

TECH: SEAT POSITION

INSTALLING YOUR SEAT (cont.)

If, with the seat on four sprockets, the COG is still too high, you can lower it further by leaning the driver back further, bringing their shoulders closer to the ground. Again, don't go too extreme, change the angle dimension "C" by about 10mm at most, at a time. Small changes can have a dramatic effect! At Phoenix we fine-tune seat positions with changes as small as two or three millimetres!

Before drilling, be sure that you have the seat pointing in the direction you want it (almost all karts have the seat offset to the left of the kart, so you'll want to point it on a very slight angle to the right). Once the seat is in position (and Phoenix will soon be releasing a range of tools to make this difficult task a lot easier), carefully mark the hole positions of the two upper seat mounts with a marker, ready to drill. This step is much easier with the engine removed. If you're feeling gutsy, you can put the drill straight through the mounting holes of the chassis and drill the seat there and then. Doing it this way is impossible without removing the engine.

Install the upper seat bolts and spacers, and do them up lightly. Check that the bottom of the seat is still resting on the sprockets, and then double-check the angle dimension "C". Once you're sure this is correct with the seat sitting on the sprockets, you can lift the kart back onto the stand. If the seat is translucent enough, you can drill the front seat holes from above. If you're not sure you can line the holes up from above, climb under the kart and drill through the front seat mounts into the seat. Install the seat mounting bolts, and space them so that the angle dimension "C" is exactly the figure you were aiming for. This will also mean the seat is the right height from the ground (dimension A) because you checked it before lifting the kart onto the stand.

Because seats are often made of fairly thin fibreglass material, be sure to use the appropriate large

washers on the bolts, to prevent the seat from cracking when you're driving it – which is expensive, annoying, and possibly dangerous!

CONCLUSION

Seat position is, without a doubt, the most critical factor in go kart setup. More than once an inexperienced driver has declared a perfectly good chassis to be "junk" because the seat position was incorrect. Remember, everyone is shaped differently, so your seat position needs to be tailored to suit YOU. What works for someone that is 6 feet tall will definitely NOT work for someone who is 5'3".

Hopefully this article has shed some light on how to tackle seat position in a way that allows you to begin thinking about it as you fine-tune your kart. As always, we appreciate feedback, which you can send to info@phoenixracekarts.com.au.



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