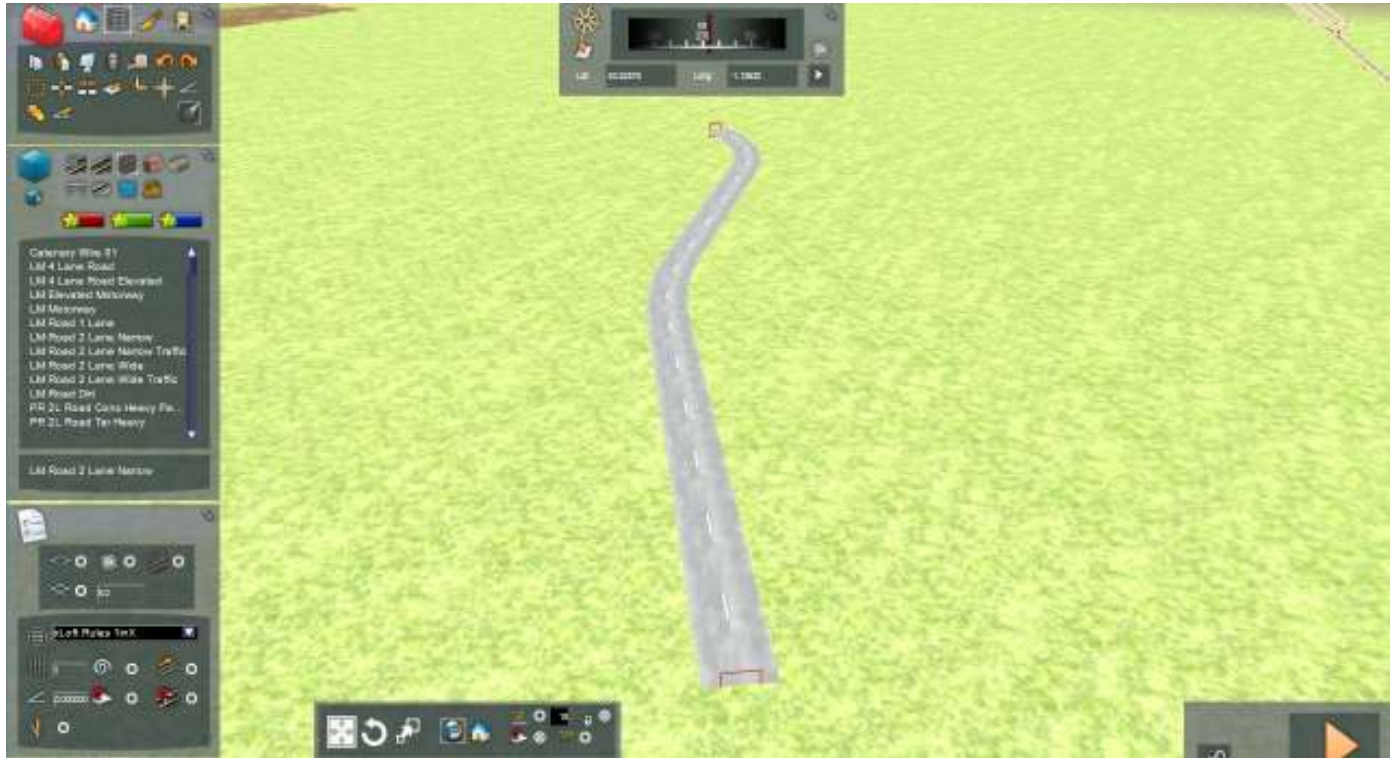


Smoothing a change in gradient

by Nick Hudson

When constructing a loft, such as track, road or wall, you may need to change the gradient between sections. Easy to do, but it does leave a sharp change which looks unsightly. To smooth that gradient change, you can do the following.

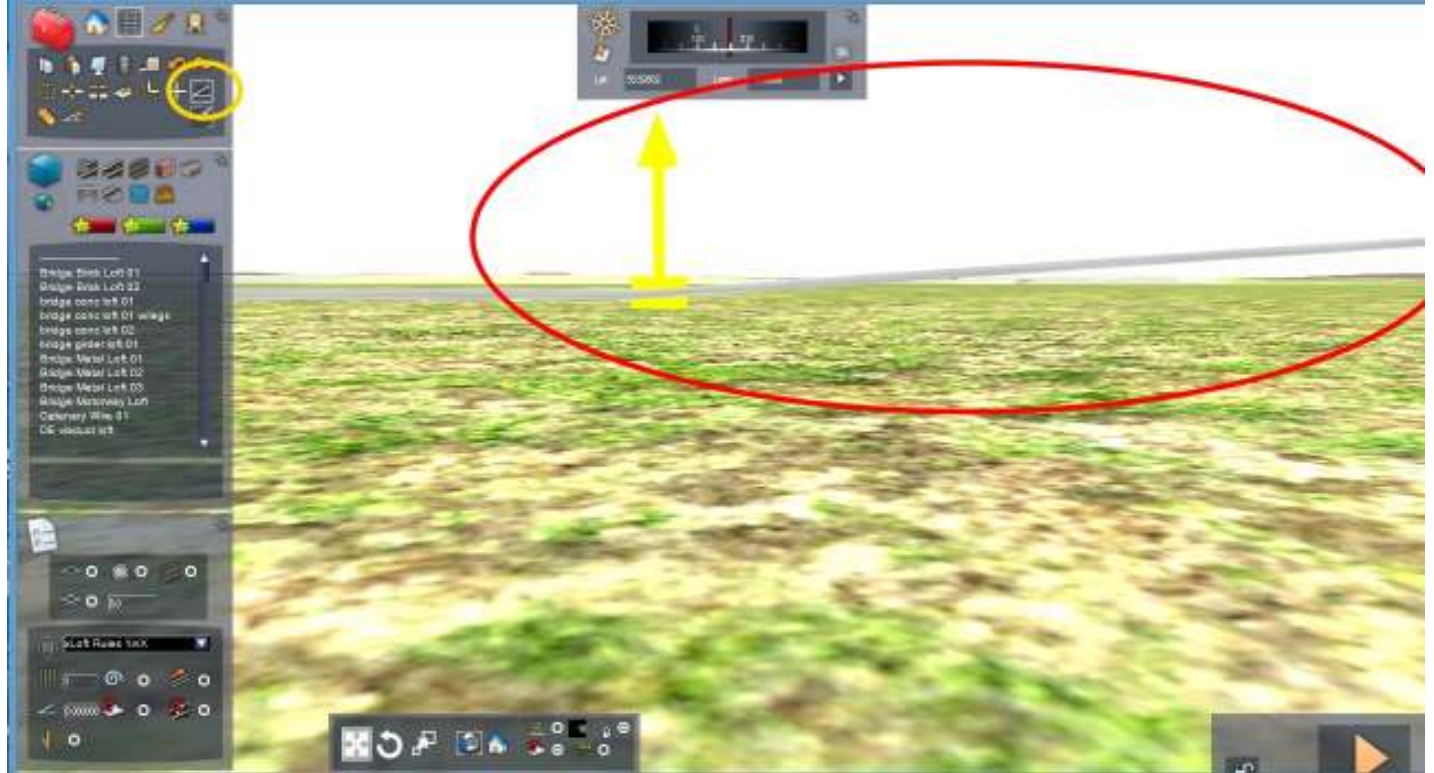


Here we see a road that has a few changes in gradient.

By selecting the gradient tool (circled in white), you can see the section changes (yellow cube with an upward facing arrow).

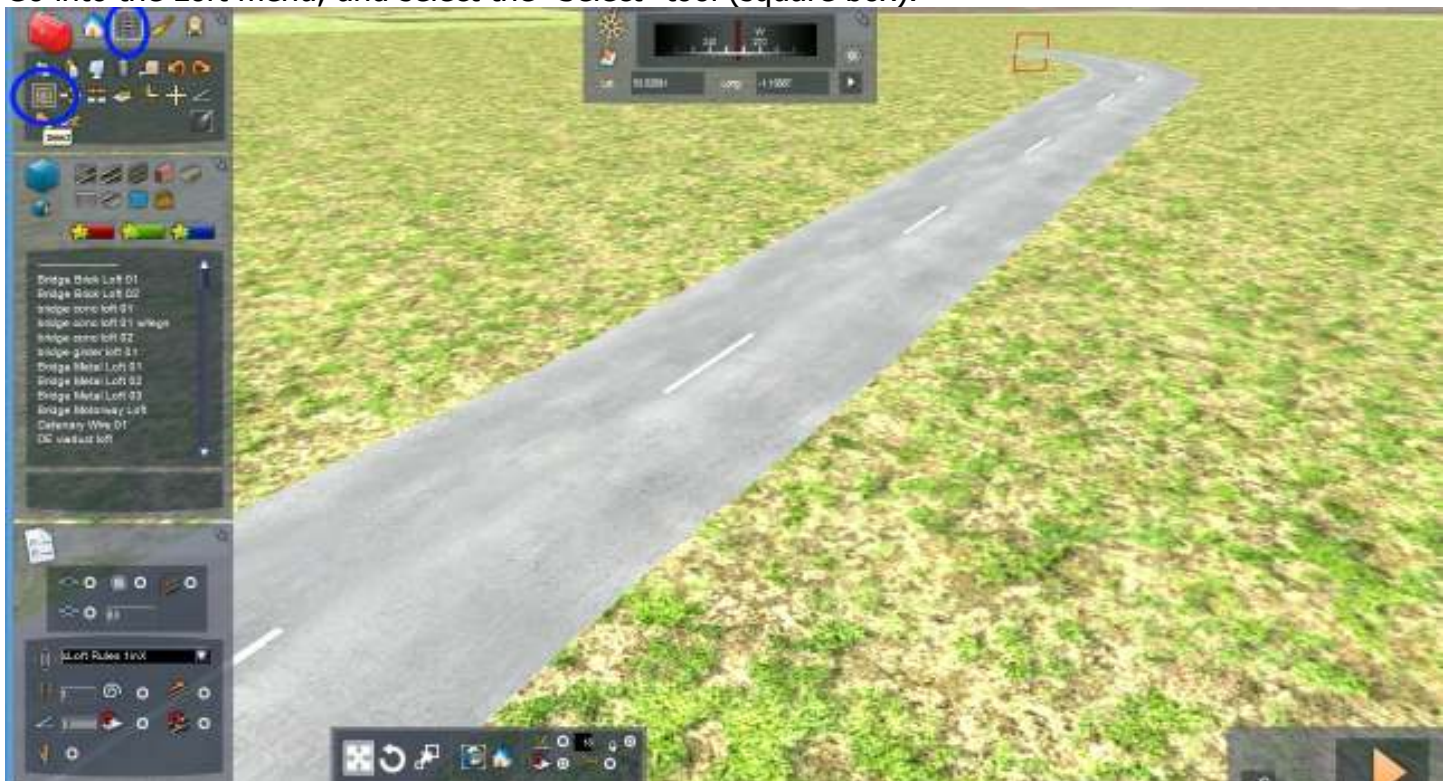


Looking in greater detail, you can see the change in gradient at a change in section.



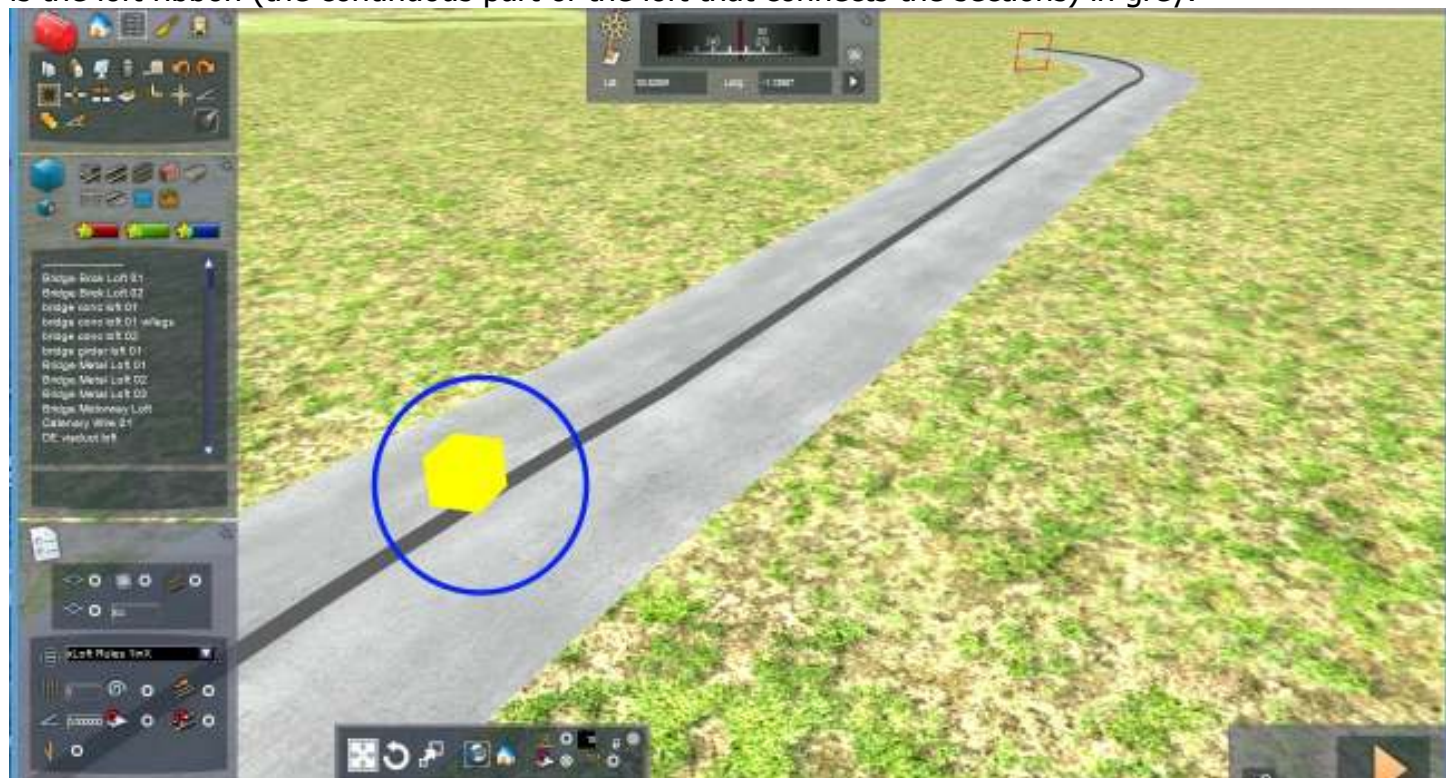
The next step is to select a stretch of the loft either side of that change in gradient.

Go into the Loft menu, and select the "Select" tool (square box).



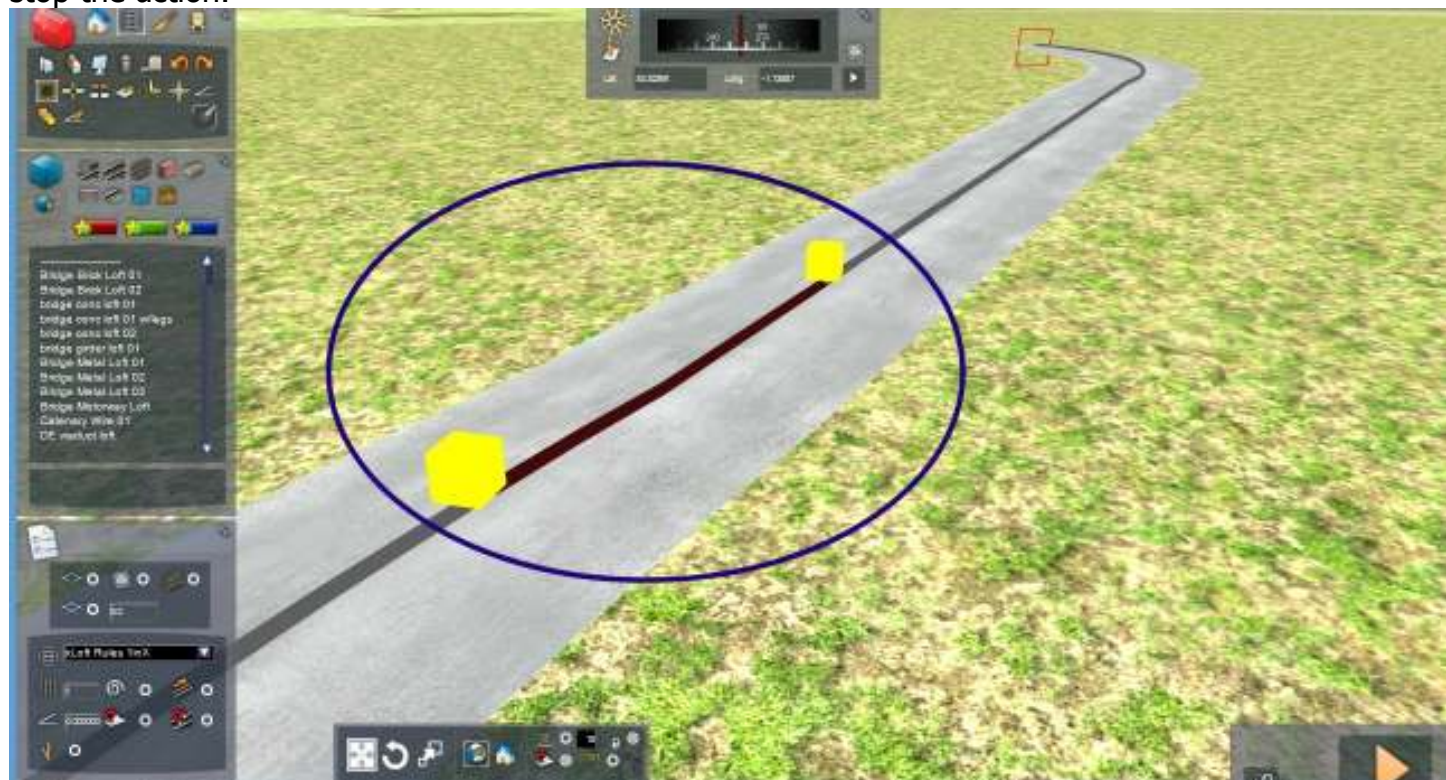
Now left click on a point on one side of the gradient change (close if you wish a sharpish change, far if you wish a very slow change)

A yellow cube with a yellow arrow pointing downwards appears at the point you selected. Also seen is the loft ribbon (the continuous part of the loft that connects the sections) in grey.



You can now move the cube with your mouse, over the section join. Note that a similar cube remains in the starting position.

Continue until you are approximately the same distance the other side of the join. Then left click to stop the action.



Finally, left click on the "smooth gradient" icon on the Loft menu.



To show how well the smoothing has gone, click on the gradient icon, and you will see the many small changes of gradient that form the smoothing.

