

# Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Planning Technique 

## * What is a Gantt chart?

A Gantt chart, commonly used in project management, is one of the most popular and useful ways of showing activities (tasks) displayed against time. On the left of the chart is a list of the activities and along the top is a suitable time scale. Each activity is represented by a bar; the position and length of the bar reflects the start date, duration and end date of the activity.

This figure shows an example of a Bar-chart (Gantt chart):


## * Benefits of Using Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Technique For Project Planning

- Clarity: Gantt chart has the ability to show and clarify multiple tasks and timelines.
- Communication: It is a visual method to help project team members understand task progress.
- Motivation: Gantt charts offer project teams the ability to focus work at the front of, or at the tail end of a task timeline.
- Coordination: project managers use these charts to break down projects into manageable sets of tasks.
- Creativity: The use of Gantt charts often encourages new partnerships that might not have evolved under traditional task assignment systems.
- Time Management: Time scheduling is considered as one of the major benefits of Gantt charts
- Flexibility: It offers a view of project which can help team members adjust changes.
- Manageability: By using Gantt charts, project managers can make more focused, effective decisions about resources and timetables.
-Efficiency: Visualizing resource usage during projects allows managers to make better use of people, places, and things.
- Accountability: Using Gantt charts during critical projects allows both project managers and participants to track team progress.


## * Disadvantages of Using Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Technique For Project Planning

- They can become very complex
- The length of the bar does not indicate the amount of work
- They all the time need to be updated
- Difficult to see on one sheet of paper
- The Critical path (C.P) cannot be clearly indicated


## * Examples of Project Gantt charts

Ex.1/ using the details shown below, build a Bar-chart to find the project's total duration.

| Activity | A | B | C | D | E | F | H | K | G | I | J | M |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Duration <br> (days) | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 6 |
| Followed <br> Activity | B,C | D,E | F | H | K | K,G | I,J | $\cdots--$ | $\cdots--$ | $\cdots--$ | M | $\cdots--$ |

Solution:

| - | $\rightarrow$ | N | m | - | n | $\bigcirc$ | N | $\infty$ | $\sigma$ | 윽 | 7 | ~ | $\cdots$ | $\pm$ | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ | $\stackrel{\square}{\square}$ | 今 | $\stackrel{\infty}{\sim}$ | 9 | 안 | $\stackrel{-}{\sim}$ | N | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ | N | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ | N | N | ํ | 앙 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| F |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| J |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Project Total Duration is $\mathbf{3 0}$ days
( $C . P=A, B, D, H, J, M$ )
Ex.2/ Find the project's total duration and date of completion (assume the project start date is $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ of December 2014). Use the following details to build the Gantt chart:

| Activity | A | B | C | D | G | E | F | L | I | J | M | K |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Duration <br> (weeks) | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Following <br> Activity | B,C,D | G | E | F | L | I | J | M | K | K | K | $\cdots---$ |

Solution:

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| F |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| J |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Project Total Duration is 20 weeks. The estimated completion date is $\underline{1}^{\text {st }}$ of May 2015 (C. $P=A, D, M, K$ )

Ex.3/ Find the project's total duration and date of completion (assume the project start date is $15^{\text {th }}$ of March 2015). Use the following details to build the Gantt chart:

| Activity | A | B | C | D | E | F | 1 | J | K | M | N | L | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Duration (months) | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| Following Activity | B,C | E | D,F | I,J | K | I,J | M | M | L | N | ---- | 0 | ----- |

## Solution:


(C.P=A,B,E,K,L,O)

Ex.4/ A project, its activities are shown below, was started on (20/1/2014). Use the Gantt chart technique to find its estimated delivery date.

| Activity | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Duration <br> (weeks) | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Following <br> Activity | B,D,E | C | I | F | G | H | I | $\cdots---$ | K | $\cdots---$ |

Solution:

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| F |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Project Total Duration is $\underline{22}$ weeks. The estimated delivery date is 7/7/2014 (C.P=A,B,C,I,K)

* If the project shown above had a delay of (2) weeks after ( 6 working weeks), what would be its new delivery date?

| - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| F |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The project's new delivery date would be 21/7/2014

