

## Pattern for Track Gage

by Tom Norman

Here is a pattern for a simple gage to be used to measure motor car track gage. Transfer the dimensions to sheet metal, card stock, masonite or sheet plastic. You can also photo copy this page, as it is drawn full scale, and glue the pattern to cardboard. Make two gages, one as shown, and one opposite hand (or just scribe the track gage line on front and back of gage). To measure your motorcar track, hold one gage on left sheet and have a friend hold one on the right wheel. Using a tape measure, measure the distance between the inscribed track gage lines on the gages. Be sure that bottom edge of each gage is lying flat on the wheel tread and the gaging point is touching the flange.

Fairmont recommends standard gage (56-1/2") motor cars be gages 56-1/4" to 56-3/8".

AREMA recommends standard gage motorcars and push cars be gaged 56-3/8" to 56-1/2".

The wheel tread slope for this gage is 1:47 which is for 1982 and later Fairmont wheels. Fairmont used 1:20 prior to 1937, 1:46 from 1937 to 1982. AREA and AREMA used 1:50 from 1958 on. A different slope will not make a noticeable difference in track gage using the above pattern. AREA, AREMA, and Fairmont all use the same gaging point which is 5/8" above the tread, and 13/31" in from the track gage line. This gage should work for pressed steel wheels of 14", 16" and 20" diameter.

