

The Implicit Grid

The Grid You Didn't Ask For

You are the architect. You define an explicit grid.

You use properties like `grid-template-columns` and `grid-template-rows` to draw the initial blueprint for your content.

```
.grid-container {  
  display: grid;  
  grid-template-columns: repeat(3, 1fr);  
  grid-template-rows: repeat(2, 150px);  
}
```



Then you add more items than the blueprint can hold.



What happens now?

Grid doesn't panic — it quietly creates more grid.

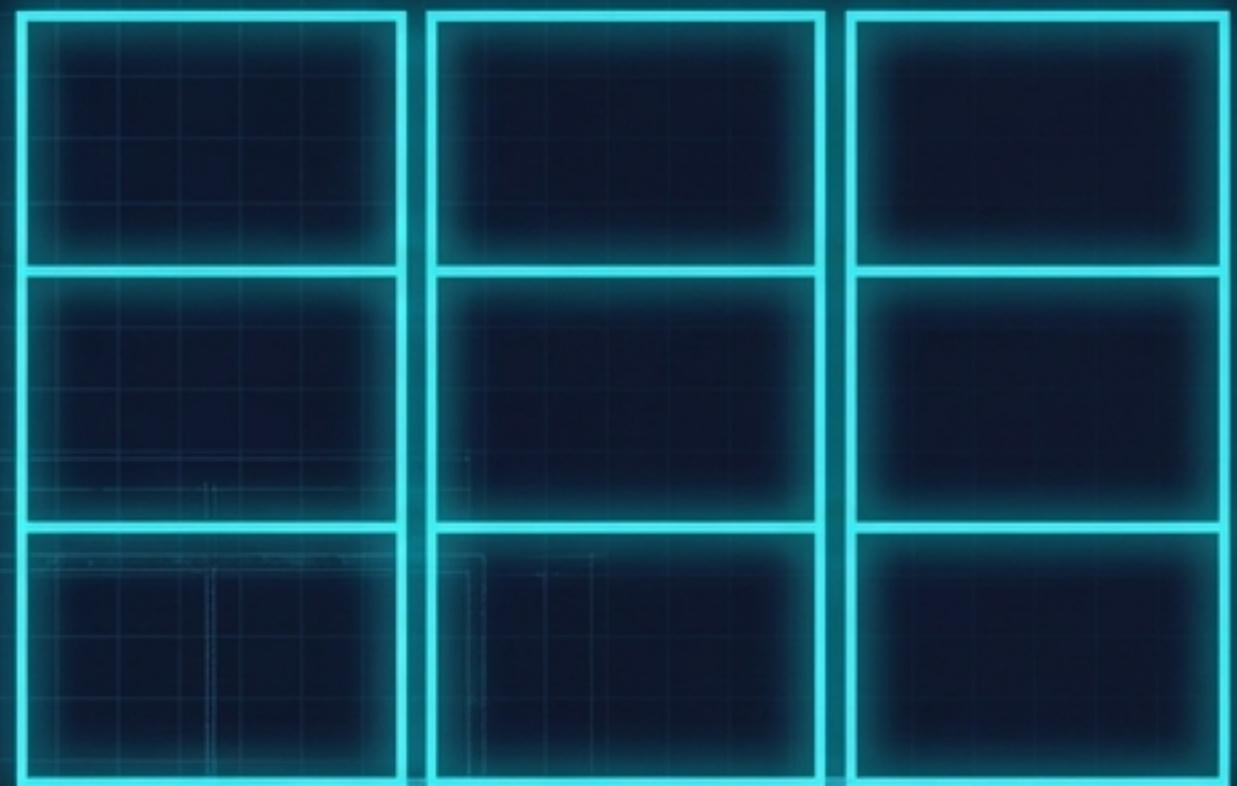
That extra structure, created automatically to hold the overflowing items, is the **implicit grid**.



Explicit vs. Implicit

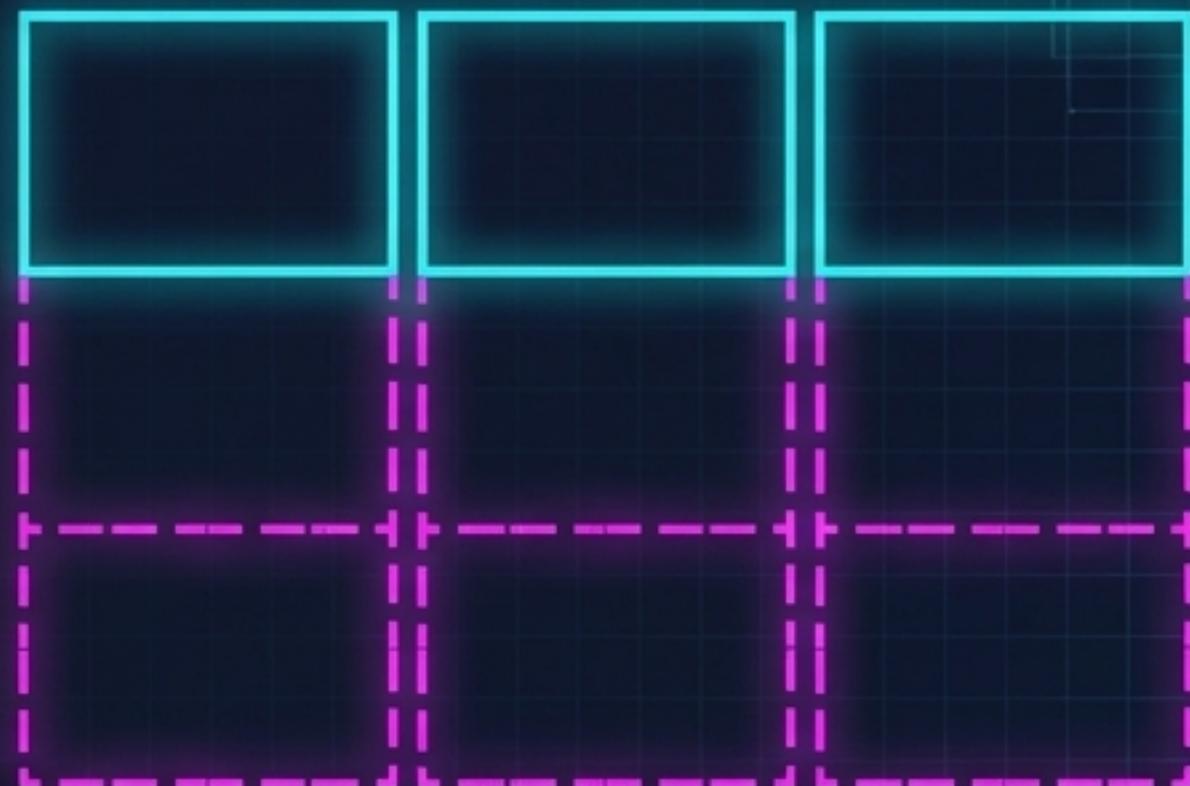
Explicit Grid

The tracks you define with `grid-template-*` properties. This is your planned blueprint.



Implicit Grid

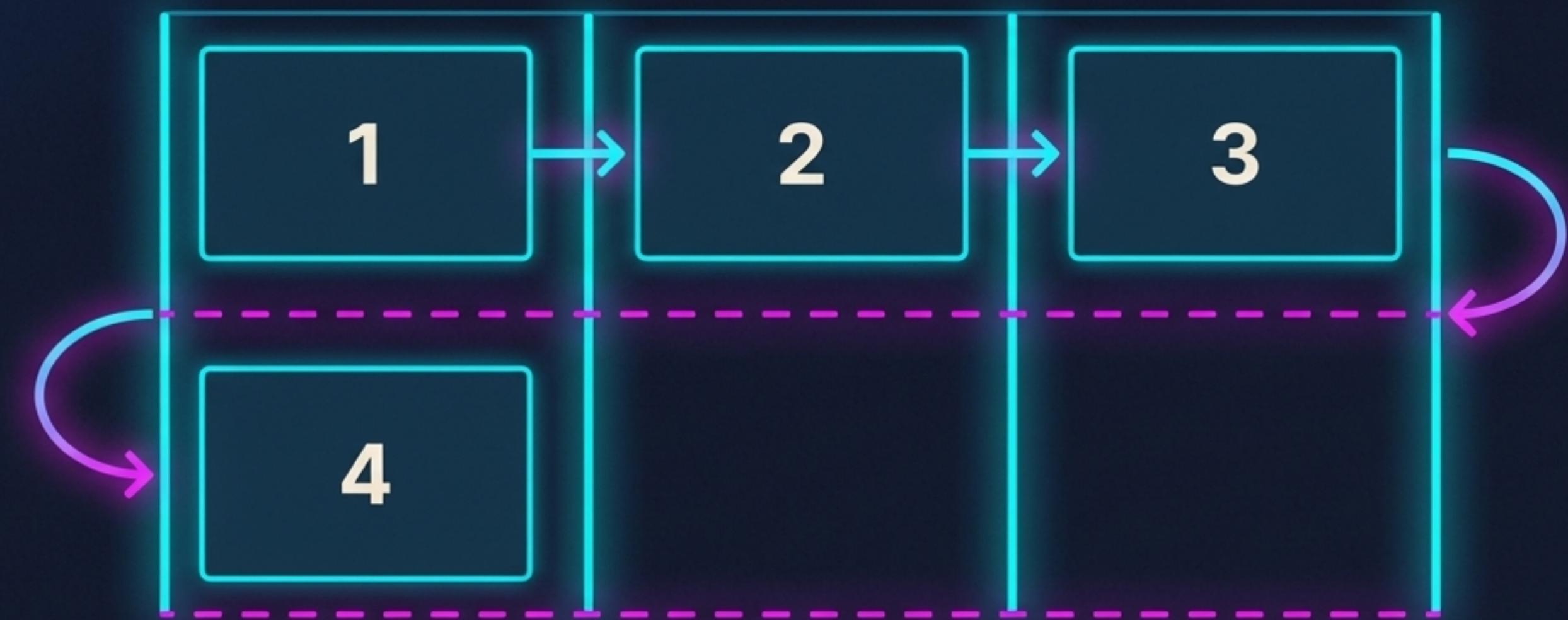
The tracks Grid creates automatically when items overflow your blueprint.



You define 3 columns. You place 12 items.
Grid creates as many rows as needed to fit them.

Auto-Placement: The Default Flow

If you don't place items manually, Grid auto-places them from left to right, then wraps to the next available row.



“That’s why it feels like ‘a smarter inline-block system’.”

By default, implicit rows are `auto` height.

This means their height is determined by the content inside them, which can lead to an inconsistent layout.



```
/* Default behavior */  
grid-auto-rows: auto;
```

You control the implicit blueprint with `grid-auto-rows`.

Use this property to set a consistent size for every implicit row Grid creates.



```
/* Your command */  
grid-auto-rows: 10rem;
```

Putting It All Together

Explicit tracks are what you define.
Implicit tracks are what Grid creates to finish the job.

Explicit Row

1 Auto-placed	2 Auto-placed	3 Auto-placed	4 Auto-placed
5 Auto-placed	6 Auto-placed	7 Auto-placed	8 Auto-placed
9 Auto-placed	10 Auto-placed	11 Auto-placed	12 Auto-placed
13 Auto-placed	14 Auto-placed		

Implicit Rows
(sized by `grid-auto-rows`)

Auto-placement fills rows left-to-right, then adds new rows as needed.

Implicit Columns Exist Too

If your auto-placement flow is column-based, Grid can create implicit columns as well. The same principle applies, but the property to control them is `grid-auto-columns`.

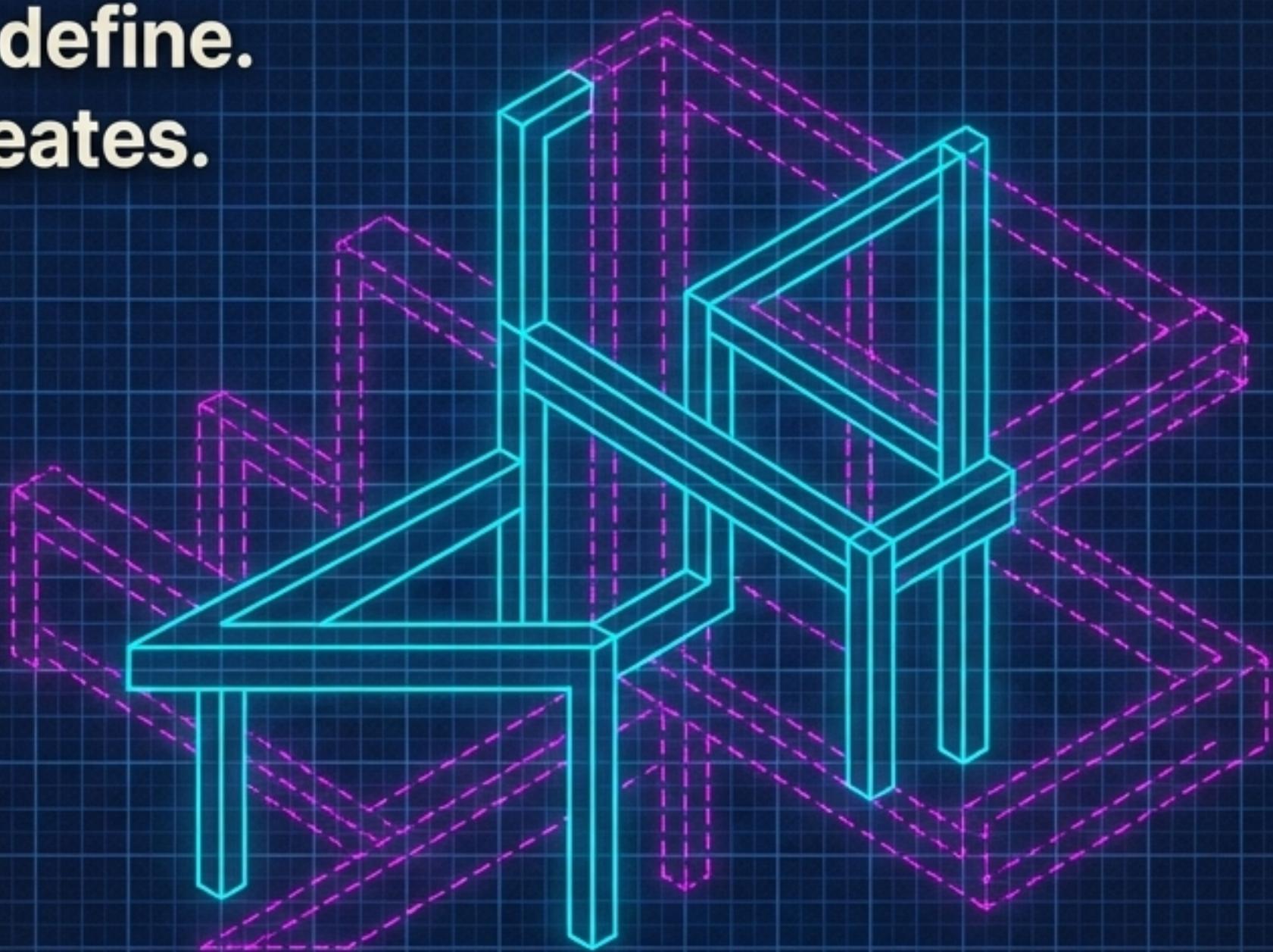


We'll keep that one holstered for later, but it's the same idea.

The Grid always has two layers.

The structure **you define**.

The structure **it creates**.



Learn both, and **auto-placement** stops being “mysterious”.



p.s., keep learning!