

# A Short Primer On Alignment Language

By **BRIAN EVANS**

**Vintage Mustang Owners Assn.**

Here are some definitions of some of the more common "buzz words" related to front suspension technology. Next time you visit your mechanic or buy new tires, listen closely. You may hear the following terms (as the mechanics ramble on at 90 miles an hour!):

**Body Roll:** The vehicle body leaning to one side as the vehicle turns. Sway bars are used to control this.

**Camber:** The tilt of the wheels from true vertical as viewed from the front. Outward tilt is called positive camber and inward tilt is called negative camber.

**Camber Wear:** Wear that occurs on one side of a tire tread as a result of excessive positive or negative camber.

**Caster:** The tilt of the wheel's steering axis as viewed from the side. A forward tilt of the steering axis from true vertical is called negative caster, and a rearward tilt is called positive caster.

**Cupping:** A type of heavy, uneven tire wear characterized by cup-shaped worn spots on the tread, and caused by an out-of-balance condition or weak shocks.

**Knuckle:** The part of the suspension that supports the wheel hub and serves as the steering pivot.

**Lateral Load:** The force on the side of the tire tread.

**Oversteer:** The tendency of a vehicle to turn sharper than the turn selected by the driver.

**Stabilizer Bar:** A suspension component that prevents the vehicle body from driving into turns.

**Toe:** The parallelism of the two front tires to one another as viewed from above. Toe is adjusted by changing the length of the tie rods.

**Understeer:** The tendency of a vehicle not to turn as much as desired. At high speed, the vehicle tends to "plow" to the outside of the turn.

## Connect Auto Alarm To Home Security

By **Don Johnston**  
No. California SAAC

Everyone thinks car alarms are an annoyance when they go off. People actually ignore them, thinking the alarm went off by accident.

My 1966 Shelby is parked in my garage. I have it linked directly into my main security system for my home. I did this with 14 gauge coaxial cable. If the car is tampered with or the cable is cut, bells outside the house alert all the neighbors. Unlike car alarms, house alarms bring in the constables.

The sophistication of the house alarm can range from a bogus bell and indicator key switch light on the side of the house (the more visible, the better as a deterrent) to a professional alarm system.

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