



Figure 45 A full-bodied car setup pad may require as many as 4 scales under each tire.

The key to any setup pad is to make sure that any height difference between the two front scale pads is the same as between the two rear scale pads. This is what the bubble level, 6 foot long square tube, and equal-height sockets are for. Ideally the height difference between the two scales is zero, but it doesn't absolutely have to be. If you mark the tube and position it so that the same side is up and the same end is on the left every time, the tube does not have to be perfectly straight. The same applies to the bubble level. Just mark it and its position on the tube so that everything is oriented the same way every time. If you want to find out how far off level you are, turn the bar around so that the other end is on the left and re-level it with pages from a second magazine. You can dial in your level tube and bubble level to be exactly level by shimming the low end until the bubble level indicates the same position with the assembly in both the usual and 180° turned around positions. The height difference between the front and rear scale pads doesn't matter much because the CG height of the car is probably fairly close to the plane passing through the axle centers.

One sheet of magazine paper is about 0.002" thick, which is way more than fine enough for a scale height shim thickness increment. To zero the bubble level, open a magazine and put enough pages under the low scale to raise it to the same height as the high one. Try not to get distracted by what's in the magazine, of course.