



Alan Browne Gauges Limited

Gauge Block Calibration & Manufacture

Gauge Blocks Useful tips and hints-

Handle them with kid gloves. No kidding. They're your length masters and have to maintain their pristine condition in order to remain reliable

Scratches, dents and dings will all alter the dimension of your block rendering its usefulness questionable.

Use an optical flat from time to time to check the gage block's flatness. Scratches or dents will show up as distortions in the light bands of the optical flat. At this point it is possible to gently remove any burrs or high spots caused by the scratches. The procedure requires some skill and practice and is best left to someone who has the skills necessary to carry out the procedure. Our customers often ask us to do this on their behalf – and so prolong the life of their gauge block sets.

Steel blocks can get rusty, so coat them with a bit of oil whenever they're being stored. Then clean the oil off before using them. At this point, don't touch the bare metal with your hands. Professionals use a pair of tongs, but we'd suggest you leave this to the pros. You'll probably only prove that you're all thumbs and consequently drop the gauge block. Instead, use some lint-free tissue paper or clean cloth to pick up and maneuver the blocks.

If you get finger prints on them, clean with alcohol and then coat with good, clean oil. For long term storage oil is required, preferably Starrett Oil. Put the blocks back in the appropriate box, or pack them individually in a labeled, clean plastic bag and in a safe, sturdy container when you're done. You don't want the blocks to knock against each other.

If any block isn't shiny, smooth and scratch free, have it examined and certified by a gauge lab.

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