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What it all means: - Definitions by Mike Sharman

Every few years, as we acquire new members, confusion occurs over the spring/beam/ hornblock variations.

So, for the new members or those who have forgotten, here is some “Suspension Terminology”:

Springing

True springing is where the vehicle is wholly supported by springs, either coil or leaf type, which can move in the hornblocks and do so both up and down, depending on the load.

Spring-assisted

is where the hornblocks have been fitted with light coil springs, which load each axle downwards, as the wheels follow dips in the track, thereby also maintaining good pick-up of current. The chassis must be ‘set up’ on a flat surface so it does distribute weight across the model.

Beams

are used where the hornblocks are free-floating. The axles are supported and controlled by beams which are attached to the chassis and pivot about their centres. This distributes weight, but care must be taken not to get too much weight outboard of the pivot, thus throwing the model out of balance.

Sprung beams

must follow the same rules as simple beams, but, instead of a rigid beam about the pivot point, the beam is made of a light, springy material. This combines the ‘plus points’ of all the systems. It is easy to adjust and it does distribute weight.