







# Dual Motor Gear Switching Mechanical Assembly

The TechnoKats Robotics Team, a partnership between Delphi Automotive Systems and Kokomo High School in Kokomo, Indiana, is proud to be able to share their Drive Motor Assembly (DMA) from the 2001 FIRST Robotics Competition.

The DMA consisted of two motors and had the ability to switch between speeds, which we called low gear and high gear. This design shows the Fisher-Price Motor mounted inline to the back end of the Bosch Drill Motor. The Drill Motor's gearbox was still used, while the Servo actuated the lever arm to switch between low and high gear. This design uses a 12 tooth sprocket (35 type) and 3/8" dia. ball bearings from SPI or the FIRST kit.

We used two of these assemblies to drive our robot, TechnoKart. One assembly was used for each side of our robot, as we used tank-style steering with metal tank treads for superior traction.

# Advantages:

The obvious result of this design is the fact that it produced more power than simply using the Drill Motor. We did not perform any studies to show exactly how much more power this assembly generates versus just using the Drill Motor, but we estimate that a 40% increase in power was produced by the two motors working together. There are other drive train designs that use 4 motors, but this dual motor design uses one gear box that utilizes gear switching to get an optimal mix of power and speed. For the 2001 competition, this power, speed, and traction combination was valuable for us, as we consistently auto-balanced on the bridge (see "Auto-Balancing Gyro Code" White Paper).

# Performance:

Once we started test driving our robot with these new DMA's, we realized more benefits than just more power. We were able to run these DMA's in high gear for a very long time (5-8 minutes) before they would over heat. Usually, when we design a drive system that has a high and low gear (see "Gear Switching with Servo" White Paper – to be released, summer 2001), we try to get our high speed to push our robot as quickly as possible. The problem with running a fast robot is that the electrical system gets overheated quickly, within 30-60 seconds. Our geartrain design for TechnoKart had a very aggressive ratio, at 3:1 from the Drill Motor Gearbox, driving 7.5" dia. wheels (treads, actually). At this speed, we

expected the circuit breakers to trip as the electrical system heated up under the high load, but it didn't. Once we thought about this, it made sense. Since 4 motors are used, the amps used to drive the robot were being distributed over 4 motors, distributing the current load more diversely compared to a 2 motor drive system. Again, we did not take the time to evaluate how much current was distributed to each motor. Maybe we will have time in 2002 to do some performance test on this assembly, if it is used again.

#### **Our Experience:**

We did experience some trouble with this mechanical assembly. All of the trouble was concentrated on the mechanical coupling area between the two motors. 6 or 7 times, the weld broke on the small hex shafts that were attached to the Drill Motor or the Fisher-Price motor. This happened more often on the Drill Motor, since the F-P motor shaft has some serrations that help keep the hex shaft fitted tightly. Luckily for us, these problems only happened during practice times, away from any FIRST Competitions. This design of press-fitting and welding the hex shafts onto the motor shafts needs to be improved for the 2002 season, but a solution is not designed yet. If you find something that works 100% of the time, please share your resulting design.

As for building your own assembly, use these designs as you wish. You will notice that there are a few prints that have four place decimal dimensions included, so be careful as you machine these high-tolerance parts. Getting +/- 0.0005" is definitely not easy to do. While this sort of accuracy is not absolutely necessary to get this assembly to work, performance will be affected. For instance, the Drill Motor will wobble if it's parts do not hold it in a concentric manner. It is suggested that these high-precision parts are to be fabricated on a CNC mill in order to get the accuracy needed.



#### Feedback:

Your comments about the design are welcome, but you are on your own with regard to how this thing goes together and how it performs in Competitions. For questions/comments, you can email Andy Baker at <u>andrew.r.baker@delphiauto.com</u>.

## A Challenge:

For those of you who use this design, please consider publishing your own designs and technical work so that the rest of the FIRST Community can benefit as you have. The goal here is to raise the level of competition within FIRST, and provide resources to teams who do not have as much as other teams. Also, don't keep this design to yourself. Please share this resource with other teams in your area to show them how to increase their performance.

## Print Package:

The following pages contain the prints for this design. The first two pages are assembly drawings, and the others are detail prints. These were made on 11"x17" sheets (B size prints), so the scale (Full Scale, 2x Scale, etc.) you see is not correct. Good luck, and we hope that this design provides your team with added performance.









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