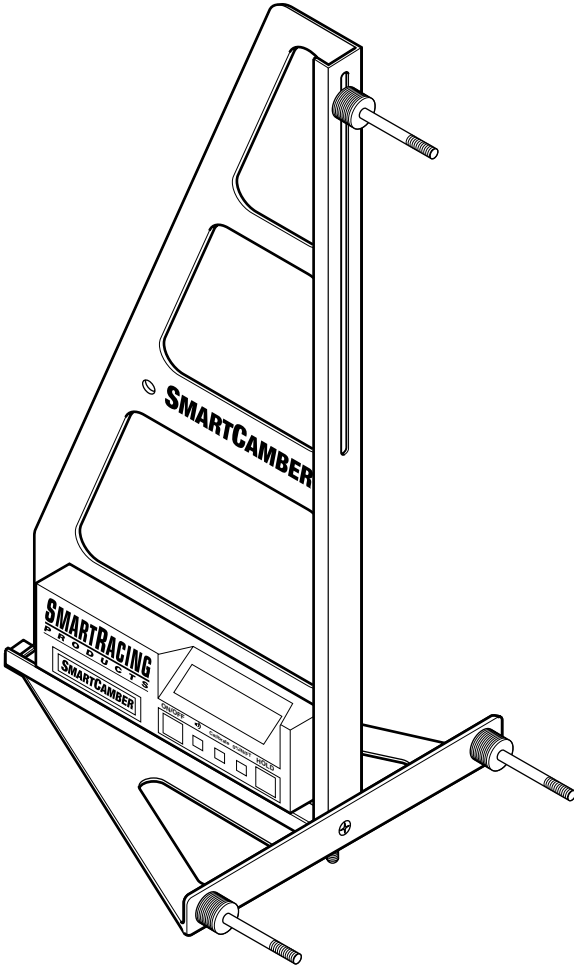
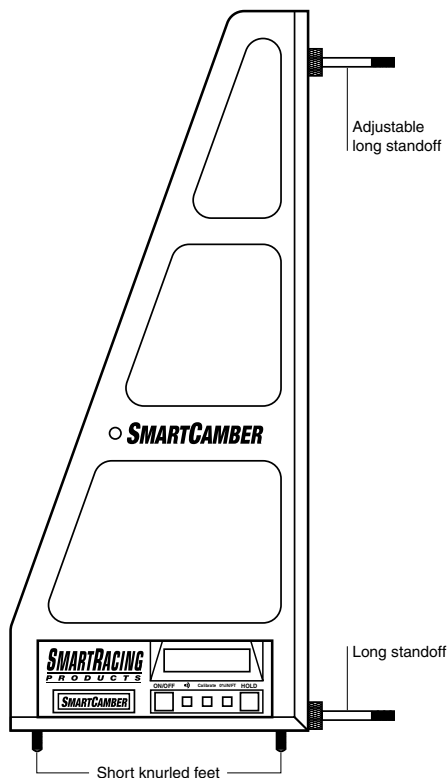


# **WATKINS** **SMARTCAMBER™**



## **Owner's Manual**



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## Welcome!

Thank you for your purchase of our SmartCamber tool. You are now the owner of what we believe is the best portable camber and caster measuring tool available today. Both the occasional user and experienced race car tuner will appreciate the simplicity of the SmartCamber tool and its ability to give fast and accurate results.

We are proud of the fact that our SmartCamber tool is used by some of the fastest car owners in the business. In addition, some of the largest automakers in the world have purchased our tool to teach alignment techniques in their technical training programs. If at any time you have a question or suggestion, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,



<p><b>Please be sure to see the optional parts available to you later in this booklet on pages 12 and 13.</b></p>
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## Overview

The SmartCamber tool was designed to maximize its measuring potential over a wide variety of wheel/tire combinations. Utilizing repeatable digital technology, the tool allows accurate measuring regardless of where the vehicle is or what angled surface it is on.

There is no misinterpretation with this tool because there are no bubbles or lines to subjectively read. The SmartCamber tool takes all of the guess work out of camber and caster measuring.

Since there are nearly an infinite number of wheel and tire combinations, it was necessary to design a tool that would be quick and easy to use.

The number one design premise was to allow camber and caster to be measured almost anywhere without removing hub caps, lug nuts or jacking the car off of the ground.

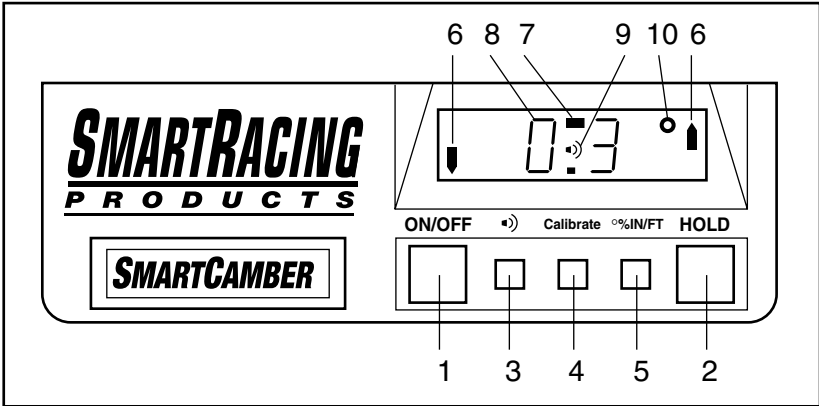
Though it is basic in concept, the results are excellent. One fixed and one adjustable standoff allows the owner to use the tool on almost any vehicle.

For toe adjusting - please see our website for our new SmartString tool.

## Battery Installation: (Battery included)

Remove back cover. Attach 9-volt battery to terminals and replace the cover.

# SmartCamber - Digital Inclinometer




## Controls:

- 1 ON/OFF** - If left idle for 6 minutes, the **SmartCamber** tool will automatically shut off.
- 2 HOLD** - Push to “freeze” and “unfreeze” display readings.
- 3 LISTEN & LEVEL AUDIO** <sup>•</sup> Push to activate and de-activate the beeper. Beeper will sound at level and plumb.
- 4 CALIBRATE** (see Calibration procedures)
- 5 ° % in/ft** - Push to change the display units: Degrees (°), Slope (%), Pitch (in/ft).

Pitch readings are in 1/8 in/ft increments. Plus and minus signs indicate when the pitch is slightly more (+) or slightly less (-) than the pitch shown on the display.

25.5°    47.7%    53/4<sub>n.m</sub>

**Note:** The ° % IN/FT button 5 can be used even when the display is in HOLD. This feature is a convenient way to convert angles from one unit to another.

- 6 UP/DOWN ARROWS** - Left and right indicators point toward level or plumb (whichever is closer). Indicators get shorter as the **SmartCamber** tool gets closer to level (0°), or plumb (90°).
- 7 LOW BATTERY** - Low 9V battery indicator. Replace battery as soon as possible. Battery life is typically 100 hours. 
- 8 DIGITAL DISPLAY** - Display readout of current measurement.
- 9 LISTEN & LEVEL AUDIO** <sup>•</sup>
- 10 ° % IN/FT MODES** - Indicates measurement “mode”: Degrees (°), Slope (%), Pitch (in/ft).

**Note:** Display reads right side up when the **SmartCamber** tool is upside down!

# Camber

## What is Camber?

The inclination of the wheels from true vertical is commonly referred to as “Camber”; read as either positive or negative.

Positive Camber: As viewed from the rear, the tops of the tires are further apart than the bottom (very uncommon).

Negative Camber: As viewed from the rear, tops of the tires are closer together than the bottom (very common).

## Measuring Camber

1. Hold the SmartCamber tool against the wheel, which you are planning to measure, at the twelve and six o'clock position. Adjust the sliding long standoff so it touches the wheel face near the edges (if the wheel has a curved face, at the top of the wheel, put a piece of racer's tape with a dot on it so you will always measure from the same location). Be sure the frame itself is not touching the tire.

## Tips and Suggestions

1. Keeping a log book for your car is a great idea. Noting all important race information and suspension settings and how they have worked in the past is a real time saver.
2. Sometimes the long standoffs are not long enough for certain fender shapes and configurations. We do have longer standoffs (3.75") available for you to order part numbers 011142.
3. Practice using your SmartCamber tool, the more you use it, the faster and easier it will be to make changes.
5. The SmartCamber tool module is very sensitive. When measuring any angle, wait 3-5 seconds for the reading to stabilize.
6. Some wheels have more run-out than others and give you erroneous camber readings. To correct for this error, mark the top and bottom of the wheel. Measure in that position. Spin the wheel half a turn and remeasure. Take the average of those two readings and that will be your true wheel angle.

See our website at [www.smartracingproducts.com](http://www.smartracingproducts.com) for more information.

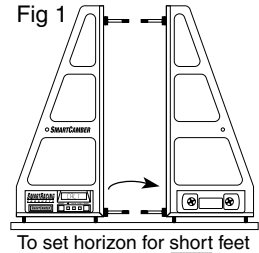
# Level Surface Alignment

## Most Commonly Used Method

---

### Setting up SmartCamber Tool for Leveling Garage Floor (Fig 1)

1. Turn the SmartCamber tool **ON** .
2. Put SmartCamber tool on horizontal surface on the short feet. Wait 10 seconds. Push and hold **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL1** will appear then a **flashing number**.
3. Rotate the SmartCamber tool 180°. Wait 10 seconds. Press and hold **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL2** will appear and then a **number**. This number will read the same turned either direction on your horizontal plane. Your tool is now ready to be used to level your surface.



### Setting up Your Car/Garage

You will need three things:

- A piece of 1.5” square aluminum box tubing (or long level) that is about 6” wider than the track width of your car (mark one side of the tubing with the words “Top Center”);
  - Two 1” sockets or equivalent (the idea is to have two round spacers that are the same height).
  - Some 12” square smooth floor tiles for shims.
1. Mark the four tire positions on the floor where you plan to do your setups.
  2. Roll the car back and put the two sockets (or spacers) where the front tires would be and lay down the aluminum box tubing (with the marked “top center” up). Put the Smart Camber tool (using the short feet) in the center of the box tubing and note the reading. If it reads zero, your floor just happens to be parallel to true horizon and you should consider it your lucky day! If not, shim the side that is low using 12” x 12” linoleum floor tiles (they’re about .060” thick) until the tool reads zero. Double check it by turning the tool around so the display is facing the other direction; it should still read zero.
  3. Now move the spacers and tubing to where the rear tires would be and repeat the process until the tool reads zero.

Note: Mark the floor or a logbook so you know how many tiles to use next time.







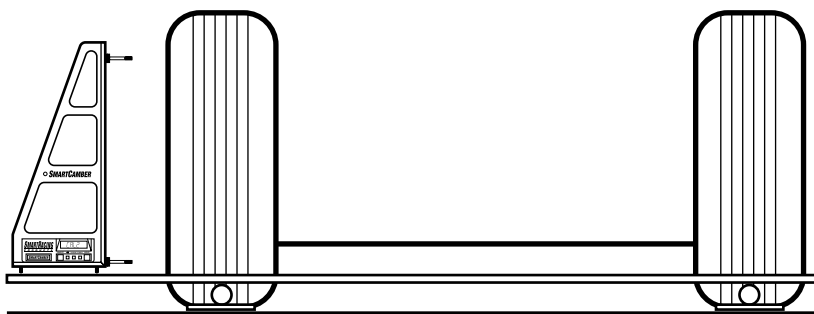
## Reading Camber Settings on a non-level Surface

You will need three things:

- A piece of 1.5” square aluminum box tubing (or long level) that is about 6” wider than the track width of your car (mark one side of the tubing with the words “Top”);
- Two 1” sockets or equivalent (the idea is to have two round spacers that are the same height).
- 2-12”x12” linoleum smooth tiles to make a smooth surface.

1. Position the car where it is to be aligned.
2. Put the linoleum smooth tiles and sockets in front of the wheels/tires.
4. Put the aluminum box tube or level on top of the two sockets.
5. You now need to **Zero Adjust** the tool while it sits on the tube or level.
  - a) Turn SmartCamber tool **OFF**.
  - b) Put the SmartCamber tool on your tube or level on its short feet. Wait 10 seconds. Press and hold the **CALIBRATE** button and while still pressing the CAL button, press and hold the **ON** button, **CAL2** will appear and then the **number 0**; this is called **zero adjust**. Your tool is now ready to be used. **(You must do this step at each wheel).**
6. This procedure has changed the verticle axis to be 90° from your horizontal plane.
7. Measure camber.

Take these tools everywhere you go because even if you are on rough crummy asphalt, this method will average out the surface and you will get good, accurate camber readings.



Set horizon (must be done at each wheel)

# Caster

## What is Caster?

The caster angle is the inclination of the imaginary line the spindle pivots around. Typically tipped towards the rear of the car. The caster angle creates forces that result in the following:

Returns the wheel to the center-steer position after a turn is made.

The vehicle tracks straighter and more predictable.

Increases or decreases the camber gain of the wheel, as it turns, to help maximize the traction potential of the tire.

## Determining Positive and Negative Caster

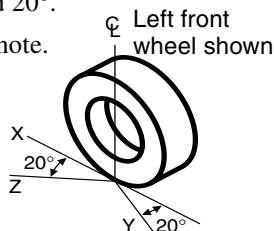
1. Take a camber reading with wheels pointing straight ahead.
2. Turn rear of wheel  $20^\circ$  in toward chasie of car. Take a camber reading.
3. If the camber reading is less you have positive (+) caster.
4. If the camber reading is more you have negative (-) caster.

## Measuring Caster

Caster is calculated by measuring the camber angle in two different positions and then putting those measurements into a simple formula.

To measure caster, do the following, but be sure to take your time the first few times you do it:

1. Start with the left front wheel.
2. Place the layout template sheet (included) on the floor and use chalk (or paint for permanent marking) to scribe lines that are about a foot longer than the template. Then remove the template and connect the lines as on the template.
3. Roll the car until the front wheel is on the centerline (CL) axis and parallel to the X axis.
4. Turn the steering wheel until the left front wheel is parallel to the Z axis.
5. Use a stiff piece of cardboard approximately 7"x18" as a "plane" reference template (flat sheet metal is better), carefully put the plane on the Z axis line and carefully lean the template against the tire. If it touches the tire evenly, then the wheel is turned  $20^\circ$ .
6. Measure the camber angle in this position and note.
7. Steer the wheel back through the center-steer position and parallel to the Y axis. Repeat the plane template alignment method.
8. Measure the camber angle in this position and note.



9. Calculate the caster angle using one of the following examples:

Note: 1. Example No. 2 is the most common.

2. What you are trying to achieve is camber difference from turning left and right.

1. If both measurements are negative then

**Subtract the small number** -3 \*  
**from the larger number** -1

Equals 2

Multiply 2 by 1.5 = 3

The wheel has 3° of caster.

2. One negative and one positive, then

**Add the numbers together** -3 \*  
 +1

Equals 4

Multiply 4 by 1.5 = 6

The wheel has 6° of caster.

3. If both are positive, then

**Subtract the smaller number** +3 \*  
**from the larger number** +1

Equals 2

Multiply 2 by 1.5 = 3

The wheel has 3° of caster.

**Note:**  
 If you cannot turn your wheels 20° determine the angle you can turn both wheels. Note that number and use the multiplication factor below. The procedure does not change, however.

**Multiplication Factors**

20° = 1.5  
 15° = 2.0  
 10° = 3.0

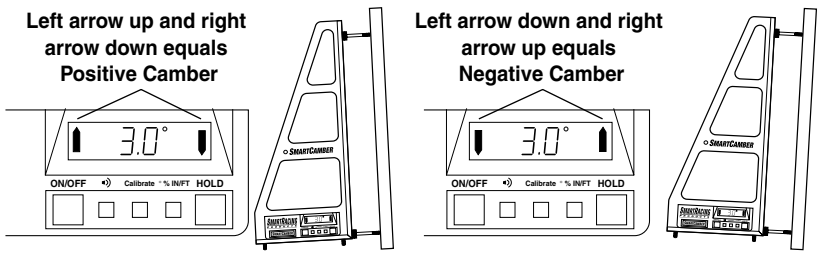
\* Ignore Negative and Positive symbols when adding and subtracting

10. Make whatever adjustments are required and remeasure until you have the angle you want.

11. Repeat the same steps on the right front wheel.

12. Reset the toe (can be done with SmartRacing Products-SmartStrings).

Any changes to the caster or camber angles will have changed the toe settings.



**Tech Note:**  
 It is helpful to put a temporary witness mark on the steering wheel hub to the steering column (with tape), so you always return to the same angle of reference. Also, zeroing the car is not necessary because you are only interested in the difference in camber in the two positions.

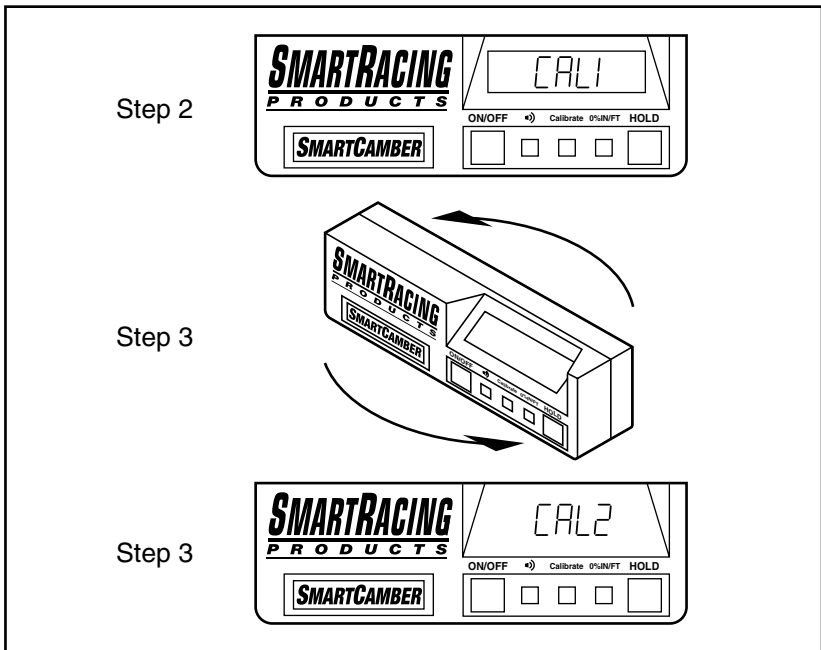
## Module Calibration for Use *Without Frame*

Before your SmartCamber module can be used, the module (new or used) must first be calibrated to itself. The calibration instructions are also on the back of the module itself.

### Procedure for Level

1. Turn the SmartCamber module **ON**.
2. Place the SmartCamber module on a flat smooth surface (table top). Wait 10 seconds. Push and hold the **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL1** will appear and then a **flashing number**.
3. Rotate the SmartCamber module end-for-end. Wait 10 seconds. Push and hold the **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL2** will appear and then a **number**.

The SmartTool has now been calibrated for level.

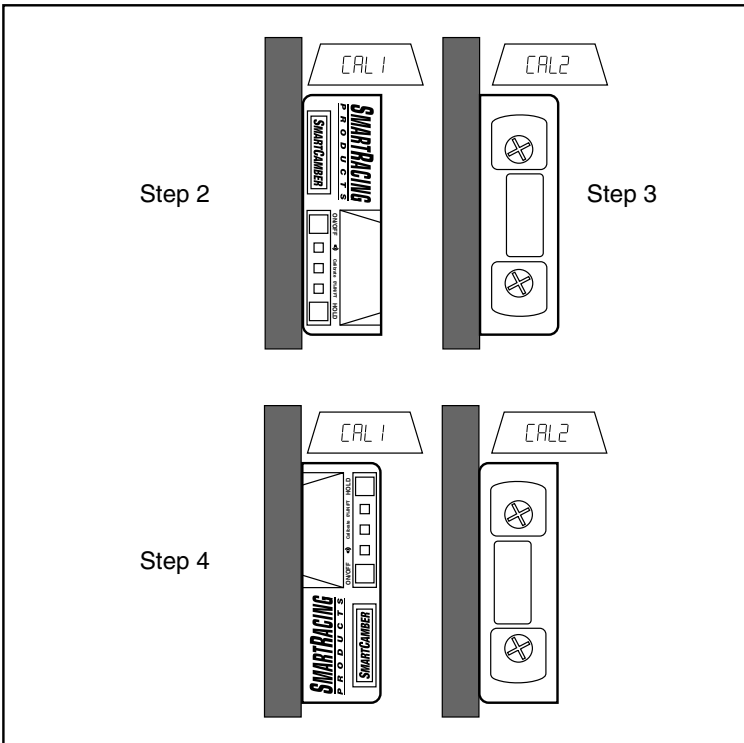


### Overhead Measuring for Level

If you need to read the display upside down, you must calibrate the top surface of the angle finder. Repeat the steps described above except the SmartCamber module should be upside down.

## Procedure for Plumb

1. Turn the SmartCamber module **ON** .
2. Place the SmartCamber module against a flat vertical smooth surface with the LCD display at the bottom, and away from the surface. Wait 10 seconds. Push and hold the **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL1** will appear and then **a flashing number**.
3. Rotate the SmartCamber module edge-for-edge along its long axis (i.e. LCD display is still at the bottom, but is now against the flat vertical surface.) The display should face away from you. Wait 10 seconds. Push and hold the **CALIBRATE** button, **CAL2** will appear and then **a number**.
4. Repeat the steps above for plumb, except with LCD display at the top. Now the SmartCamber tool is calibrated for plumb.



## If “CAL ALL” is displayed

1. This means that the tool is out of calibration.
2. Calibration must be done as explained in “Module Calibration for Use *Without Frame*” page 11 and 12.

## Optional Hands-Free Adapter

The Hands-Free Adapter was developed to allow the SmartCamber tool to be attached to the wheel so as suspension adjustments are made, the user can see the changes as they happen. The tool attaches to wheels that have a lip by making a three-point pressure fit between the adapter's pins and the inside lip of the wheel. If your wheels do not have a lip or surface to attach to, this feature will not work.

Camber angles can be just as easily measured with or without the Hands-Free Adapter in place; the performance of the tool is exactly the same.

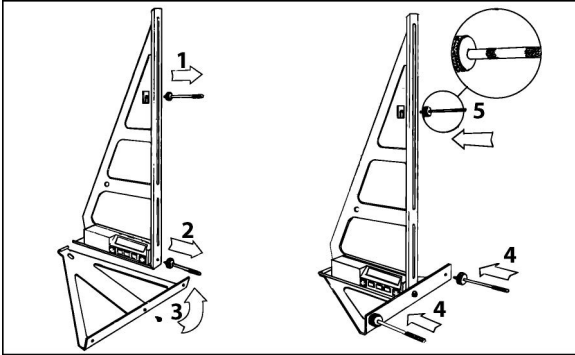
## Attaching the Hands Free Adapter

### Step 1:

1. Remove the pin and sliding block from the top of the SmartCamber tool and set aside.
2. Remove the pin from the bottom hole of the SmartCamber tool and set aside.
3. With the Hands-Free Adapter so the right angle bend is facing upwards, hook the back of the Adapter onto the outside edge of the SmartCamber tool. Install the provided pan head screw through the center hole of the Hands-Free Adapter, and into the bottom hole of the SmartCamber tool. Tighten pan head screw to secure Hands-Free Adapter to the gauge.

### Step 2:

4. Using the two original pins from Steps 1 and 2, screw the pins into the holes on either side of the Hands-Free Adapter.
5. Install the special double knurled pin provided with the Hands-Free Adapter into the top of the SmartCamber tool with the sliding block.



**Note:** The special double knurled pin provided with the Hands-Free Adapter is 0.06" longer than the two original pins. It must be installed at the top of the SmartCamber tool to keep the tool properly calibrated (it offsets the thickness of the Hands-Free Adapter). Use a piece of tape on the wheel so the Hands-Free Adapter pins will not score the wheel.

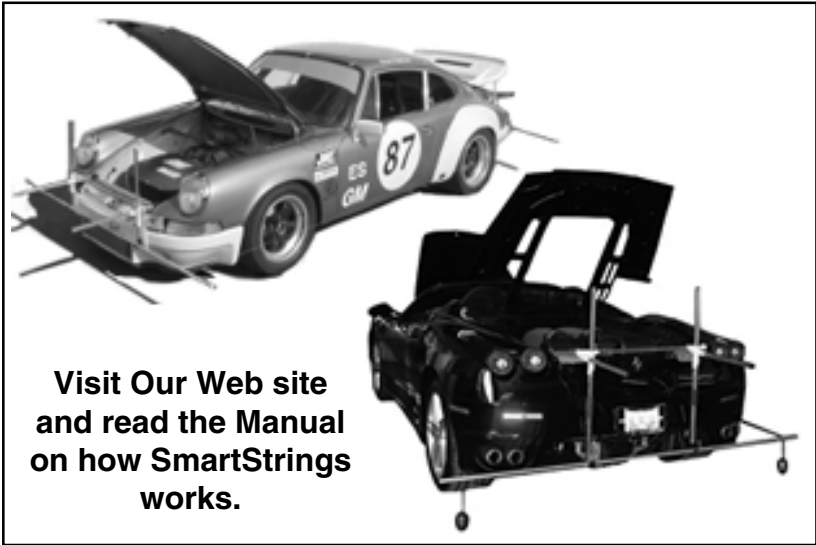
## Longer Standoffs

Longer standoffs (3.75") are available part numbers 011141 and 011161

# **WATKINS** **SMARTSTRINGS™**

**Toe Alignment Kit**

**\$399**



SmartStrings alignment kit. We now have what we believe to be the best and most universal way to quickly perform accurate four-wheel alignments on virtually any car anywhere.

Why SmartStrings? The number one design premise was to allow all four wheels to be aligned with one simple, accurate, portable and affordable tool. Just so you know, some of the fastest cars in the world - including Indy style cars, 200 mph road racing cars and NASCARs etc are aligned with strings (or wire in some cases).

As with our SmartCamber gauge, SmartStrings were designed to be used on as wide a variety of cars as possible; its telescoping design in all three planes assures that. The attaching or hooking features on the Attaching Arms have also been carefully thought out to be as versatile as possible.

Unlike nearly all other toe measuring gauges on the market today, our SmartStrings allow you to simultaneously align and "square" the car, that is, insuring that the rear axle is running true and parallel to the front axle. Also, since our strings attach to the car, they move with the car so when adjustments are made, the vehicle can be rolled to settle the settings without the worry or bother of the gauge having to be recalibrated. Since you can adjust all four wheels relative to one another, you can set the car up however you like, or however track conditions require. Properly installed, the parallel strings form a perfect parallelogram around the car's own centerline!



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