

Roundabouts - the basics

Vehicles circle roundabouts in a clockwise direction and approaching traffic gives way to traffic on the right.



Approach routine

The normal MSPSL junction routine should be used on the approach. Look out for road signs and road markings to help you plan how to position and signal (positioning and signalling rules overleaf). Roundabouts are usually open junctions so you should be able to time your arrival with a gap if you follow two golden rules:
1. *approach slowly* 2. *look early.*



Check your exit

You must not queue on a roundabout, so if there isn't room for you in the exit road, wait at the give way line until there is.



Finding a gap

When deciding if it is safe to join the roundabout, try to identify who is, and who is not, a threat to you. Cars heading towards you are a threat while vehicles signalling left to turn into the road you are coming out of are not. However, bear in mind that vehicles sometimes signal incorrectly, so also take into account their position and speed, where their wheels are pointing & where the driver is looking. If in doubt, wait and see.



Look for blockers

A blocker is a vehicle on the roundabout which exits into your road, blocking the path of the cars on your right, therefore creating a gap for you. When using a blocker, make sure you move off a few seconds before the cars waiting on your right have a chance to.

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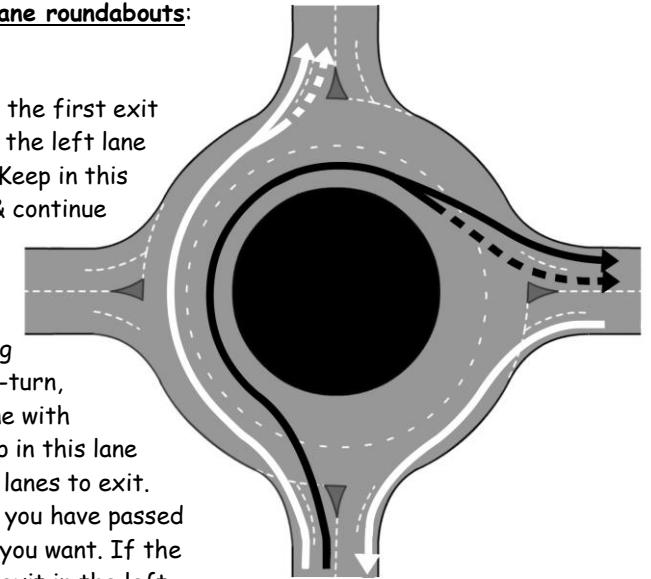


Roundabouts - positioning and signalling

Rule of thumb at two-lane roundabouts:

Going left: When taking the first exit to your left, approach in the left lane with your left signal on. Keep in this lane on the roundabout & continue signalling left to leave.

Going right: When taking a right exit, or doing a u-turn, approach in the right lane with your right signal on. Keep in this lane until you need to change lanes to exit. Signal left to leave once you have passed the exit before the one you want. If the exit road has two lanes, exit in the left hand lane when possible.



12 o'clock rule

An easy way to decide which lane to approach in is to think of the roundabout as a clock face where you enter at 6pm. If your exit road is on 12pm or before 12pm, then approach in the left lane – if it is after 12pm, use the right lane.

Going ahead: (ie an intermediate exit positioned at 12 o'clock or beforehand)
Approach in the left lane without a signal, stay in the left lane on the roundabout. Signal left to leave after passing the exit before the one you want.

Exception to the rule: roundabouts with no right exit

If you are going ahead at a roundabout that has no right exit, it's best to use the right hand lane on the approach and on the roundabout because nobody will be using that lane to turn right. This leaves the left-hand lane free for vehicles turning left, allowing optimum traffic flow.

Often the exit road is only wide enough for one vehicle, so always check nobody is under-cutting you before you leave.

