

Hunter Highlights

News and
Trends of the
Automotive
Service Industry

Hunter's New SmartWeight™ Technology Changes the Way Wheels Are Balanced



Hunter has introduced the SmartWeight™ balancing feature, a revolutionary, patented wheel balancing method that minimizes correction weight use and maximizes productivity, saving shops money on both material and labor costs. The SmartWeight balancing feature is now available on Hunter GSP9700 and GSP9600 wheel balancers.

This new method of wheel balancing computes correction weights by measuring and evaluating the "absolute" or pure static (shake) and couple (shimmy) forces that cause vibration. Unlike traditional balancing, which judges balance condition based on correction weight values, SmartWeight balancing uses the actual static and couple forces to directly address the source of vibration problems, resulting in the best possible balance.

SmartWeight balancing technology can reduce the average shop's annual wheel weight costs by 25% or more and reduce the time it takes to balance most wheels. The savings generated can improve the profitability of any shop.

VW/Audi Approves Hunter Inspection Lane Equipment

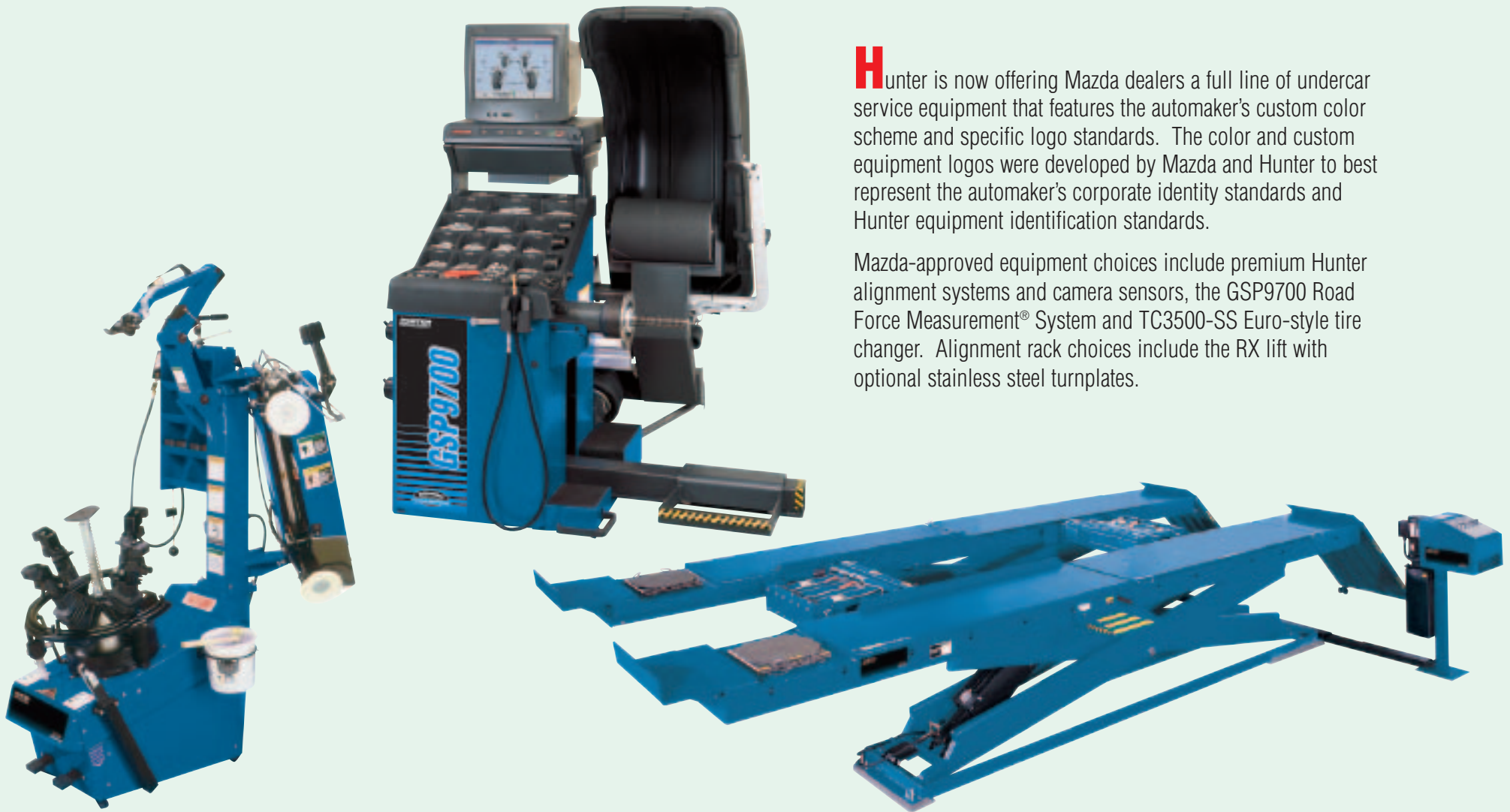
Customers entering VW/Audi dealer service departments may soon find their cars automatically inspected for misalignment conditions before they even get out of the vehicle. VW/Audi recently approved the Hunter SS100 Sideslip Meter for its dealership Special Tools & Equipment Program. The SS100 provides an automatic drive-through test for excessive front- or rear-wheel sideslip caused by misalignment or worn or damaged components. The complete test takes less than 30 seconds. Results can be printed and waiting for the customer in the time it takes for him or her to be greeted by write-up staff.

Dealerships often cite a 50- to 100-percent jump in alignment revenue after an SS100 installation. The most successful applications place the SS100 slip plates in the service write-up lanes, ensuring that every vehicle entering the service area is tested.



The VW/Audi-approved SS100 is available in two console configurations, which conform to VW/Audi color standards for workshop equipment.

Mazda-Specific Hunter Alignment, Wheel and Brake Service Equipment Now Available for Dealers



Hunter is now offering Mazda dealers a full line of undercar service equipment that features the automaker's custom color scheme and specific logo standards. The color and custom equipment logos were developed by Mazda and Hunter to best represent the automaker's corporate identity standards and Hunter equipment identification standards.

Mazda-approved equipment choices include premium Hunter alignment systems and camera sensors, the GSP9700 Road Force Measurement® System and TC3500-SS Euro-style tire changer. Alignment rack choices include the RX lift with optional stainless steel turnplates.

New Catalogs Make Critical Accessory Choices Easier

New technology and changing automobile design have put vastly more interesting and exciting vehicles on the road. But the resulting loss of standardization of components can cause headaches for service shops. Shop staff can no longer expect basic undercar service equipment to meet every need. Having the right selection of accessories and adaptors is critical to the ability to service the wide variety of vehicles on the road today.

Hunter's newly released accessories catalogs for brake lathes, wheel balancers and tire changers list and illustrate accessories, accessory packages and kits designed to fit the widest range of service applications. Service managers can use the catalogs to select equipment, accessories and adaptors to fit their specific service requirements.



These new full-color catalogs are useful guides to the Hunter equipment, accessories and kits necessary for shops to meet the service needs of today's vehicles.

AlignLights Lift Accessory Puts Light Where Needed



Hunter's AlignLights accessory puts light under the vehicle where it's needed, creating a safer and more efficient work environment.

Undercar service technicians often find themselves working in a shadow and requiring an additional light source. Hunter's AlignLights lift lighting accessory can eliminate this problem by providing permanent under-vehicle illumination.

For efficiency, the AlignLights system automatically switches on when the rack is raised and off when the rack is lowered. The lights are powered by the main lift rack power source and require no additional electrical cords.

The AlignLights accessory is available on Hunter RX series alignment racks as an installed option or can be retrofitted to most previously installed RX racks.

CNC Technology Speeds Production, Enhances Quality

The Salvagnini Performer folding machine, recently installed at Hunter's metal fabrication plant in Raymond, Mississippi, is an example of the type of high-end CNC technology that Hunter employs for production efficiency and quality. The Performer is a CNC metal folding machine that delivers tight tolerances and highly accurate bends that are consistent throughout the production run. In addition to lowering overall production costs, CNC technology allows much more complicated bends and ultimately better designed components than could be achieved through manual methods.



Electronics boxes, cabinet parts and other components are produced with fully automatic, high-speed computer controlled movements that eliminate the potential for human error. Flat part blanks are folded into complex shapes in seconds, ready to be coated and sent to assembly.

Advanced CNC technology at Hunter's metal fabrication line in Raymond, Mississippi keeps component production to the tightest tolerances. The newly installed CNC folder produces boxes, frames, housings and other product components that can be made from folded sheet metal.

Hunter History - 1974

Electron-A-Line Introduces Four-Wheel Total Alignment Concept



The Hunter S7M-TA Electron-A-Line computerized alignment system shown here featured a mobile cabinet and four electronic, wheel-mounted sensors for four-wheel "Total Alignment" capability. Cabinet options also included stationary and rail-mounted models.

By 1970, following a quarter century of developing and patenting new and better ways to service automobiles, Lee Hunter's Hunter Engineering Company had earned its place as a world leader in the production of wheel alignment systems. In the decade that followed, keeping pace with the rapid growth of microprocessing technology, Hunter began introducing an increasingly advanced line of electronic and computerized wheel aligners.

Released in 1974, Hunter's Electron-A-Line used electronic wheel-mounted sensors and a small computer to process alignment information. Three years later the S7 Electron-A-Line introduced four-wheel alignment technology, an advancement driven primarily by the need to align cars with independent rear suspensions and front-wheel drive. These newly popular driveline features opened the door to rear wheel camber and toe adjustments in passenger vehicles.

In 1979, the S7-TA (Total Alignment) introduced the thrust-line principle. The S7-TA measured front wheel toe in comparison to the rear wheel thrust line. The result was a better alignment, improved tire wear and steering.

Hunter Visitors

Truck-Frame & Axle Repair Association, Hendrickson International

TARA members, including shop technicians and owners, visited Hunter's Heavy-Duty Truck and Bus Safety Center for a service training seminar developed by Hunter staff to meet the specific needs of the organization's membership. Representatives of Hendrickson International joined the seminar with program segments covering their axle products.



SkillsUSA

The Automotive Services Technology Committee of SkillsUSA met at Hunter's Research and Training Center recently to plan upcoming student competition and education events. The committee is comprised of representatives from automotive-related industries and educational fields.

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