Sockets “A” thru “E” in row 1 are all connected, but not to any other row.

No connections cross the center plastic “trench.”

Longitudinal connections (usually for power.) All 25 sockets along the green line in this example are connected. So are the 25 sockets along the red line.

The gap here indicates that the longitudinal connections running down the board don’t extend the full length of the board, but are in two halves.

Under the plastic cover, the breadboard has metal rails under each connected row. Wire placed into the holes is connected to adjacent holes as the rails “pinch” a physical connection.

Therefore, it is important to use wire that is the correct diameter for the breadboard and not jam in connectors that might bend the rails so their connections become intermittent.