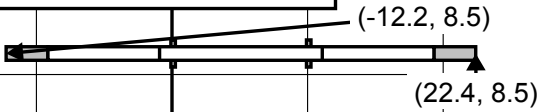
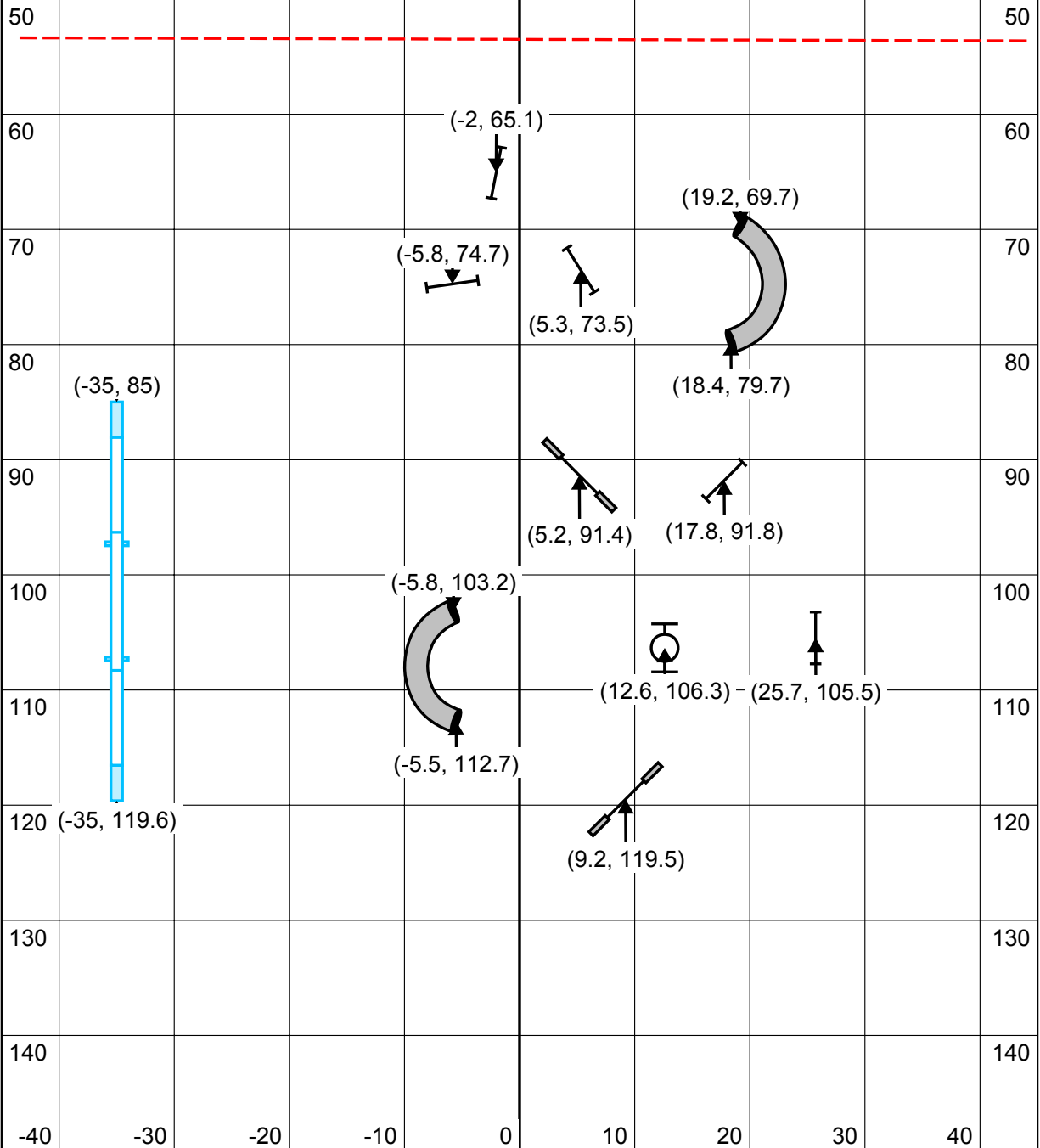
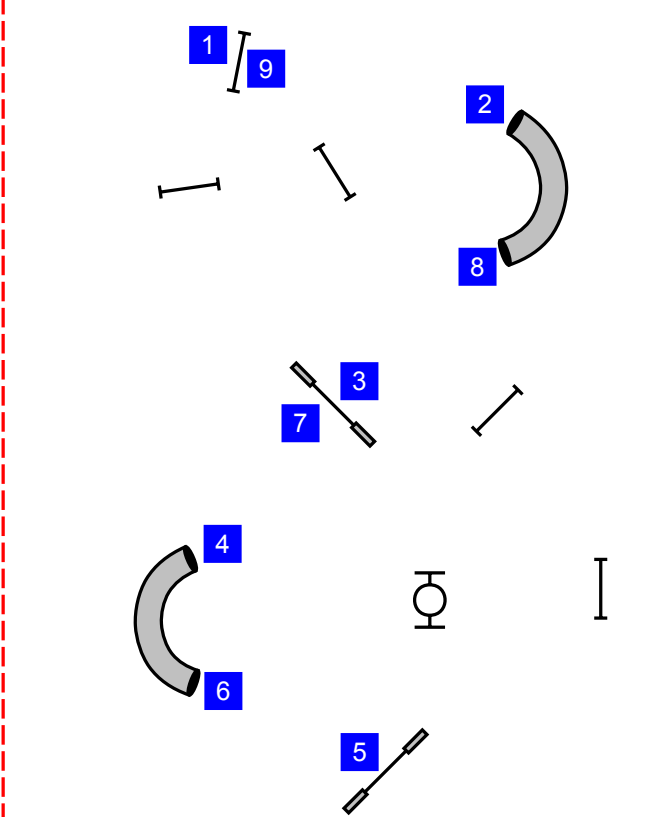
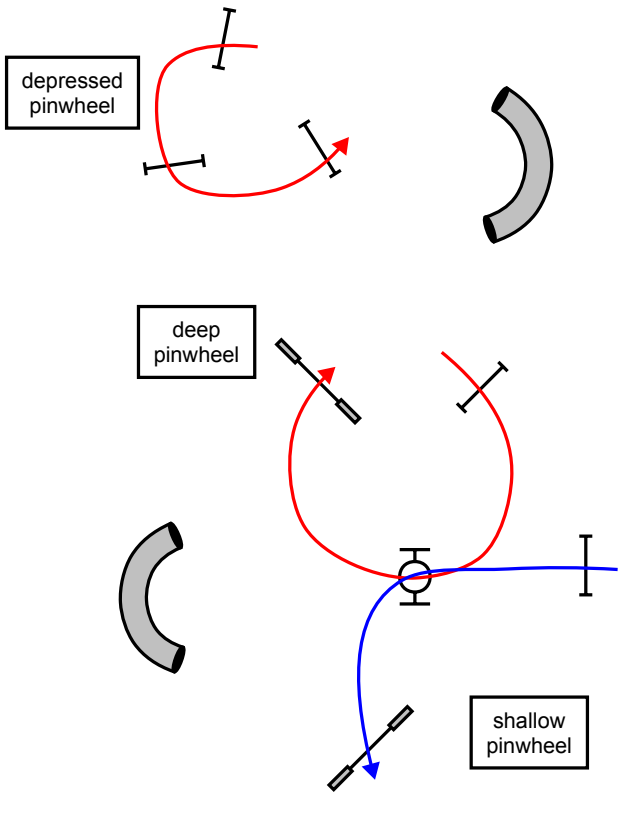


**ARFF 5-25-22: Backchaining a course: Pinwheels Galore**



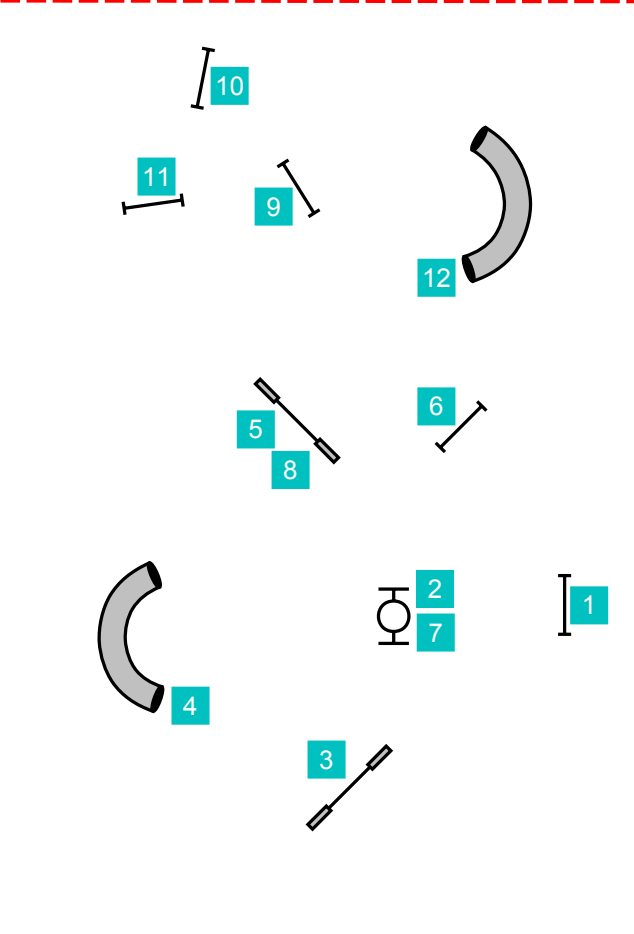
You can use backchaining both to build a skill and to learn a course. Here's a course of linked pinwheels. In learning courses, it helps to recognize patterns. Pinwheels present a special challenge, because turning in place is not motivating for most dogs. Keep moving smoothly and be aware of where you're going—and where you need to cross. A cross in the middle of a pinwheel can help guide your dog and keep him moving as well. The more you can send your dog ahead in a pinwheel instead of "going into the pocket," the more you can get ahead of him, and that's motivating for him. These exercises present 3 types of pinwheels: deep, shallow, and "depressed," where the jumps are tight and almost at right angles to each other.





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This is a simple "S" shape up and back. Make it as fast and as smooth as possible (as a warm-up to what's coming).



Backchaining a course means that, when you run the whole thing, you're always moving from the part you practiced less toward the end (the part you practiced most). Your dog is likely to recognize your handling patterns, too. Look at the whole sequence first and figure where you need to cross (between #3 & #4, and between #8 & #9). In backchaining a course, start with the final section first (#8-#12). Your dog will probably be on your R over #8, so practice your cross between #8 & #9 in this segment. It's a tight pinwheel, so keep moving. Next work on the middle segment (#3-#8) probably wrapping #3, and tack it on to the ending. Finally, practice the opening segment, #1-#4 and tack it onto the rest. Does this approach to a course make you feel more confident and make you work better with your teammate?