

# Vehicle Set Up Guide

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Camber affects the car's side traction. Generally more negative camber means increased grip in corners since the side-traction of the wheel increases. Adjust front camber so that the front tires wear flat. Adjust rear camber so that the rear tires wear slightly more on the inside. The amount of front camber required to maintain the maximum contact patch also depends on the amount of caster. Higher caster angles (more inclined) require less negative camber, while lower caster angles (more upright) require more negative camber.

The amount of front camber required to maintain maximum tire contact largely depends on the amount of caster. A steeper caster angle requires more camber, while a shallower caster angle requires less camber.

#### **Rear Camber**

More Negative Camber = Decreases Traction Entering and While Cornering Less Negative Camber = Increases Rear Traction Entering and While Cornering to a Point



**Front Camber** 

More Negative Camber = More Steering

Less Negative Camber = Less Steering

aative

Positive

Caster describes the angle of the front steering block with respect to a line perpendicular to the ground. The primary purpose of having caster is to have a self-centering steering system. Caster angle affects on- and off-power steering, as it tilts the chassis more or less depending on how much caster is applied. It is generally recommended that you use a steeper caster angle (more vertical) on slippery, inconsistent and rough surfaces, and use a shallower caster angle (more inclined) on smooth, high-grip surfaces.

Caster has the effect of progressively leaning the front tires into the direction of the corner. The more the caster angle is laid-back, the greater the effective camber change when the wheels are turned. This happens because the tops of the wheels both lean towards the inside of the corner. The wheels dig in to the corner more, counteracting the centrifugal forces pushing the vehicle away from the corner.

The amount of front camber required to maintain maximum tire contact largely depends on the amount of caster. A steeper caster angle requires more camber, while a shallower caster angle requires less camber.

Total caster angle is dependent on the front kick up angle and inner hinge pin inserts. You would need to add the front kick up angle with the inner hinge pin insert used and the caster angle on the spindle carriers to determine the total caster (ie: 11 deg front kick up + .5 deg double dot insert downwards +15 deg caster blocks = 26.5 deg total caster angle)

# **Less Caster** Decreased Straight Line Stability Increased Off-Power Steering at Corner Entry Increased Suspension Efficiency **RIDE HEIGHT**

#### **More Front Ride Height** (or less rear)

- Increases Weight Transfer to the Rear End On-Power
  - Increases Stability
  - Decreases Steering



- Decreases Rear Traction
- Increases Steering

Lowers Nose Angle During Flight/Jumps

#### More Caster

- Increased Straight Line Stability
- Decreased Off-Power Steering at Corner Entry
- More Stable Through Bumpy/Rutted Sections

Ride height is the height of the chassis in relation to the surface it is sitting on with the vehicle ready to run (full of fuel or with battery installed). Ride height affects the vehicles traction since it alters the vehicles center of gravity and roll center. Differences in ride height determine the vehicles attitude (angle of the chassis from front to rear), which can effect how it jumps and lands.

Use the shock pre-load collars to raise and lower the ride height. It should be checked with a specific ride height measuring tool. Measurements should be taken from the flat part of the chassis, front and rear (measure the front ride height before the kick up in the chassis starts). To measure, first drop the vehicle from about 6 inches on a flat surface. After the suspension settles, a measurement is taken.



### **Angles & Measurement Adjustments**

Droop



Droop is the measured amount of down travel in the suspension. It is measured from the shocks mounting points and is adjusted by turning the droop screw located in the suspension arms front/rear. This screw limits the suspension travel by providing a stopping point against the chassis. Both left and right sides of the vehicle should be adjusted to have the same amount of droop, however the front and rear of the vehicle can have different values. Droop affects all aspects of chassis performance, including: braking, acceleration, jumping, traction and rough track handling.

**More** suspension travel makes the vehicle more responsive but less stable and is typically better on a bumpy track or on a track with slow corners. This allows the chassis to "pitch" rearward or forward more under acceleration or braking, which results in more weight transfer.

**Less** suspension travel makes the vehicle more stable and is typically better on a smooth track. This prevents the chassis from "pitching" rearward or forward too much under acceleration or braking, which results in less weight transfer.

#### **More Front Droop**

• Allows Front End to Rise More on Acceleration

More Rearward Weight Transfer
 Increases Rear Traction on Corner Exit

Better on Bumpy Tracks

#### Less Front Droop

• Ride Height

- Less Rearward Weight Transfer
  - Better on Smooth Tracks
- More On-Power Steering
   More Responsive During Direction Changes

### • Less Stable Under Braking

Increases Steering on Corner Entry
 More Turn In
 Better on Bumpy Tracks

#### Less Rear Droop

Roll Centers/Camber Gain

Less Forward Weight Transfer
 May Bottom Out on Big Jumps
 More Responsive During Direction Changes
 Better on Smooth Tracks

#### **ROLL CENTERS/CAMBER GAIN**

Roll center is a theoretical point around which the chassis rolls and is determined by the design of the suspension. Front and rear suspensions normally have different roll centers.

The "roll axis" is the imaginary line between the left and right side of the vehicle. The amount that a chassis rolls in a corner depends on the position of the roll axis relative to the vehicles center-of-gravity (CG). The closer the roll axis is to the center of gravity, the less the chassis will roll in a corner. A lower roll center will generally produce more grip due to the chassis rolling, and the outer wheel "digging in" more. Roll-centers have an immediate effect on a vehicles handling, whereas anti-roll bars, shocks and springs require the vehicle to roll before they produce an effect.

Roll center is determined by the vehicles suspension geometry. Each end of the vehicle has its own roll center, determined by the suspension geometry at that respective end. Camber gain is the adjustment determined by the length of the camber link in relation to the inboard and outboard hinge pins. A camber link that is shorter than the distance between the hinge pins will produce a negative camber effect as the suspension is compressed. A camber link that is exactly the same length as the distance between the hinge pins will produce no camber change as the suspension is compressed.





#### **Shorter Camber Link**

More Camber Gain
 More Steering Entering Corner
 Less Stability Entering Corner
 More Traction

#### Longer Camber Link

● Less Camber Gain ● More Stability ● Slows Down Vehicle Response

#### **Front Camber Links**

#### Shock Tower Upper Holes (Lower Roll Center)

More Steering Entering Corners
 More Responsive

#### Shock Tower Lower Holes (Higher Roll Center)

Less Steering Entering Corners
 Less Responsive
 Best in High Grip Conditions

#### **Rear Camber Links**

#### Shock Tower Upper Holes (Lower Roll Center)

Less Rear Traction Entering Corner
 More Stable Mid Corner and Exiting Corner

#### Shock Tower Lower Holes (Higher Roll Center)

More On Power Traction
 Use to Avoid Traction Rolling Entering Corner

• Use Under Low Traction Conditions



## **Further Forward**

 Slows initial Steering Response Smooths Out Overall Steering

Better for Smooth Tracks with Fast Corners

- Better for Small Tight Tracks

Bump steer is a front suspension tuning option commonly used to change steering characteristics over rough and loose terrain. Bump steer occurs when a vehicles front toe angle changes as the suspension compresses or rebounds, which affects how parallel the front wheels are.

increases the amount of steering while entering a corner at the cost of some traction.

Adjusting bump steer is done by changing the angle of the steering link. This is accomplished by adding or removing washers from the ball studs attached to the ackermann plate and steering spindles. By the same means, you can also flip the ball stud to further adjust the angle.

When your vehicle is properly set up, it should have the bump steer set for the least amount of bump possible (or zero bump) for the most consistent handling on most tracks.

#### **More Bump Steer**

 Increased steering Mid-Corner • Steering May Be Twitchy/Inconsistent

Easier to Control on Smooth Tracks

#### Less Bump Steer (more neutral)

- Decreases Steering Mid-Corner
- Smoother/More Consistent Steering
- Better on Rough or Bumpy Tracks

#### **Further Rearward**

• Quickens Initial Steering Response

- Overall Steering Reacts Quicker

**BUMP STEER** 









### **Hinge Pin Adjustments**

• Rear Toe	● Anti-Squat	• Rear Arm Length	Wheelbase	• Front Arm Sweep	• Front Kick Up
REAR TOE		Toe <sup>Outn</sup>	<ul> <li>wheels point when loo Toe is used to stabilize wheels can be toed in o should only have varyin</li> <li>Toe can be Adjusted a</li> <li>Inboard toe is adjusted at the inner hinge pin. various hinge pin inser "sweep".</li> <li>Outboard toe is adjust</li> </ul>	It Either End of a Suspe d by altering the angle o lt is measured in degree ts. On the front of the ve ed in two ways: at the fr ods or at the rear by cha	a the top of the vehicle. ise of traction. Front lations. Rear wheels ension Arm If the suspension arm s and changed with chicle this is also called ont by adjusting the
		•	More Rear Toe In Increases Understeer More Stable On-Power/Through Co and During Braking Less Chance of Loosing Rear Tra Decreased Top Speed	<ul> <li>Less Stable O</li> <li>orner Exit</li> <li>More Char</li> </ul>	<b>ss Rear Toe In</b> n-Power/ Through Corner Exit nd During Braking nce of Loosing Rear Traction creased Top Speed

**ANTI-SQUAT** 



Rear anti-squat is the angle of the rear lower suspension arm when viewed from the side of the vehicle. With anti-squat the back of the arm is lower than the front of the arm. Rear anti-squat is used as a tuning aid primarily when a vehicle needs to run a soft rear spring but also has a tendency for the rear end to squat down too much under acceleration. An added benefit of rear antisquat is quicker initial acceleration at the start of a race. In order to prevent 100% of the vehicles weight transfer force from being exerted onto the soft rear springs, anti-squat is used to allow a certain percentage of the weight transfer to be absorbed by the rear lower arm motion.

#### **Less Anti-Squat**

- More Rear Traction Off Power
- Less Rear Traction On-Power
- Better On Bumpier Tracks

#### **More Anti-Squat**

- More Rear Traction During Acceleration
   Less Rear Traction Off Power
  - Better on Smooth High Grip Tracks

#### **REAR ARM LENGTH**



Rear arm length can be adjusted on our kits to suit various driving styles or track conditions by simply moving the rear outer hinge pin. This will change the point in which the rear hub will articulate.

#### **Short Arm Position**

Less StableQuicker Rear End Rotation

#### **Long Arm Position**

More Stable
 Slower Rear End Rotation
 Slightly Better Bump Handling

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## WILLEDAJE



Changes to wheelbase can have a dramatic effect on the handling of your vehicle, since it adjusts the distribution of weight on the rear wheels, which adjusts traction. By shortening the wheelbase at the rear of the vehicle, your placing more weight over the rear wheels, which results in more rear traction). By lengthening the wheelbase, the vehicle feels more stable and the longer vehicle handles bumpy section easier.

Changing the wheelbase also changes the amount of sweep the rear driveshaft will have. More driveshaft sweep creates an effect similar to anti-squat, where the rear end of the vehicle gets pushed upwards on throttle. This allows you to land larger jumps on-power with less chance of bottoming out.

To make changes, all that you have to do is move the spacers around on the rear hinge pin. There are 1mm spacers and 2mm spacers, along with 5mm of empty space around the rear hub. This allows for 6 different settings that can be achived to vary the amount of total wheelbase.

#### Shorter Wheelbase (rear hub further to the front)

- Increases Rearward Weight Transfer During Acceleration
  - Increases On-Power Traction
  - Quicker Off-Power Steering Entering Corners
  - Tendency to Push On-Power Exiting Corners
    - Increases Steering Response

#### Longer Wheelbase (rear hub further to the rear)

- Decreases Off-Power Steering in to Corners
  - Increases Stability
- Slower Off-Power Steering Entering Corners
- Improves On-Power Steering Exiting Corners
   Better Bump Handling
- Better Large Open Tracks with High Speed Corners

#### **FRONT ARM SWEEP**



The purpose of sweeping the arm forward or backward is mostly to sweep the driveshafts forward or backward. When the driveshafts are angled it changes how the car reacts on and off power.

With less front arm sweep, the stub axles are being twisted down toward the ground, pushing down on the tires and lifting the front of the chassis. This can be helpful in really bumpy sections to keep the front up and not dig in. It will also create more weight transfer to the front during braking which will increase your off-power steering.

With more front arm sweep, the stub axles are being twisted up, lifting the tires and pushing the chassis down. We've found that the biggest benefit to more arm sweep is jump landing. With the arms back, the vehicle settles much faster which allows you to get on the throttle quicker. During breaking and off throttle the front end will drop less and either feel "pushy" or more controlled into the corner.

#### **More Front Arm Sweep**

- More Control Entering Corner
- Better Jump Landing
- Better On Smooth High Grip Tracks

#### **Less Front Arm Sweep**

- More Off-Power Steering
- More Weight Transfer Under Braking
   Better on Bumpier Tracks



Front kick-up is used to adjust the amount of weight transfer to the front when the vehicle is off-throttle or under braking. Changing the front kick up angle also changes the caster angle (see Caster section).

#### **More Kick Up**

- More Weight Transfer Under Braking
- Front End Drops More Under Braking
- Handling Improved on Bumpy tracks
- Decreased Steering Response

#### Less Kick Up

- Less Weight Transfer Under Braking
- Front End Drops Less Under Braking
- Handling is improved on Smooth Tracks
   Increased Steering Response



DAMPING

Shock damping manages the resistance of shock movement as the shock piston moves through the shock oil. Damping comes into play when the suspension is moving (either vertical movement or chassis movement or due to chassis roll). When the shock is compressing or rebounding, the shock oil resists the movement of the piston through it. The amount of resistance is affected by several factors. • Viscosity (thickness) of the shock oil

• Restriction of oil flow through the piston (affected by the number of holes in the piston and the hole diameter)

• Velocity (speed) of the piston

#### **PISTONS/PACK**

Shock pistons come in a variety of hole size/number of holes variations. The size of the holes or number of holes affect shock damping by altering the flow of oil through the holes. More holes or larger holes give softer damping. Fewer holes or smaller holes give harder damping.

**Pack:** The faster the piston travels through it's stroke, the thicker the oil will feel. This phenomenon becomes more pronounced with smaller piston holes and is called "pack".

#### **Smaller Piston Holes**

Increase the pack of the shock, which is better suited to big-jump tracks where you will often land on the flat surface and not the down side of the jump. It slows the shock stroke on compression and rebound and is not well suited to very bumpy tracks.

#### **Larger Piston Holes**

Decrease the pack of the shock, which is better suited to bumpy tracks and jump sections where you land on the down side of the jump. Compression and rebound are faster.

#### **SHOCK OIL**

Shock oil is rated with a "viscosity" number that indicates the thickness of the oil. This determines how much resistance is given to the shock piston as it travels through the stroke. Typically you should use piston hole sizes to suit the track conditions rather than alter the oil viscosity. Start by determining the ideal amount of pack nessesary for your track and use an oil viscosity to suit that piston. Shock oil is also effected by the cold/hot varience of external weather conditions and must be changed to accomidate that varience.

#### **SHOCK BUILD**



#### Standard

The standard build is the most common and widely used shock building method for 1/8th scale shocks. It employs the use of bladder sitting on top of the assembly that compensates for the volume of the shock shaft as it enters the shock body, traveling in to the oil. Because the shock cap is sealed in this build, there is pressure being formed in the air space on top of the bladder as the shock is compressed.

#### Vented

The vented build is also a very common method of building 1/8th scale shocks. It also employs a bladder sitting on top of the assembly that compensates for the volume of the shock shaft as it enters the shock body, traveling in to the oil. The only difference is that the shock cap has a very small hole or "vent" in the top that allows air to escape as the shock is compressed. This hole alleviates any pressure building up and has less rebound effect than the standard build.

#### Emulsion

The emulsion build is the least common shock building method for 1/8th scale shocks. It employs a special shock cap that has an angled bleeder hole with a screw and seal (TKR6018). It does not use a bladder and instead only uses a black o-ring to seal the top cap to the shock body. This method...

#### **SPRINGS**



Spring tension determines how much the shock resists compression, which is commonly referred to as the "hardness" of the spring. Different spring tensions determine how much of the vehicles weight is transferred to the wheel relative to the other shocks. Spring tension also influences the speed at which a shock rebounds after compression. Spring tension is usually rated in a "spring weight"; higher spring weights are stiffer, while lower spring weights are softer.

#### Softer Springs

- More Chassis Roll
- More Traction
- Better On Bumpier Tracks
- Increases Chance of Bottoming Out

#### **Stiffer Springs**

Less Chassis Roll
 Less Traction
 More Responsive
 Better on Smooth Tracks
 Decreases Chance of Bottoming Out



The front sway bar affects mainly off-power steering at corner entry. The rear sway bar affects mainly onpower steering and stability in mid-corner and at corner exit.

#### Front Sway Bar

#### Thinner

Increases Front Chassis Roll Increases Front Traction Decreases Rear Traction Increases Off-Power Steering **Thicker** Decreases Front Chassis Roll Decreases Front Traction Decreases Off-Power Steering Entering Corner Quicker Steering Response

#### Rear Sway Bar

**Thinner** Increases Rear Chassis Roll Increases Rear Traction Decreases Front Traction Decreases On-Power Steering

#### Thicker

Decreases Chassis Roll Decreases Rear Traction Increases Front Traction Increases On-Power Steering



### **Differentials and Gearing Recommendations**

Differential Adjustments

• Gearing Recommendations

#### DIFFERENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS



#### **Front Differential**

Thinner front diff oil will increase off power steering however going too thin can cause the steering to become inconsistent and cause a lack of forward traction out of turns on power. Thicker front diff oil increases on power steering and add stability (slight push) into turns but if you go too thick it will decrease off power steering.

#### **Center Differential**

Thicker center diff oil mostly increases the power to the rear more than the front. Typically a balance is achievable to have the front and rear end of the vehicle powered the same, however sometimes you want the vehicle to drive from the front more than the rear and this is the case when you would want a thinner center diff oil to increase the drive of the front end of the vehicle.

#### **Rear Differential**

Thinner rear diff oil increases off power steering and rear traction however going too thin can cause the steering and traction to become inconsistent and grabby. Thicker rear diff oil decreases off power steering.

Finding the proper gearing can be easy if you follow the steps and recommendations below. Start with a proper tooth size as shown below for you particular situation and if you need more speed go up one tooth at a time. If you motor is getting too hot, this may not be an issue with the vehicle being over geared, even an undergeared electric motor can get hot.

Finding the "sweet" spot for your particular situation is ideally what you want.

- Changing front diff oil affects overall steering response.
- Changing center diff oil affects the front-to-rear drive.
- Changing rear diff oil affects cornering traction and overall steering.

On Power

#### **Center Diff Oil**

Rough Tracks

- Thinner Oil **Thicker Oil**  More Steering More Steering Off Power Better Suited to
- Better Suited to Smooth Tracks Front Wheels Unload Better Acceleration

#### **Rear Diff Oil**

Thinner Oil More Corner Traction More Steering Entering Corners

- **Thicker Oil** Less Corner Traction Less Wheelspin

**Entering Corners Entering Corners** Off Power • Less Traction More Steering **Exiting Corners Exiting Corners** On Power

**Thicker Oil** 

More Traction

**Front Diff Oil** 

**Thinner Oil** 

Off Power

On Power

More Steering

#### **GEARING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Vehicle	Motor	Small Track	Medium Track	Large Track
		(50-100 ft Straight)	(100-150 ft Straight)	(150-200 ft Straight)
SCT410	4000-4600kv	14 - 15 tooth	15 - 16 tooth	16 - 17 tooth
(2 cell)	4600-5400kv	13 - 14 tooth	14 - 15 tooth	15 - 16 tooth
EB48	1900-2050kv	15 - 16 tooth	16 - 17 tooth	17 - 18 tooth
(4 cell)	2050-2200kv	14 - 15 tooth	15 - 16 tooth	16 - 17 tooth
	1800-2000kv	17 14+00+4	14 15 to oth	15 16 to oth
ET48		13 - 14 tooth	14 - 15 tooth	15 - 16 tooth
(4 cell)	2000-2200kv	12 - 13 tooth	13 - 14 tooth	14 - 15 tooth
NB48	.21	14 tooth	15 tooth	15 tooth
	21 20	12.1	12.1	12 1
NT48	.2128	13 tooth	13 tooth	13 tooth

