

Brassmasters Axle Spacing Gauges G003 and G004

The gauges are intended to enable modellers to set up rocking 'W' irons and fixed and sprung axle boxes so that the axles are parallel. This greatly enhances running and helps prevent derailments.

Two gauges are produced:

G001 – this is for wagons with a wheelbase of 6' 0", 7' 0" to 12' 0" in 6" increments

This is the gauge to use for 9' 0" wheelbase wagons as it will balance across the two axles. The unmarked slot is to straddle a brake cross shaft on a 9' 0" wheelbase wagon if already fitted.

G002 – this is for wagons with a wheelbase of 6' 0", 7' 0" to 22' 0" in 3" increments

Although this gauge has the slots for shorter wheelbases, it is designed for use on wheelbases greater than 12' 0" and for any wheelbase of 3" or 9".

Assembly

To ease folding the gauges into a 'U' shape, the corner of a square file should be run along the half etched line several times. Place the gauge on a flat surface with a ruler or other similar object over the section with the slots along the fold line. Pressing down on the ruler firmly, bend the gauge up at right angles. Turn the gauge around and repeat the process with the other slotted section and fold line. The gauges work best when there is no slop between the axles and the gauge, so the slots have deliberately not been over etched. It may therefore be necessary to dress the slots with a fine file to remove the cusp and allow the axles to slide freely.

Use

For rocking 'W' irons first fold up both the fixed and rocking units according to the manufacturer's instructions and assemble with the wheels in place. Place the units on the upturned wagon in approximately the correct position. Identify the two slots in the gauge that give the required wheelbase and slide the gauge over the two axles. Move the gauge and two wheelsets along the floor of the wagon until they are in the correct position. Attach the 'W' irons to the wagon floor.

For sprung axleboxes, fold up the sprung axleboxes according to the manufacturer's instructions. For fixed or sprung axleboxes, attach the first axlebox in the required position. With a wheelset held in position between the attached axlebox and a loose axlebox, drop the gauge over the axle and ensure it lays down the centre of the floor. Attach the second axlebox. With the second wheelset held between the remaining two axle boxes, identify the two slots in the gauge that give the required wheelbase and slide the gauge over the two axles. Attach the remaining two axleboxes.