



Kit Installation Instructions

PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE INSTALLATION

Ring and pinion gears are designed to be set-up and run with exact tolerances. Replacing all parts in a differential every time it's worked on is not necessary. However, any gear misalignment or deflection under load caused by worn or questionable parts, can lead to early failure that can cost a lot more than the price of replacing them the first time. Use your best judgment and remember that fixing your differential again, if it fails, will take as much time and money as it did the first time.

From all of us at USA Standard Gear™

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Set Up Specifications

DIFFERENTIAL MODEL	PINION BEARING NEW PRELOAD (INCH LBS)	E/L (0.000")	R.G. BOLT TORQUE (FOOT LBS)	DIFFERENTIAL MODEL	PINION BEARING NEW PRELOAD (INCH LBS)	E/L (0.000")	R.G. BOLT TORQUE (FOOT LBS)
GENERAL MOTORS							
Olds/Pont D/O	14-19	6-7	55	Model 20	14-19	6-8	65
'63-'79 Corvette	14-19	6-8	60	Model 35	12-14	6-7	55
D36 Corvette	12-15	6-8	55	DANA			
D44 Corvette	14-19	6-9	55	D25	12-15	6-7	55
55P & 55T	14-18	6-8	55	D27	12-15	6-7	50
7.2"	11-14	6-7	60	D28	10-13	5-6	55
7.5" & 7.6" (Old 5 Cut)	12-15	6-7	65	D30	12-15	6-8	60
7.5" & 7.6" (New 2 Cut)	12-15	6-7	65	D44	14-19	6-9	60
7.75"	12-15	6-7	65	D50	14-19	6-9	65
8.2"	12-15	6-7	60	D60, 61 & 70U	17-30	8-10	110
8.0"	12-15	6-7	65	D70	22-35	12-15	80
8.2" Olds/Pont	12-15	6-7	60	D80	25-40	9-11	175
8.25" IFS	14-19	6-8	65	FORD			
8.5" & 8.6" (Old 5 Cut)	14-19	6-8	65	7.5"	14-19	6-8	60
8.5" & 8.6" (New 2 Cut)	14-19	6-8	65	8.0"	12-14	6-7	60
9.25" IFS	15-22	7-9	80	8.7"	14-19	6-8	60
9.5"	15-22	7-9	80	8.8" (Old 5 Cut)	14-19	6-8	60
10.5" AAM (w/o Pin Support)	15-25	8-11	175	8.8" (New 2 Cut)	14-19	6-8	60
11.5" AAM	20-30	5-7	200	9.0" OEM R&P	13-15	6-7	60
12 Bolt Pass	14-19	6-8	60	9.0" NON OEM			
12 Bolt Truck	13-15	6-7	60	9.0 Daytona	14-16	6-8	
14T 10-1/2" (With Pin Support)	20-35	8-11	120	9.75"	14-16	6-8	70
HO72 (10" R/G)	PRESET		120	10.25" & 10.5"	20-35	6-8	95
CHRYSLER							
7-1/4"	12-14	6-7	55	TOYOTA			
8.0"	12-15	6-8	60	Passenger	11-13	5-6	55
8-1/4"	12-15	6-8	60	7.5" F. or R.	12-15	5-6	70
8-3/4" 41'	13-15	6-8	90	8" F. or R.	12-15	5-6	70
8-3/4" 42'	15-25	7-10	55	Truck V6 R.	14-17	5-6	70
8-3/4" 89'	14-19	6-9	55	T100 & Tacoma	14-17	5-6	70
9-1/4"	14-19	6-9	65	Toyota Clamshell Front	9-14	4-7	71
10.5" AAM	15-25	8-11	175	SUZUKI			
11.5" AAM	20-30	8-11	200	Samurai	12-15	5-6	70
							(Samurai 5.38 R&P needs special depth setting)



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TOOL LIST



Tool List

To work on your differential you will need a wide variety of tools. Using the correct tools will save time and prevent part damage. You may need the following tools:

- **Dial indicator**
- **Precision calipers or micrometer**
- **Gear-marking compound and a clean brush**
- **Bearing pullers**
- **Bearing press**
- **10- or 12-inch spanner wrench or spanner tool**
- **Misc. hand and air tools including**
 - Three-foot-long breaker bar or strong impact gun
 - Pinion nut socket
 - Ring gear bolt socket
 - Main cap bolt socket
 - 6-point or 12-point cross-pin bolt wrench
 - Brake line wrench
 - Pry bars for removing the carrier case
 - Misc. hammers
 - Assorted brass drifts for removing bearing races
 - Center punch or number stamp for marking main caps
 - Oil drain pan
- **Torque wrenches**



Disassembly

1. Ensure that you have everything you need before working. Verify whether all new parts match the application and parts invoice.
2. Lift the vehicle using an appropriate lift or jack, and support the vehicle with approved jack stands. *Never* work on an unsupported vehicle.
3. Drain used gear oil into a suitable container. We recycle our waste oil and request that you recycle yours as well.
4. Remove the axle shafts.
5. Mark the main caps for reinstallation on the appropriate side and in the correct orientation.
6. Mark all shim thicknesses and locations during disassembly.
7. Thoroughly clean and inspect all parts.





Order of Adjustments

Differential assembly and setup adjustments include:

1. Pinion Depth
2. Pinion-Bearing Preload
3. Backlash
4. Carrier-Bearing Preload

Shim Selection

For a baseline, reassemble the differential with the shim combinations that were used in the differential during the previous assembly.

Parts Preparation

Clean all parts, including all new components, with solvent or brake cleaner, and thoroughly wash out the axle housing's interior. Ensure that the oil passages that feed the pinion and the grooves behind the carrier bearings are free from any metal particles.

Seal Preparation

Polish all seal surfaces with fine-grit emery cloth or sandpaper. Wipe all surfaces with a clean rag dampened with either fresh oil or solvent to remove any metal particles.



Coat bearings and seal surfaces with gear oil and seals with lithium grease.

Assembly Oil

When assembling internal components, coat all bearings, and seal surfaces with fresh gear oil. *Never* use bearing grease on pinion or carrier bearings; it will negatively influence assembly readings. Coat all seals with grease, preferably white lithium grease. Use clean gear oil if white grease is not available.



Pinion Trial Assembly

Assemble the pinion with its original shims but *without* a crush sleeve to establish an approximate pinion depth. When installing the pinion, tighten the nut slowly until it reaches preload specifications.

Initial Carrier Assembly

Install the assembled gear carrier with its ring gear into the housing. It is easier to remove and replace the carrier during trial assemblies if the carrier bearing preload is fairly snug instead of tight.

Adjusting Initial Backlash

Backlash refers to the amount the ring gear can rotate forward and backward when the pinion gear cannot move. This initial backlash setting sets the basis for all future adjustments. *See page 2 for backlash specifications.*

Fasten a dial indicator to the gear case or axle housing on the same plane as the ring gear so its contact point touches a tooth at the outermost diameter of the ring gear 90 degrees to the tooth face. The indicator should measure the amount the ring gear moves when rotated. To measure backlash, prevent the pinion gear from rotating and rotate the ring gear back and forth. The amount the ring gear can move determines the amount of backlash.



When changing the backlash bear in mind that the backlash setting changes about 0.007" for each 0.010" that the carrier moves. For example:

- Move the carrier 0.010" *toward* the pinion to decrease the backlash by 0.007".
- Move the carrier 0.010" *away from* the pinion to increase the backlash by 0.007".

While not all ring-and-pinion sets will react exactly this way, these figures serve as a good guideline.



Checking the Pattern

We can determine how gears mesh by changing how close the pinion gear is to the ring gear centerline. While we can't see how the gears actually relate to each other, we can coat their mating surfaces with gear-marking compound and read the patterns the gears create as they mesh.

Genuine gear-marking compound offers a clear indication of gear contact without running or smearing. Anything other than gear marking compound (such as blue machinist dye) will not give a clear indication of tooth contact. Dilute the marking compound with a small amount of oil if necessary to create a smooth, but not runny, paste. Coat three or four ring-gear teeth in at least two places with a moderate amount of compound and rotate the ring gear four or five times around the pinion gear in both directions. Rotate by grabbing and turning the ring gear, not the pinion.

Pinion resistance against the rotating ring gear helps establish a good pattern. Pinion bearing preload usually provides enough resistance for a good pattern, but additional resistance can be added by wrapping a shop towel around the yoke and pulling the two ends tight.

Important Pattern Information

The pattern's position to the tooth face (ridge) and flank (valley) notes the pinion depth. Disregard the pattern's position to the tooth's heel (ring gear outside diameter) or toe (ring gear inside diameter).

Gear patterns change from heel to toe, but in most cases an ideal heel-to-toe pattern is impossible to achieve. Furthermore, the housing itself influences the heel-to-toe pattern and the pattern cannot be changed without machine work. Trying to obtain a pattern centered exactly between the heel and toe usually leads to frustration and a noisy gear set, if the face to flank pattern is not correct.

Instead, concentrate *only* on the position of the pattern and how it relates from face to flank of the ring gear teeth.

- A contact pattern centered from face to flank indicates the correct pinion depth.
- A contact pattern closer to the gear face means the pinion is too far away from the ring gear. To correct the pattern, move the pinion *toward* the ring gear centerline.
- A contact pattern closer to the gear flank means the pinion is too close to the ring gear. To correct the pattern, move the pinion *away from* the ring gear centerline.

Used Gear Sets

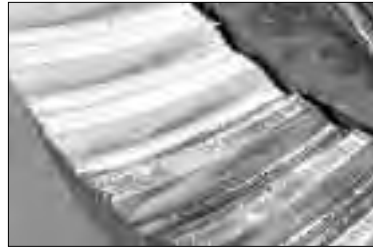
When setting up a used ring and pinion, concentrate only on the pattern created on the coast side of the ring gear teeth. Pay little attention to the drive side. This is true



for most used gear sets, although both the coast and drive sides should be considered in some instances.



Ideal pattern



Used drive pattern

Adjusting Pinion Depth

When changing the pinion depth, make large changes until the pattern is close to ideal. Consider 0.005" to 0.015" a large change and 0.002" to 0.004" a small change. Intentionally make adjustments that move the pinion too far at first.

If the pinion moves too far and the pattern changes from one extreme to the other, the correct pattern lies somewhere between the two extremes. Once you get close to the correct pinion depth, make smaller changes until the pattern centers between the face and the flank of the ring gear teeth.

Once the backlash and pinion depth meet tolerances, remove the carrier and establish the final pinion bearing preload.

Pinion Bearing Preload

The pinion bearing preload is related to the amount of force the pinion nut exerts on the pinion and its bearings. Axle builders generally measure the pinion's preload by rotating the pinion gear by its nut with a pound/inch-graduated torque wrench.

Axles generally use crush sleeves or shims to set pinion preload. Despite the difference, one thing remains the same: oil the pinion nut washer surface during all assembly procedures and apply medium-strength thread-locking compound (red) to the pinion nut threads during final assembly.

A lubricated washer reduces friction and prevents the nut and washer from galling during tightening procedures. The thread-locking compound helps retain the nut position and pinion bearing preload.

Before setting the final pinion bearing preload, install the pinion seal, slinger (if applicable), and crush sleeve (if applicable).



Crush Sleeve Design

Setting the pinion bearing preload in differentials that use a crush sleeve is relatively easy, although final assembly *always* requires a new crush sleeve.

The crush sleeve permanently distorts, or crushes, at approximately 300 to 400 pounds/feet of torque on the pinion nut. Tighten the pinion nut until it exerts the optimum bearing preload, as measured by the pounds/inch torque wrench on the pinion nut. While setting preload with a crush sleeve is easy, it requires a certain amount of patience.



1/2" impact gun on pinion nut setting.

Take plenty of time to set the preload, since tightening the pinion nut beyond the ideal preload threshold effectively destroys the crush sleeve. The only remedy for excessive preload involves a new crush sleeve and another attempt to establish proper preload.

After reaching the correct preload, moderately tap both ends of the pinion to seat the bearings, races and yoke. Do not strike the pinion too hard, as excessive force may damage the bearings. Carefully double check the preload after seating the bearings.

Preload Shim Design

Setting pinion bearing preload in differentials that use shims exclusively often requires several attempts.

Carefully clean the shims, as dust and metallic particles on the shim surfaces cause false preload readings. Start the procedure with the original shims, or add 0.003" to the original shim-pack dimension to compensate for the amount the bearings settled into the housing. Tighten the pinion nut slowly to avoid damaging the bearing should the shim stack prove too thin. The pinion nut torque varies by thread size but is usually between 200 and 300 pounds/feet.

Measure the preload by rotating the pinion with the pound/inch torque wrench. If the preload doesn't meet the axle manufacturer's specifications, change the shim pack dimension in one of the following ways:

- Remove shims to increase pinion bearing preload.
- Add shims to decrease pinion bearing preload

Write down each shim-pack combination and its resulting preload when changing



shims. After reaching the correct pinion-bearing preload, moderately tap both ends of the pinion to seat the bearings, races and yoke. Do not strike the pinion too hard, as excessive force may damage the bearings. Carefully double check the preload after seating the bearings.



Carrier bearing puller



Pressing on carrier bearing

Final Backlash and Carrier Bearing Preload Adjustments

After setting the pinion depth, backlash, and the pinion bearing preload, set the carrier bearing preload. Three different shim or adjustment methods, screw adjusters, outside shim design, and inside shim design, cover most differentials.

Screw Adjuster Design

The easiest method uses screw adjusters to set the backlash and carrier bearing preload. Carefully oil the adjuster threads on both the housing and on the adjusters themselves. Note the order in which you tighten the adjusters so the backlash remains consistent, even when subjected to heavy loads.

The pinion gear always forces the ring gear *away* from itself whenever it transfers power. Start with a looser backlash setting than the axle's manufacturer calls for and always ensure that the last adjustment made to the left adjuster tightens it.

If the backlash becomes too tight, loosen the left adjuster first, followed by tightening the right adjuster. To reestablish the backlash setting, tighten the left adjuster. Ensure that the last adjustment made to the left adjuster tightens it to eliminate any space between it and its bearing race. Any space or looseness on the left side will let the carrier deflect when under load, and this will allow backlash to open up when driven under load.

Once the backlash approaches the manufacturer's recommendations, tighten both left and right adjusters evenly to increase carrier bearing preload. Set the carrier bearing preload to approximately 150 to 200 pounds/feet. It is difficult to damage bearings with excessive carrier



bearing preload on a screw-adjusted differential.

- If the preload is close and the backlash is too loose, *tighten the left* adjuster a notch or two until the backlash is correct and the preload is sufficient.
- If the preload is close and the backlash is too tight, *tighten the right* adjuster until the backlash is correct and the preload is sufficient.

As stated before, ensure that the last adjustment made to the left adjuster tightens it. That will eliminate the possibility of a space between the adjuster and the bearing race.

Outside Shim Design

This design uses shims between the carrier bearing races and the housing. Initially set the backlash with very little carrier bearing preload. After setting the backlash, add equal amounts of shims to both sides of the carrier to set the carrier bearing preload as tight as possible without damaging the shims (carrier bearings in this axle design hardly ever fail due to excessive carrier bearing preload).

- If the preload is close and the backlash is loose, add shims to the *left* side. This increases the carrier bearing preload and tightens the backlash at the same time.
- If the preload is close and the backlash is too tight, add shims to the *right* side. This increases both the carrier bearing preload and the backlash at the same time.

Inside Shim Design

This design uses shims between the carrier bearing and the case. Initially set the backlash tight and the preload light, as it will make carrier removal and installation easier. After setting the backlash, add equal amounts of shims to both sides until the correct preload is achieved.

- If the preload is close and the backlash is loose, add shims to the *left* side. This increases the carrier bearing preload and tightens the backlash at the same time.
- If the preload is close and the backlash is too tight, add shims to the *right* side. This increases the carrier bearing preload and the backlash at the same time.

FINAL CHECKS

Pattern

Now that the pinion depth, pinion bearing preload, backlash, and carrier bearing preload are set, check the pattern one last time to make sure that it is correct.

Oil

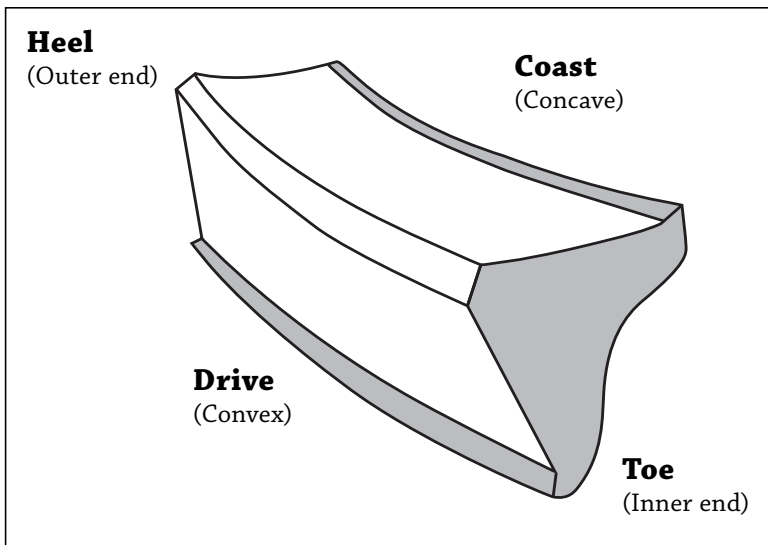
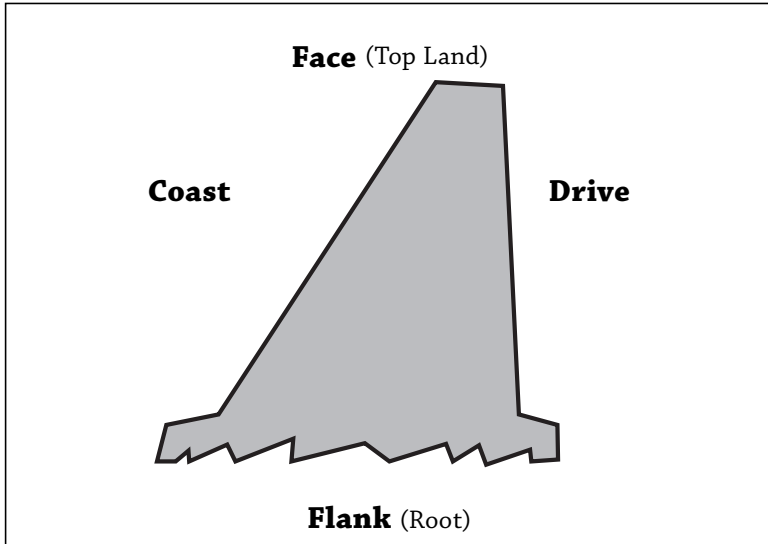
When filling the axle with oil, use a high quality name brand and fill the unit to the manufacturer's recommended capacity. Synthetic oil is recommended for most applications.



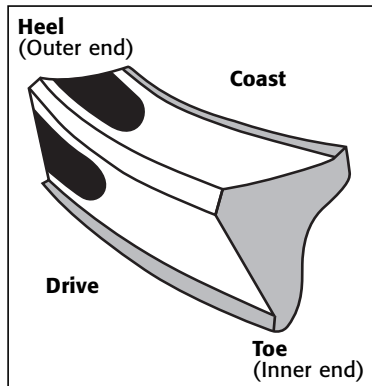
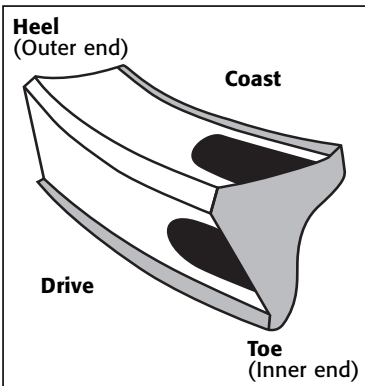
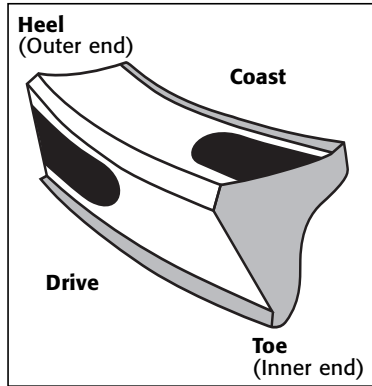
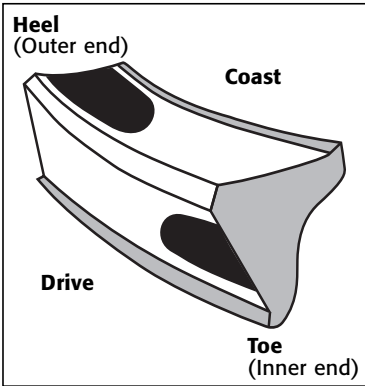
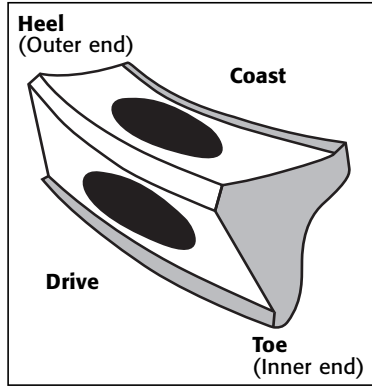
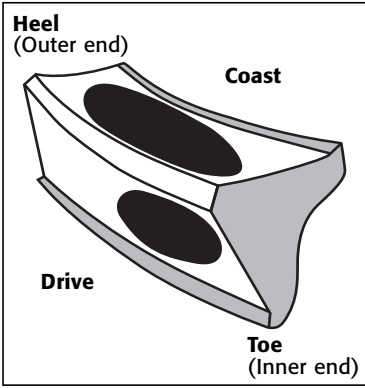
TOOTH NOMENCLATURE

End View of Tooth from Heel

(Outer End)

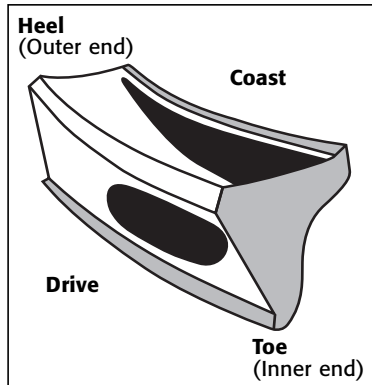
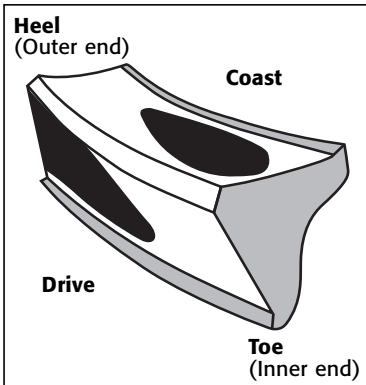
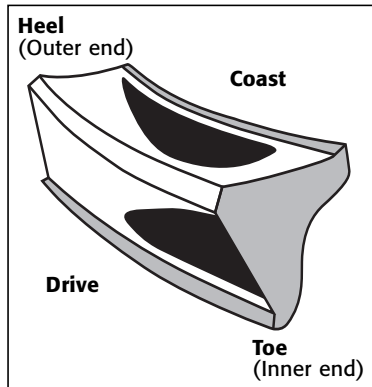
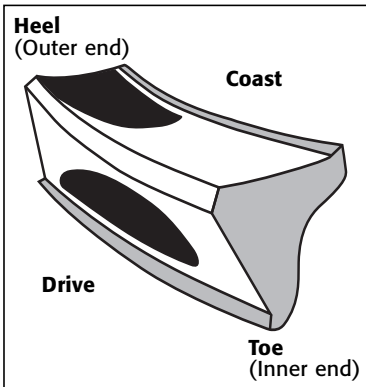
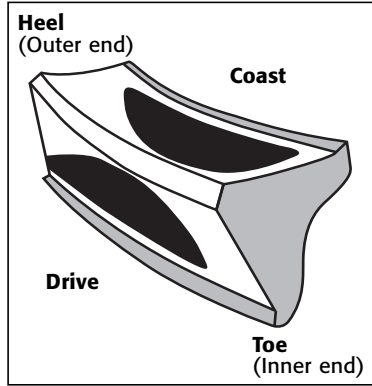
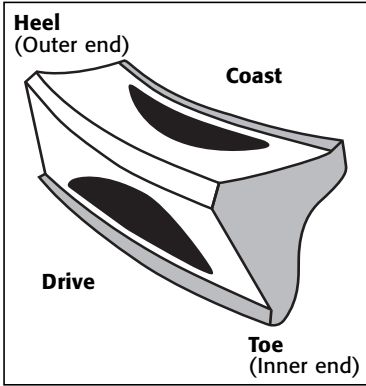


ACCEPTABLE PATTERNS

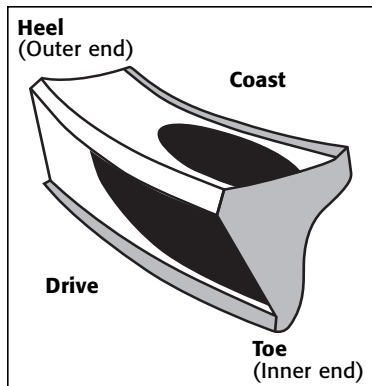
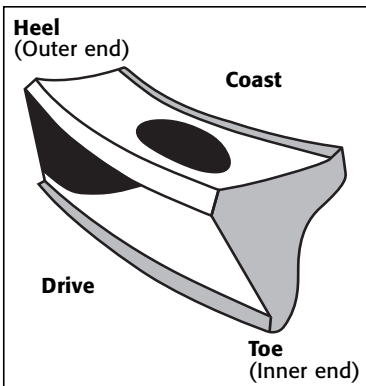
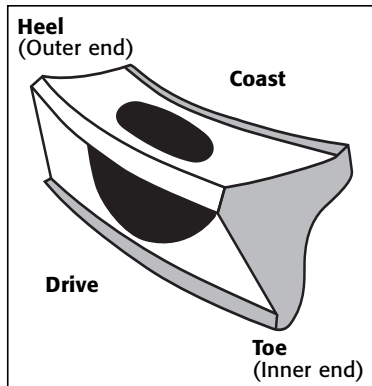
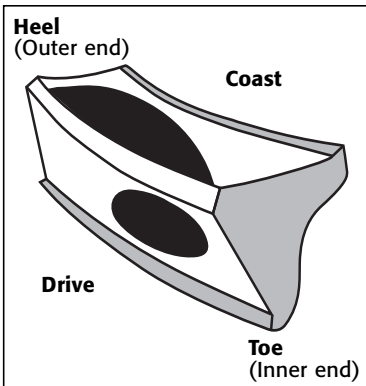
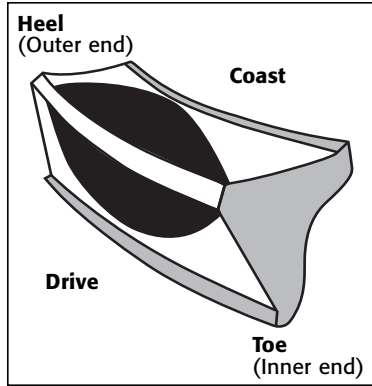
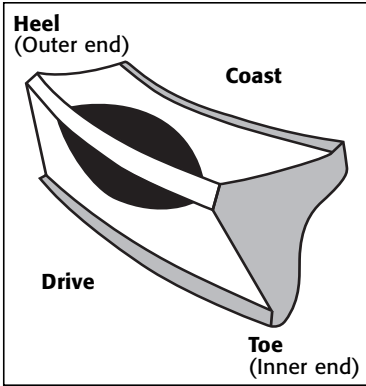




PINION IS TOO CLOSE



PINION IS TOO FAR AWAY



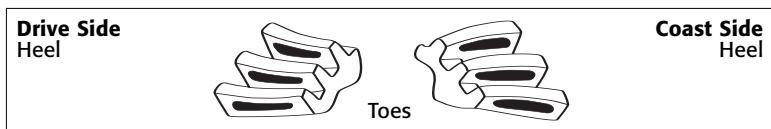


Checking Backlash

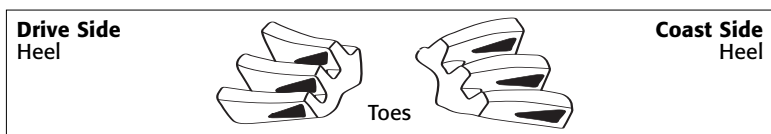
Backlash is the free movement of the ring gear with the pinion gear fixed in place. All ring and pinion sets are matched pairs. Make sure you have a matched ring and pinion set. Clean all parts before you start assembly. Apply a light coat of oil to all bearings. Examine all components and remove any burrs, nicks or sharp edges that could cause components seat improperly.

1. Set backlash to proper clearance. (*See page 2*)
2. Shim or adjust the ring gear away from or closer to the pinion to get the correct backlash.
3. The pinion bearing preload should match those recommended on the specification sheet (*See page 2*). Achieve the recommended preload with a preload shim pack (combine shims of various thicknesses) or a collapsible crush sleeve. Use a new crush sleeve during final assembly.
4. Achieve the pinion depth by shimming the pinion toward or away from the ring gear centerline. Start with the same shim thickness on the new gear set as on the old set. Note that not all housings are shimmed in the same location.

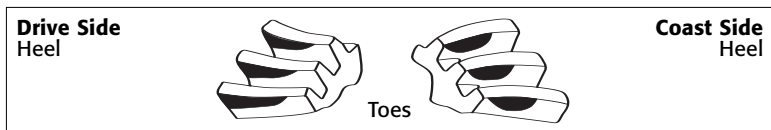
Obtaining Proper Gear Pattern



1. Normal or desirable pattern: The pattern should be centered on the tooth from face to flank. There should be some clearance between the pattern and the top of the tooth (face) and between the pattern and the bottom of the tooth (flank).



2. Pinion is too close: Move the pinion away from the ring gear centerline.



3. Pinion is too far away: Move the pinion towards the ring gear centerline.



Pattern Movements Summarized

1. Move the ring gear closer to the pinion to decrease backlash.
2. Move the ring gear farther from the pinion gear to increase backlash.
3. Move the pinion closer to the ring gear to move the drive pattern deeper on the tooth (flank contact) and slightly toward the toe. The coast pattern will move deeper on the tooth and *slightly* toward the heel.
4. Move the pinion further away from the ring gear to move the drive pattern toward the top of the tooth (face) and slightly toward the heel. The coast pattern will move toward the top of the tooth and *slightly* toward the toe.

BREAK-IN INFORMATION

New Gear Break-In

All new gear sets require a break-in period to prevent overheating damage. Any overloading or overheating will break down the gear oil, which will cause the ring and pinion to fail. This can be determined by inspection and will void the gears' warranty.

Please follow these guidelines to insure proper break-in.

- Avoid heavy acceleration during the break-in process.
 - Drive the vehicle lightly for the first 15 to 20 miles and stop. Let the differential cool before proceeding.
 - Avoid heavy acceleration for the first 100 miles.
 - Drive the vehicle at least 500 miles before towing to retain the gears' warranty.
 - When towing for the first time, drive for a very short distances (less than 15 miles) with the full load and stop. Let the differential cool for about 20 minutes before proceeding. Repeat this procedure two more times (45 miles total) to fully break in the gears.
 - Change the oil after the first 500 miles. This will remove any metal particles and phosphoric coating shed by the gear set during the gears' break-in period.
- These towing instructions may seem unnecessary to most people, but we have seen many differentials damaged from being loaded before the gear set was fully broken-in.

**Overloaded or overheated gear oil will
break down and destroy the ring and pinion!**



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- When towing for the first time, drive for very short distances (less than 15 miles) with the full load and stop. Let the differential cool for about 20 minutes before proceeding. Repeat this procedure two more times (45 miles total) to fully break in the gears.
- Change the oil after the first 500 miles. This will remove any metal particles and phosphoric coating shed by the gear set during the gears' break-in period.

These towing instructions may seem unnecessary to most people, but we have seen many differentials damaged from being loaded before the gear set was fully broken-in.

**OVERLOADED OR OVERHEATED
GEAR OIL WILL BREAK DOWN
AND DESTROY THE RING AND PINION!**

Maximum Recommended Tire Size

Axle Style	Maximum Tire Diameter
Chrysler 8.25	33 inches
Dana 30	32 inches
Dana M35	33 inches
Dana M20	35 inches
Dana 44	34 inches
Ford 8.8	35 inches
GM 8.5	35 inches
Toyota 8	34 inches
Toyota V6	34 inches



Warranty Details

USA Standard Gear™ warrants the original retail purchaser that all USA Standard Gear™ Kits will be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the period of one (1) year from date of sale. USA Standard Gear™ makes no other warranty of any kind, express or implied. All other warranties, including but not limited to an implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, are excluded. This warranty is offered provided that the USA Standard Gear™ product has been installed and maintained in accordance with USA Standard Gear™ instructions, and that it has not been subject to modification, accident, abnormal use (including off-road or competition use) or misuse. This warranty is void if installation of USA Standard Gear™ product(s) occurs on vehicles with tires that exceed USA Standard Gear™ Maximum Recommended Tire Size.

Upon notification of a warranty claim, USA Standard Gear™ shall investigate the claim of defect, and, in the event of a verified defect, shall, at their sole choice, either repair the defective product, replace it, or refund the purchase price.

This warranty does not cover, and USA Standard Gear™ shall not be liable for, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of time, road service charges, labor charges, inconvenience, loss of vehicle use, loss of revenues, or loss or damage to personal property (including loss or damage to vehicle parts due to the failure of the USA Standard Gear™ product). In addition, this warranty does not cover, and USA Standard Gear™ shall not be liable for, any undertaking, representation, or agreements made by dealers or other third parties selling USA Standard Gear™ products, except where such agreements are within the provisions of this Warranty statement. Also, this warranty does not cover damage to the axle caused by or facilitated by failure of a non-USA Standard Gear™ component.

This agreement offers you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

For Your Records

Name:

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Date:

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Invoice #

Part #

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