

CHASE'N RACE'N

ILLUSTRATED

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\$5

MASN Grand Nationals "Fast Eddie" Bags Four Eagles in Winfield



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the TRUTH

GRASS ROOTS

TECH BARN

with Jimmy Rivers

KART SCALING...ON THE LEVEL

Over the last few installments of the "Grassroots Tech Barn," we have assembled our chassis, mounted our seat, and mounted the bodywork. This leaves us very close



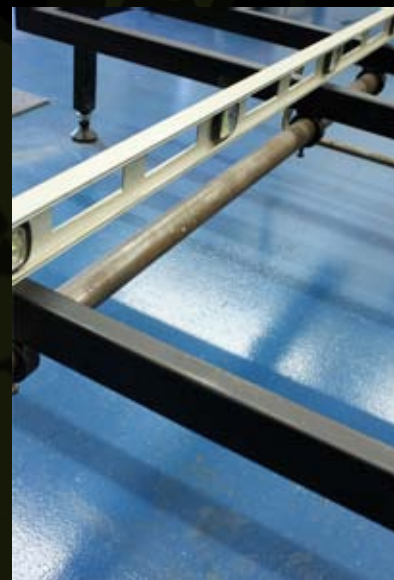
to hitting the dirt and making some laps. However, one critical item remains on our to-do list; scaling our kart. It is imperative to get our setup finely tuned on the scales before we even think of leaving the shop. But before we can setup the kart, we must prepare the scales.

Digital kart scales are a very valuable tool important to every racer. However, the cost is prohibitive to some racers. Many racers, myself included, started with a set of four matched bathroom scales. Whether you have kart scales, use bathroom scales, or even borrow your buddy's scales, the goal this month is to explain the procedure of setting up the pads in the proper manner.



The single most important factor in any scale setup is the level of the pads. Some racers assume (we all know what that word does), that their shop floor is level, or close enough. Let me be perfectly clear on this, there is no such thing as "close enough". Failure to consistently level the scales perfectly each time is the reason some tend to chase their tail around and cannot understand why their percentages are different all the time. Being out of level the slightest amount will vary your weights.

The most accurate way to properly level the scale pads is on a platform. Platforms come in all different shapes



and sizes, just make sure you use a quality product with good solid feet. If you choose to set up your platform and use your scales at the racetrack, make sure you place a solid object under the feet to spread the load and keep them from penetrating the ground. Always mark around the platform feet to bring attention to any movement or shift of the plat-



form.

Before we begin the leveling process, let's discuss levels for a minute. Basic levels are available in a variety of lengths, as well as ranges of quality. If you shop for tools looking strictly at price, you are going to be disappointed. Buy a quality level preferably six feet long, this way it will extend over the pads in every direction.



Begin the leveling process by pre-leveling the platform before adding the scale pads. Level the platform front to rear in the center before going side to side. Continue around each direction as well as the diagonals, tweaking the adjustment until every direction is as absolutely perfect as you can possibly make it. Place your scale pads into their respective places and repeat the procedure. It is also a good idea to mark each pad for its location and always use it in that position. This will also aid with consistent results and repeatability.

A



very good aid to ensure your leveling job is accurate is to use a machinist level or digital level in conjunction with your standard level. Use this once you have gotten as close as possible with the standard level to fine tune and make it extremely accurate. If you level your scales within thousandths of an inch each time you set them up, you can be assured your numbers are repeating each time. This way, if you see a change you truly have a change.

My point is to be extremely careful and attentive when you are leveling your scales. Regardless if you use bathroom scales or digital scales, the result is affected by the quality of the job you do here. Being unlevel gives an inaccurate reading, period. Take your time, take a deep breath, and get to it. Just like some of the other tasks we have taken on, it gets easier every time you do it. See you next month!

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