

PathMinder's **oval optical turnstiles:** new options for a proven design

PathMinder introduced the industry's first oval optical turnstile in 1995. It was a hit. And now it's even better. We have kept our twelve-beam sensor array and our ¼" tailgate detection, and tweaked everything else.

Our new housing offers more flexibility. It accommodates top- and side-mounted card readers. Side-mounted card readers (shown at right) are concealed by a translucent panel that is illuminated by a ring of LEDs; when waiting for a card to be presented, the panel glows white; after a valid card is presented, the panel turns green.

Sensors have been repositioned slightly, based on feedback from our research team. Our designers tried and tested dozens of combinations of beam positions. The result is a new beam layout that improves security and almost eliminates false alarms. The beams are tolerant of severe misalignment, and never need to be realigned.

Redesigned side and end panels offer more options for materials (including matte steel lattice ends, a first in the industry).

Lighted pictogram indicators on the top surface of the turnstile are improved. Green arrows direct users through the correct lane, and red do-not-enter symbols indicate when passage is denied.

A new steel space frame design eliminates the base; the turnstile seems to float slightly over the floor. Rigidity is improved as well; PathMinder turnstiles are solid.

Vertical reveals on the ends protect the recessed fasteners (oversized screws that resist being stripped). Side panels are easy to remove, easy to re-install, and are made with tight tolerances, making installation and service straightforward. Units can be installed beside a wall or security desk without blocking the fasteners. And, thanks to their special shape, PathMinder turnstiles can be spaced 32" apart and still meet ADA regulations.

PathMinder's oval optical turnstile. Real speed. Real security.



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Accessible. Except to intruders.

PathMinder's unique shapes offer ADA compliance at 32" and help prevent side-by-side passages.

A major benefit of optical turnstiles over alternatives is accessibility. Even optical turnstiles with barriers offer barrier-free access once a person has presented a valid badge. There is no need for swing gates or alternate entrances to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act or the CSA accessibility standards.

Most manufacturers' turnstiles need to be placed 36" apart to comply with the ADA. PathMinder's unique housing designs comply with ADA when spaced 32" apart.

A 32" passageway still offers good accessibility (we regularly test our products with wheelchairs, canes and guide dogs) but offers several compelling advantages.

A narrower passageway offers less opportunity for two people to walk in side-by-side. Tighter spacing means tighter security.

Furthermore, by meeting ADA with a 32" lane width, PathMinder offers the designer more flexibility in how an entrance is laid out. More turnstile lanes can be installed in a given space.

A universal 32" lane width also helps avoid a compromised approach that is common in the industry. At some sites, the designers provide one 36" lane and several 30" lanes (the minimum lane width for a passage in an exit route). This makes some provision for accessibility and offers some security in narrower lanes. However, the weakest link, the 36" lane, still offers good opportunity for an undetected side-by-side passage. It looks rather odd, to boot. Furthermore, although this approach does comply with ADA standards, it does not champion the spirit of universal access, since people in wheelchairs and scooters are still forced to use a given lane.

PathMinder turnstiles and tailgate sensors operate perfectly at lane widths between 24" and 60". For real security and real accessibility, however, PathMinder recommends 32" lane widths at all sites.

Make your traffic statistics count.

Rely on PathMinder's people counters to deliver accurate building occupancy and traffic trends.

Tired of resetting your site occupancy counter at the end of each workday?
Wondering what your traffic inflows and outflows look like at different times of day?
PathMinder's people counting solution offers accurate insight.

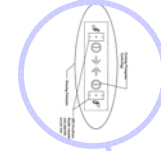
PathMinder offers its TrueCount System Administrator software for both control and people counting applications. Combined with any of PathMinder's turnstile or tailgate sensor products, it provides full logging of all events. It provides simple histogram traffic reports, showing a bar graph of traffic in and traffic out, broken down by time period (every fifteen minutes, for instance, or perhaps each day). It maintains a count of the number of people in the building, and offers current traffic rate in and out of the site. Its open database structure means any standard database reporting tool (like Crystal Reports) can be used to mine the traffic data.

Leverage PathMinder's detection accuracy to maintain a true count. People counters with one or two transceiver/reflector pairs do not collect sufficient information to deliver an accurate count, and can be susceptible to ambient light. PathMinder's twelve sensor detection arrays offer superior counting abilities for sites that can segment entrances into 32" or 36" lanes.

PathMinder has been providing traffic counting solutions for five years, and has been a leader in optical detection technology for almost ten.

Take the TrueCount tour; visit <http://www.pathminder.com/products/software/>.

PathMinder Retrospective



1994

Design of the oval turnstile begins; there is special emphasis placed on style, ease-of-use and robustness.



1995

The first ovals are installed at a major telecommunications company; beams at three heights prevent crawl attempts.



1998

Wood veneer housings are introduced, later followed by muntz metal (brass).



1999

PathMinder introduces a new detection array with 12 sensors, offering 1/4" tailgate detection, leading the industry.



2003

The oval with vertical reveals is released; more solid and easier to maintain, it offers a platform for future technological advances.

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critical thinking & evaluation tools