

¹gear (gēr), n. 1. a toothed wheel

Gear Technology's bimonthly aberration — gear trivia, humor, weirdness and oddments for the edification and amusement of our readers. Contributions are welcome.

Gear Terms You Didn't Know About

The word *gear*, in various forms, has been in use since around A.D. 1200, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Last issue we brought you Shakespearean gears. Now we'd like to show you some of the uses Americans have given our favorite word (from the *Random House Dictionary of American Slang*).

pack the gear. To have the necessary ability or authority; to meet standards or requirements. Originating in the U.S. Marine Corps. As in, "That new recruit can't handle it. He doesn't pack the gear."

slip (one's) gears. To lose one's sanity. As in, "You must have slipped your gears in order to have become the Addendum Editor."

gear-dropper. An aviation term referring to an airplane copilot.

gear jockey. A driver of trucks or other large motor vehicles. Also **gear jammer.**

There were also a considerable number of gear terms listed with various vulgar, naughty and objectionable meanings. Considering the refined, cultured character of the Addendum Page,

we regret to say that we're unable to print them here. (We're above that sort of thing). Besides, we already told you where to look them up.

Obscure Gear Biographies — Part III

With baseball season underway, we thought it appropriate to introduce the Addendum Page's baseball hall of fame, which consists of just one player: **Dale Dudley Gear**.

Gear was a 5'11" right-hander from Lone Elm, KS, who played three seasons in the big leagues, with the National League Cleveland Spiders (1896-7) and the American League Washington Nationals (1901).

Gear played both outfield and pitcher in a total of 69 games over the three seasons. His lifetime batting average was .239. He never hit a home run, but managed to come up with 25 RBIs. As a pitcher, his best season was 1901 with the Washington Nationals, when he was 4-11 with a 4.03 ERA. Guess he just didn't *pack the gear*.

While he will never make it into the real hall of fame, we are proud to add **Dale Dudley Gear** to our list of semi-famous gears. ⚙

Who's Got The Biggest Gears?

The *Guinness Book of World Records* (1995 edition) has many listings for the world's largest and smallest items, but (alas!) there are no gears. For example, the world's largest nuts (outside of the Addendum office, of course) are the so-called "Pilgrim nuts" manufactured by Pilgrim Moorside Ltd. of Oldham, Great Britain. They weigh 5 tons each and have an outside diameter of 52".

We already have a candidate for the world's smallest gear. Recently, the researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, announced that they had created a gear that's 50 microns in diameter. It's part of a silicon micromotor that is only a square millimeter in size. Engineers hope to use this tiny motor to power micromedical pumps or high-performance gyroscopes for automotive or military use.

We're looking for the world's *largest* gears. If you have them, or if you know where they are, please contact the Addendum office at once. The reader who contributes the biggest gear story will have his or her name in a future edition of Addendum. Verifiable gear stories only will be considered.



The Addendometer: If you've read this far on the page and enjoyed it, please circle 225.