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Detroit Gearless Lockers

For those of you who are interested in new mechanical designs, or more traction with fewer side effects, the Gearless Locker is more than just a little interesting. Tactic started with the simple idea of the EZ Locker and has taken it even one step further towards simplification and smoother operation.

The overall result of the Gearless Locker is that its operation is the same as the Detroit Locker without the extra backlash. The unit drives both tires unless the vehicle is negotiating a turn, in which case it allows the outside wheel speed to override the inside wheel speed so that the tires do not have to scuff, or be dragged around the turn. The only side effects are strange handling in short wheel-base vehicles while negotiating sharp turns under power, and the spinning of the inside tire while taking off from a stop sign, while turning, when the road is slippery.

Unlike clutches in most applications, these clutches lock instantaneously and do not slip at all (which makes the unit work without the extra backlash associated with other lockers). They also release instantly when any overriding forces are created while negotiating a turn. This instant release design does not allow for any chatter whatsoever. Additionally, Tractech states that in all of their extensive testing they have had no indication of clutch wear, and in fact, they provide a bottle of special additive to keep the clutch surfaces from galling due to the excellent loading of the friction clutches.

Installation of the Gearless Locker is fairly easy and straightforward. Most backyard mechanics will be able to install the unit on a long afternoon or, at worst, over the weekend. Some models require removing the ring gear from the carrier, but none of them require any shimming. The Gearless Locker simply replaces the standard spider gears in a non-locking differential and works with the stock carrier case and the stock c-clips.

The first units released are the AMC Model 20, Dana 30, Dana 44, Ford 9", Suzuki, and for several Toyota applications.

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