## **CLASSIC CAR RESTORATION CLUB**

ClassicCarRestorationClub.com

## PRINT YOUR OWN WHEEL BOLT CIRCLE GUIDE

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We've all been there, whether it was a trip to the salvage yard or a local swap meet and you've questioned if those wheels or that axle would fit your car. The fact is, measuring 5-bolt wheels and axles can be a little tricky and require just a little guesswork to determine the center of a bolt or hole. Making the problem just a little worse the diameter of the wheel studs or the oversize holes on Mag wheels can make it harder to determine the bolt pattern.

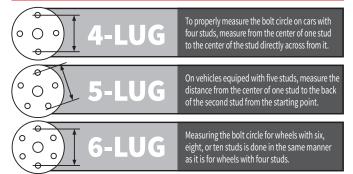
Therefore, we thought it might be a great idea to both explain how to take wheel stud measurements and also provide a simple tool so you don't need to worry about getting measurements correct going forward.

Your bolt pattern indicates how many bolt holes or studs are on your vehicle, and how far apart they are spaced. For example, a bolt pattern of 5 x 4-3/4", gives two very important bits of information. The first number ("5" in this example) lets you know exactly how many studs are on the rotor or how many holes are in the wheels. The second piece of information is the 4-3/4". This is the diameter of the circle formed by the lug studs. Note: this number can also be expressed in a metric format in some instances.

When measuring a 4-lug, a 6-lug or even an 8-lug, the process is very simple. Measure from center of one hole to the center of the opposite hole.

A 5-lug pattern is where things can get confusing. If you don't have the template handy, you measure from the center of any hole, skip a hole in either direction and then measure to the outside edge of that hole.

## **DETERMINING BOLT CIRCLE**



Now that you know how to measure lug bolt patterns, On the next page is a simple little tool to keep in your shop, or in your back pocket as you head out to your favorite salvage yard or swap meet.

Yes, these are sold by some manufacturers in durable plastic and a great tool to have in the shop, but a paper one works great, folds up small enough to put in your pocket or even your wallet, and when you wear it out, just print another.

To use, follow these steps:

- 1. <u>Print the Template</u>, Be sure to set your printer settings to either 100% or Actual Size.
- 2. Cut out the holes of the same color shade for your desired wheel or axle bolt circle. (Each color shade represents a common bolt pattern)
- **3.** Place the template over the studs or line the holes up with the wheel.
- 4. Done!

With this tool, you'll never again question whether or not the bolt pattern on that great set of wheels at the local swap meet will fit your car, or you just may need to help out a friend with their purchase.

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