

Centering the Scales

Do I have to center the scale on the table?

The short answer is no, you do not. But let's take a look at some examples to illustrate the point. The first series of pictures illustrates a 'traditional' installation on a milling machines' X axis where the scale has been mounted relative to the center of the table. The scale (light blue) has been attached to the table (white). The trolley (dark blue) has been fastened to the base of the machine (grey). Remember, we're presenting a typical installation first, followed by an example where the scale has been offset.

In this example, the scale body has been mounted on the center of the table. Traditionally, this is how most scales are mounted. Note how the trolley (dark blue) is 'centered' on the scale with the table in the middle, or neutral, position. In this diagram, the table has been moved to the extreme left. Note the trolley is nearing the right end of the scale. Now the table has been moved to the extreme right most position. Note how the trolley is nearing, but not over, the left end of the scale.

While the last example is most likely what most scale installations will end up looking like, let's take a look at a rather extreme case. Remember, while this might be rather academic, the point is to illustrate how you do not need to exactly 'center your scales' when mounting them. They will work just fine offset to one side or the other.

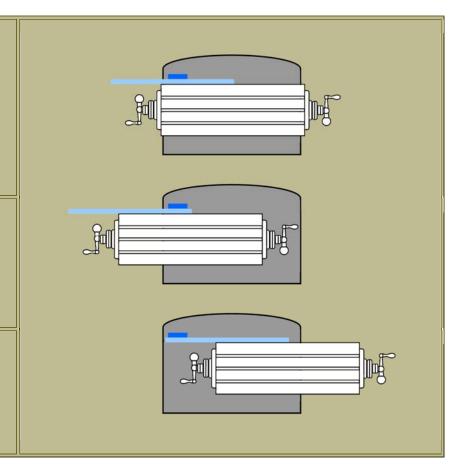


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In this example, the scale body has been mounted well offset to the left of the table. Note how the trolley is 'centered' relative to the scale with the table in the middle, or neutral, position.

In this diagram, the table has been moved to the extreme left. Note the trolley is nearing the right end of the scale.

Now the table has been moved to the extreme right most position. Again, note how the trolley is nearing, but not over, the left end of the scale.



Now we realize no-one is going to mount a scale quite to the extremes of our previous example. But what we're trying to illustrate is this: First, you do not need to take elaborate steps trying to ensure a scale is perfectly 'centered', because it really doesn't matter. What really does matter is this - wherever you do end up mounting your scale (centered or not), make sure the trolley is centered to the scales travel, and doesn't run off the end. As easy as that!

Best of luck, but most of all, enjoy your new DRO kit!

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