



Users Manual



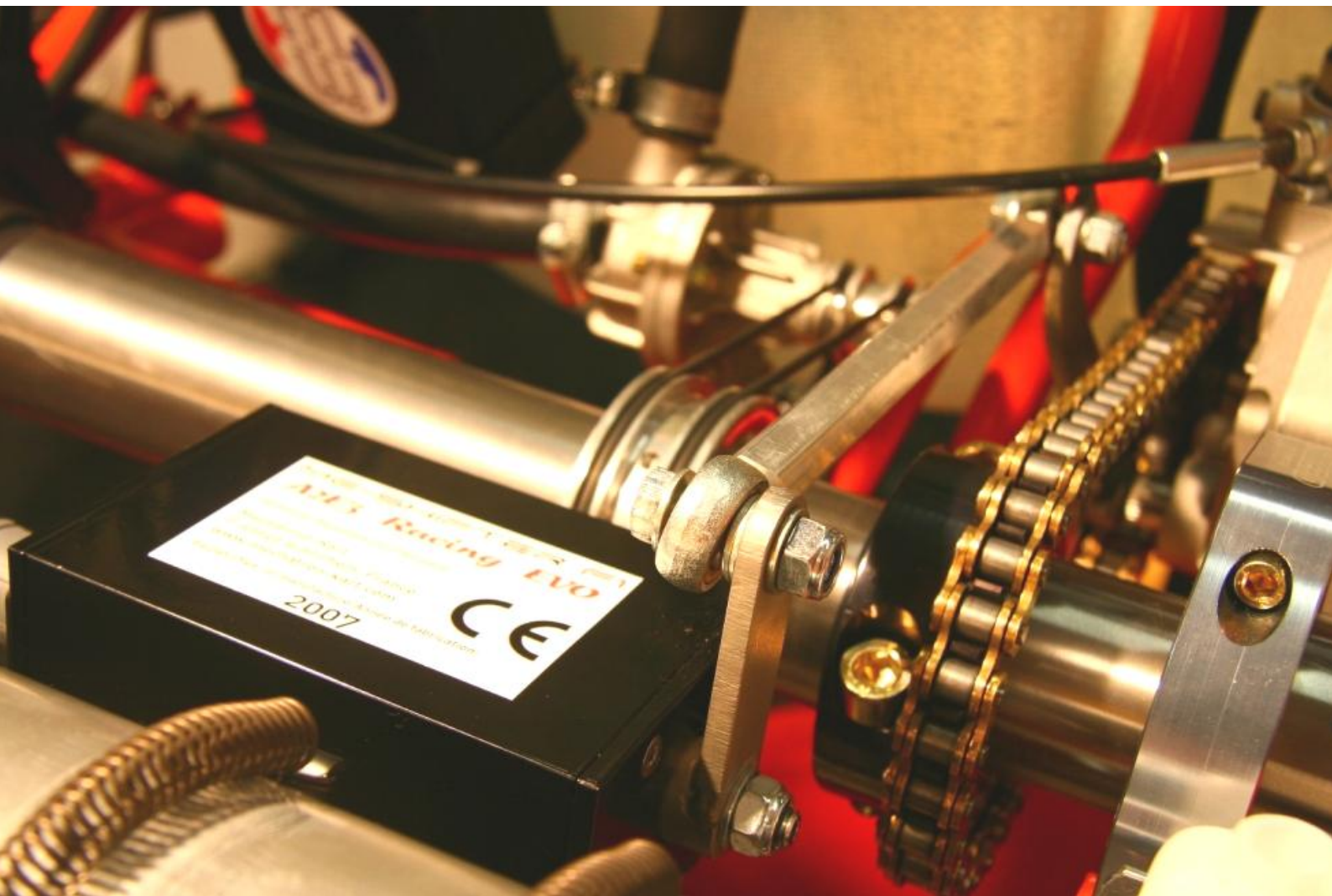
The manual contains important information about the use of the product. Therefore you should keep it at a safe place as long as you are the owner of the device.

Electronic Shifting System

ME-SHIFTER **F1**

Racing Evo'12

Patent Pending No. 20 2006 003 853.1



MECHATRON KART

Dorfbrunnen 1 - D-34576 Homberg, Germany

Tel. +49 (0) 170 6225018 – Fax. +49(0) 6151 2733667

Mail : info@mechatron-systems.com

Web : www.mechatron-kart.com – www.shifter-f1.com



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1. Foreword

Thanks a lot for buying the ME-Shifter F1. Now you are the owner of a new, innovative and patent right protected technology which wasn't available ever before.

Our product is established on the international market since 2005 and was already put to the acid test by the international karting press (VROOM 05/2008, VROOM INTERNATIONAL 06/2008, rating 4 of 5 stars) and proved its performance and reliability on the highest level of karting: The system has been officially used in the KZ1-European and World Championship 2008 by the Spirit-Karting Racing Team.

You will benefit by the comfort and efficiency which the ME-Shifter F1 affords to you, just like the drivers of the „Big-Brother“ Formula-1. From now on, shifting with a lever will be history for you.

The Manual is written to help you becoming acquainted with the device in detail. It contains important informations for the safe and economic usage.

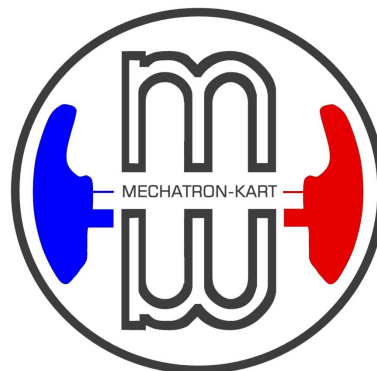
In regard to your own security and for avoiding accidents, please read and respect the security advices completely before initiating the device.

The MECHATRON-Team wishes you a lot of fun and best racing results with your new ME-Shifter F1.

MECHATRON KART

Paul Gross

Company Manager



2. Security advices



At processing and production process of the ME-Shifter F1, many acknowledged rules of technics and directives were applied.

The construction of the device minimizes the risk of accidents during intended usage.

Please respect the following security advices to avoid remaining dangers.

Pull the plug!

Pull the plug of the device whenever you don't use it. Pull the plug directly at the battery contacts. Particularly if you are doing maintenance work at your kart, you have to disconnect the device of the power supply. In case of an unintentional actuation of the device there is a high risk of injury.

Pay attention on correct voltage Supply!

Only use closed (maintenance-free) and vibration-proofed batteries with a nominal voltage of 12V. Leaking battery acid causes the risk of chemical burn!

Always make sure that the red connector is connected to the positive pole and the black one to the negative pole of the battery.

Never short-circuit the battery poles!

Especially during maintenance: Always pay attention that no tools are put on the battery-poles accidentally.

Only use the device with fully charged battery. If the battery is discharged it may be possible that gears won't be shifted safely. In this case you have to charge the battery immediately.

Always use an extra battery for the ME-Shifter. If you use a common battery for ME-Shifter and other electrical devices, it might be possible that the devices bug or even damage each other.

Protection against overload!

Only Shift up and down during driving! Never change some gears fast when the engine is not running!

Please check the temperature of device and battery after every turn (ca. 30min.). If device or battery will exceed a temperature of 60°C (140°F) you must take a rest of one hour.

Protection against fire and explosion!

Inside the device may be generated sparks. Don't let the device get in contact with inflammable liquids or gases. Otherwise there is an explosion hazard. Don't pass fuel lines near the device.

If the device gets contact with inflammable liquids or gases, wait until the substances volatilized completely.

Check device for damages, ensure that plugs are connected correctly!

Check the device and plug connections before you go on the track. If device, plugs or cables are damaged, you mustn't use the device until a reparation is done by a professional. In this case please refer to your karting-dealer.

Avoid handling-mistakes!

If a handling-mistake happened, especially pushing the button „gear down“ accidentally, could this cause dangerous situations. The reaction of the vehicle could differ from the usual case and possibly you will need some seconds to get back control of the vehicle.

In addition to this, the engine will rev up which could cause damage or destruction of the engine. To minimize these risks shift up early and don't drive your vehicle with high engine speed. Please make yourself familiar with the function of the pushbuttons. Always drive forward-looking and limit your speed to be able to react safely in case of a handling-mistake.

Further important security advices:

Don't use the device if you are distracted. Don't use it if you are alcoholized or drugged. The device may only be used by adults. Protect the device against usage of children or unauthorized persons in regard to their own safety. If you can't watch the device, take away the battery for example.

Reparations must only be done by a professional. Therefore refer to your karting-dealer.



Francesco Laudato (BIREL Factory driver)
2 times S-ICC World Champion (125cc Shifterkart),
driving with the MECHATRON ME-SHIFTER F1.

3. Assembly and usage of the System

I.) Application of the MECHATRON ME-SHIFTER F1

The ME-Shifter F1 is designed for use in karts with sequential transmission and two-stroke- or four-stroke-engine. The device fulfils the function of actuating the mechanism which was originally actuated by the shifting lever.

The device must only be used on race-track. The usage of the ME-SHIFTER F1 in international races of the category KZ1 is officially permitted by the CIK-FIA! Anyway, the use in races is explicit on your own risk! For any other use or if security advices won't be followed, no liability will be assumed.

II.) Assembly of the MECHATRON ME-SHIFTER F1



Ensure that the device is not connected to the battery during assembly or maintenance. Otherwise, the actuator may cause injuries when accidentally activated.

Basically there are three possible ways to mount the actuator unit of the ME-SHIFTER F1:

- A) Usual mounting with standard assembly kit and shifting rod under rear axle
- B) Mounting with standard assembly kit and shifting rod over rear axle
- C) Mounting with self constructed assembly method for special vehicles

Always if possible, mounting A) with shifting rod under the rear axle should be realized and only in cases this way doesn't work, an alternative mounting should be done.

The different mounting options are described in following.

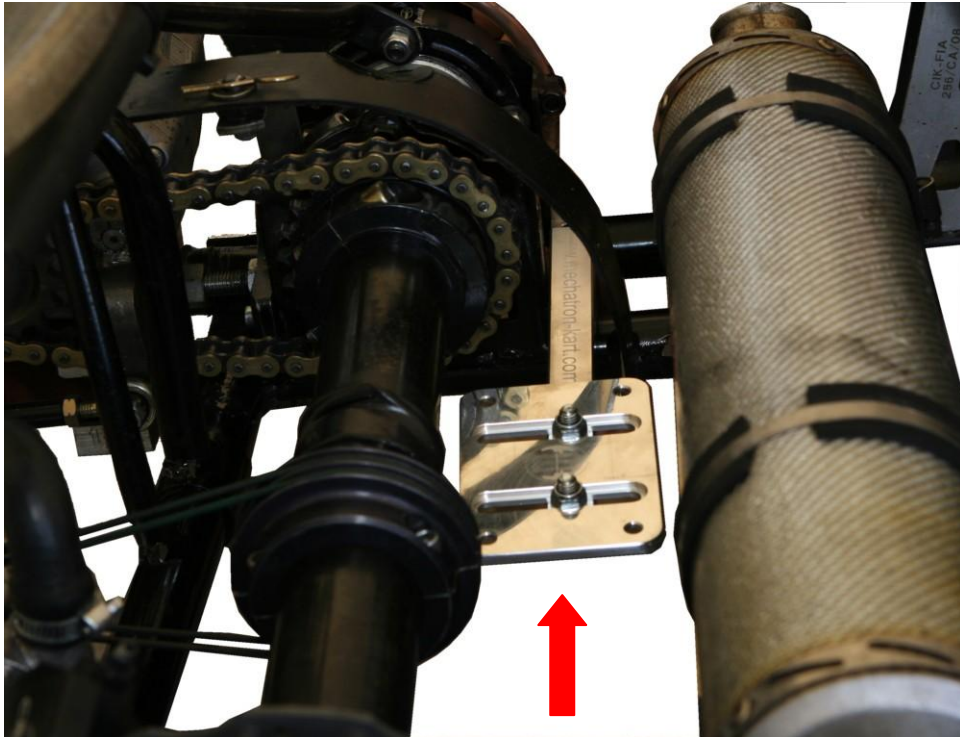
You drive. It Shifts. Together you win.

A. Usual mounting

- 1) Pre-mount the assembly kit as in the following picture, without tightening the screws:



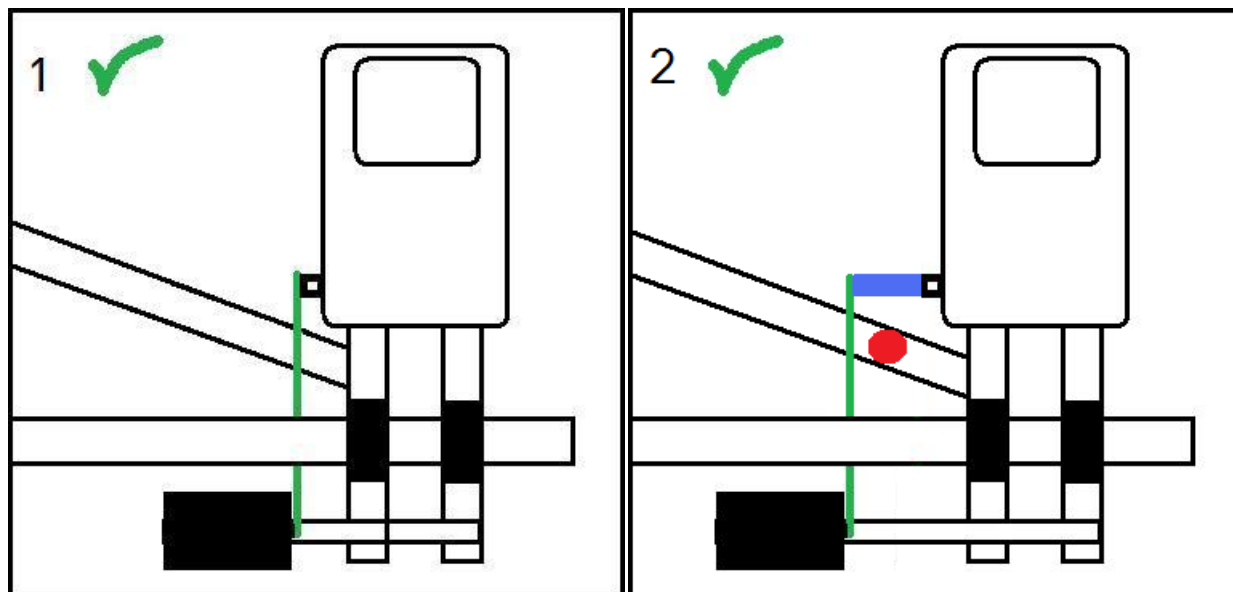
- 2) Put the assembly kit to the chassis tubes as shown in the following pictures, and tighten the screw to clamp it tight on the tubes:



- 3) Mount the actuator unit with the 4 M6x10 countersunk head bolts to the mounting plate

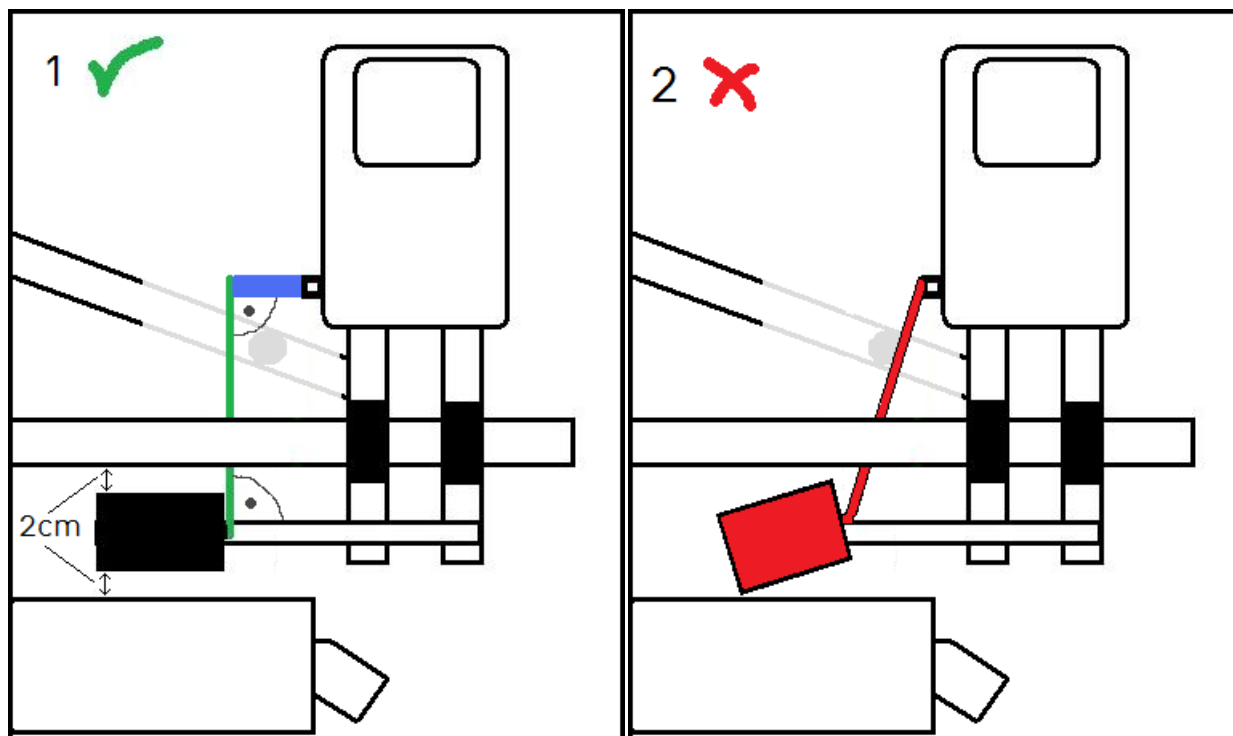
4) Now connect the shifting lever of the actuator unit with the shifting lever of your karting engine by mounting the shifting rod (1).

Some chassis have a seat bar which handicaps a straight shifting rod mounting (2). For this case, use the delivered distance-nut M8 to get the shifting rod more to the left side.



5) Now adjust the actuator unit like shown in the following picture, and ensure that:

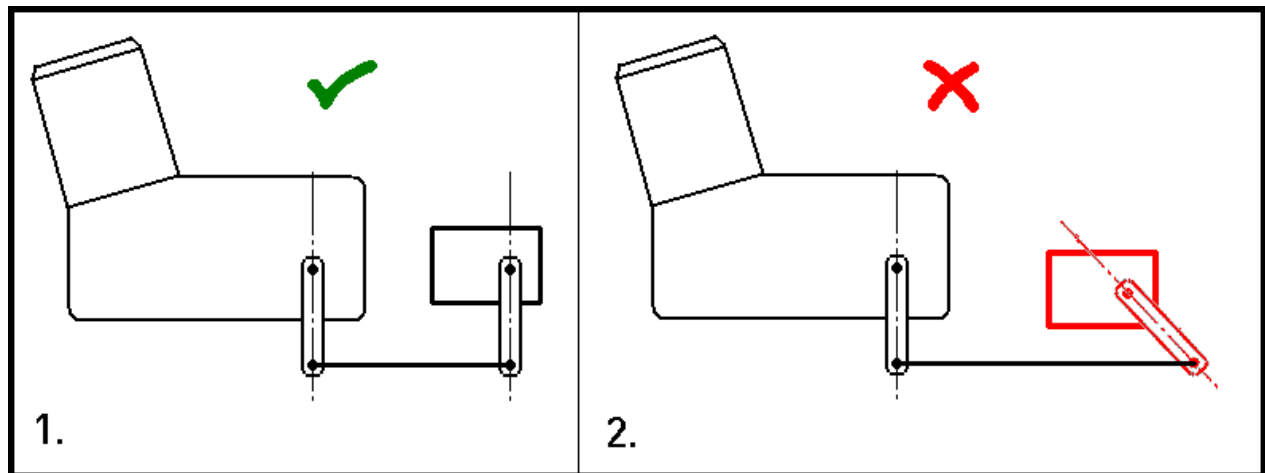
- The minimum distance between actuating unit to rear axle and muffler is at least 2cm
- The actuating unit is fixed parallel to the rear axle
- The shifting rod is aligned in a right angle to the rear axle



After good adjustment, please tighten the M8 bolts of the mounting plate to fix the unit.

Note: If the minimum distance cannot be realized because of your chassis, you can try to get the distance by mounting the muffler higher.

- 6) Now adjust the length of the shifting rod. The length must be adjusted in a way that it is in a right angle to both levers of your karting engine and the actuator unit (1). You can adjust the length by screwing in or out one of the uniballs.



- 7) Finishing the mounting, checklist:

The correct assembly of the system is extremely important for a correct and reliable function of the Shifting System. Please check the following points before you go ahead with the installation:

- Is the assembly kit fixed tightly to the chassis tubes and cannot move?
- Is the actuator unit fixed tightly to the mounting plate, and are the screws safe for getting loose by vibrations?
- Is there a distance of at least 2cm between actuator unit and muffler / rear axle?
- Is the actuator unit aligned parallel to the rear axle and in a right angle to the shifting rod?
- Can the shifting lever of the gearbox move free and is not blocked by anything?
- Are shifting lever of gearbox und actuator unit parallel to each other and in a right angle to the shifting rod?
- Are the shifting levers aligned with each other, so the shifting rod is straight?
- Are the mounting bolts of the shifting rod fixed well and cannot get loose?



B. Mounting with 180° rotated shifting levers

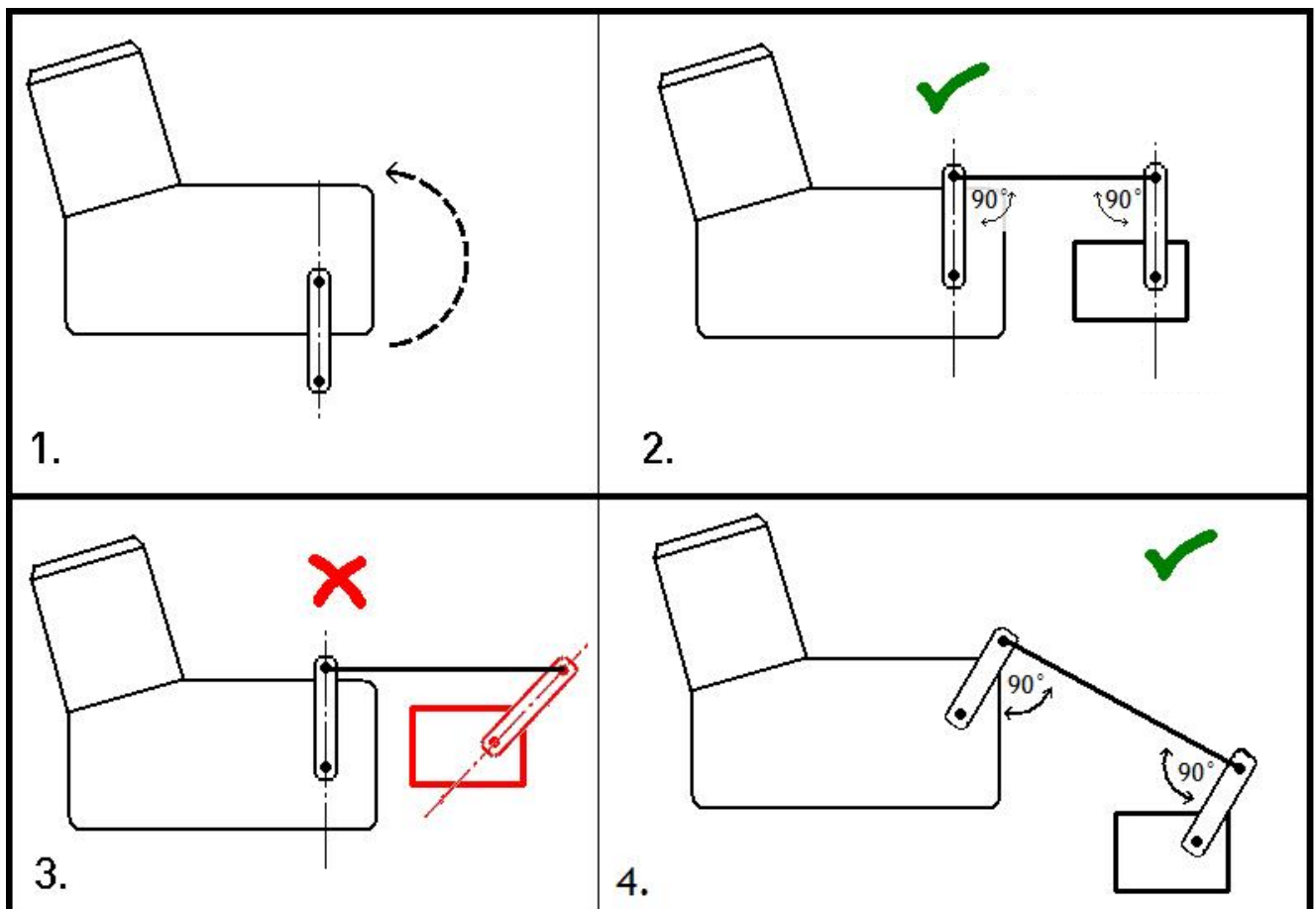
Note: Mounting with 180° rotated shifting levers should be an alternative if mounting variant A. is not possible because of constructive reasons.

- 1) Follow the instructions 1) to 3) of mounting variant A.
- 2) Now dismount the shifting lever of your karting engine and re-mount it 180° rotated, so that the shifting rod can be assembled over the rear axle. To fix the shifting lever in this position, it can be necessary to use a M5 bolt with M5 nut because you cannot reach anymore the M6 bolt head with the tool.

Note: Ensure that the shifting lever can move without hitting obstacles (gearbox housing for example). Please check if all gears can be shifted manually (by moving the lever by hand)

- 3) Now please turn the lever of the actuator unit parallel to the shifting lever of the gearbox and in a way that it is adjusted in a 90° angle with the shifting rod (2.). Do **not** adjust the lever as shown in (3.) !

At some engine models(VORTEX for example) it can be possible that the levers are not at the same height. For this case, adjust the levers as shown in (4.) parallel to each other and in a right angle to the shifting rod.



- 1) Now please follow instructions 5) to 7) of mounting variant A.

C. Mounting with self constructed mounting kit for special vehicles

In some cases it can be possible that the standard mounting kit does not fit to your application (use in Crosskarts, Motorcycle Kartings or touring cars for example).

Please note that the use of the ME-SHIFTER F1 is only intended in combination with the standard mounting kit. For using the ME-SHIFTER F1 with another mounting kit we exclude the liability for all eventual damages at the vehicle and/or the device!

A correct mounting is also decisive for a perfect function of the device!

Anyhow if you are going to use the ME-SHIFTER F1 at a self constructed mounting kit, please attend to the following informations:

The mounting platform must be stable enough to take all forces! The shifting process provides forces up to 450 N (ca. 45kgs / 99lbs) which must be taken without deformation of the support. Further, the mounting kit must withstand the forces which can apply during driving over bumps or at a crash.

When assembling the system, you have to apply all information given in mounting variant A. Please regard to all shown pictures for a professional assembly

III). Assembly of the signal buttons !

To assemble the pushbuttons, we recommend the use of the cockpit MW TIP (optional) or the Racing Pro Paddle Cockpit (provided), like shown in the pictures below. To mount the cockpits, please dismount your steering wheel by loosen the three M6 screws. **Set the cockpit between steering wheel and hub and re-mount it with three screws which are 5mm longer than the old ones, to ensure that the lock-nuts work correctly.**



Ensure that the lock-nut of all three screws is tightened safe! When you do not respect this point carefully, it can lead to lose the steering wheel, which can cause dangerous accidents!



MK-F1 Shifting paddle on steering wheel



IV). Assembly of the battery holder

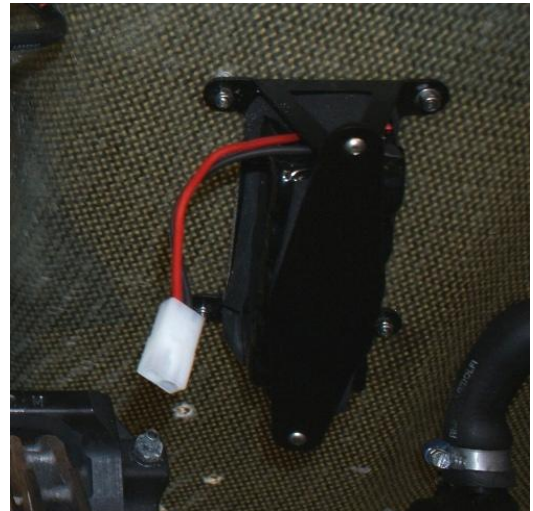
If you use a lead acid battery, it must be installed left next to the seat. Therefore please clamp the provided battery holder on the recommended place on your chassis. The battery should be installed as horizontal as possible. Please avoid incline angles over 30°, otherwise the battery may be damaged.

Always ensure a minimum space of 10mm between seat and battery. Otherwise the battery can be damaged by touching the seat.

If you use the Racing-Powerpack, please mount the delivered battery holder at the backside of the seat.

Attention: Mount the battery holder exactly as shown in the picture perpendicular showing down, and not horizontally, because the Power Pack gets here higher force peaks and may be damaged!

Lead acid battery, mounted on Chassis



Racing Powerpack mounted at Seat



Don't connect the battery before you are requested for it in this manual. Also in later usage, only connect the battery shortly before going on track and disconnect one pole (black or red) immediately after the end of your turn.



Electronic Shifting System ME-SHIFTER F1

Developed by

Jonathan Thonon

A large, stylized handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to be 'Jonathan Thonon'.

V). Assembly of the ECU (*Electronic Control Unit*)

The ECU controls the shifting sequences and contains the ignition interrupter.

The assembly of the ECU **must take place behind the seat at the cooling line**, because vibrations are very low on this position.

Attention: Only mount the ECU as shown in the picture, and in no other way because only this mounting position prevents the electrical connections for long time damages. Another way of mounting will cause damages at the electronic or connector after a time.



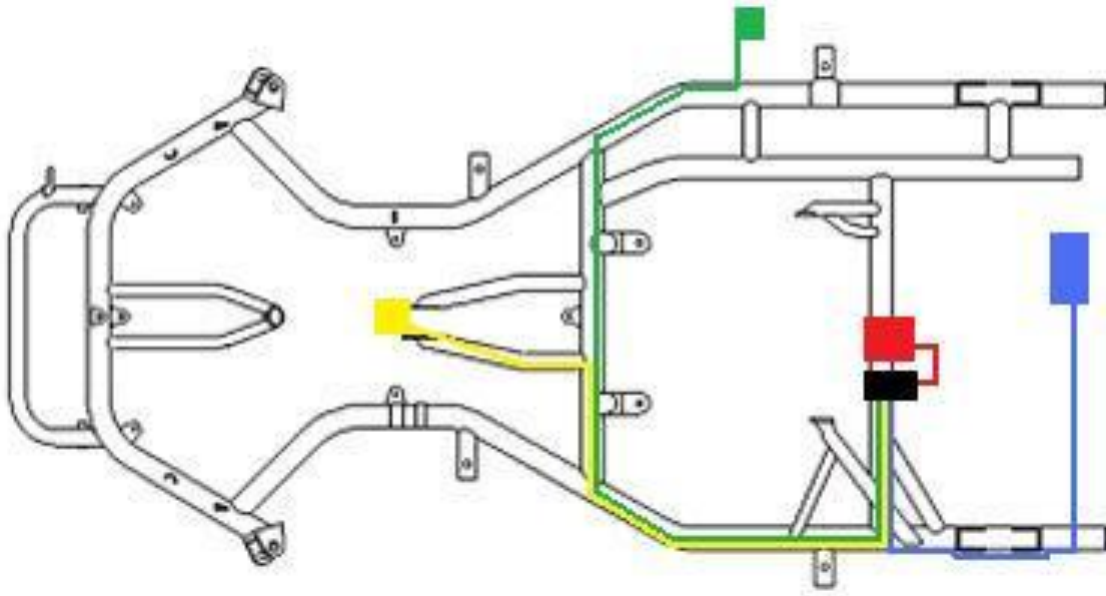
VI). Installing the cables of the ME-SHIFTER F1

While installing the cables, always ensure that the cables are fixed on the chassis that well that they can not:

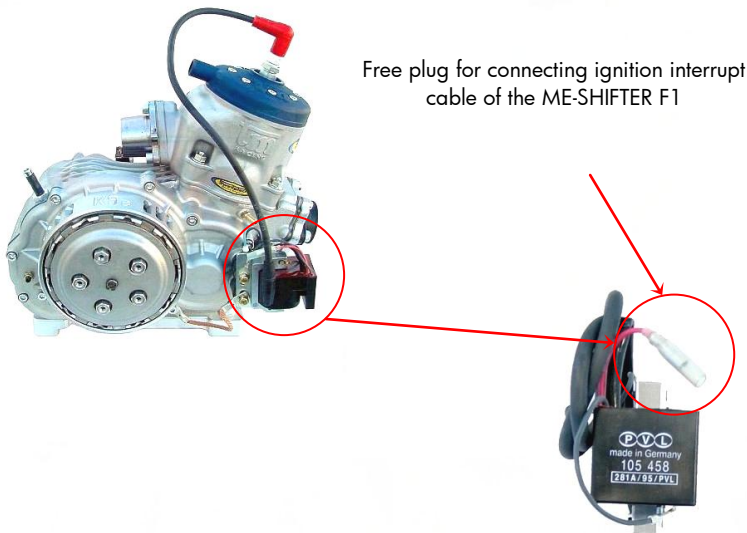
- Touch hot items like exhaust or breaking disc
- Moving items like axle or water pump
- Touch the asphalt while driving

Therefore you should use enough zip ties to fix the cables well on the chassis tubes.

Now install the cables on your chassis as shown in the following picture: The green line shows the cable for the ignition interrupt, the yellow line shows the the cable to the cockpit, the red line shows the battery cable and the blue line shows the energy cable to the ME-SHIFTER F1. The ECU is shown in black.



The ignition interrupt is connected by connecting the round plug with the free plug on the ignition coil and the eye plug must be screwed onto the mounting plate of the ignition coil (vehicle ground potential).



Free plug for connecting ignition interrupt cable of the ME-SHIFTER F1



Now connect the end of the cables with the corresponding plugs, **but not the Battery cable!**

Note: Engines with digital ignition (engines with electrical starter for example) may not always provide a kill-connector. In some cases the ignition interrupt may not work! For this case please contact the technical direction at info@mechatron-systems.com

VII). Initiation

Ensure that all assembly-advice has been executed correctly and conscientiously. Check all screw connections for adequate retention against vibrations. Ensure that the used Battery is charged completely.

Now connect the system to the battery. If you use a lead acid battery, always pay attention to the correct connection (red = +, black = -). A wrong connection causes the destruction of the Electronic Control Unit, we will give no warranty in this case.

Information to Racing Powerpack Batteries (12V- 6000mAh lightweight battery)

The Racing Powerpacks are not charged at time of delivery, so they must be completely charged before first use. When charging the battery, always follow the instructions of the manual of the Battery-charger manufacturer. Always take care of the safety instructions!

The Racing Powerpack loses about 1% of charge every day. Therefore we recommend to recharge your Power Pack one time per month when not using it to refresh the cells.

The Powerpack gets its full power and capacity after 3 charging cycles. Therefore it is possible that the battery has not yet its full power when using it the first times.

At cold temperatures (<10°C) we recommend to warm up your Power Pack in a warm room to about 20°C before using it. The best performance will be provided between 20°C and 30°C.



Actuator movements may cause injuries. Take care that no body parts are in the mechanical danger area!



Never get into the Kart while engine is running! If you push a pushbutton accidentally, you could lose control of the Kart!

The standard shifting direction is: Right paddle for shifting up, left paddle for shifting down. When using not the standard mounting variant, it may be inverted.

A later change of the direction is possible at request.

Please drive carefully until you are familiar with the system. Keep the paddle assignment very good in mind to avoid accidentally shifting down instead of shifting up. If necessary, please mark the paddles clearly!

If a gear isn't changed correctly or even unlocks after a few seconds (engine will rev up or last gear will be locked again) is this a sign for an empty battery.

In this case please avoid further shifting sequences and take a pit stop to recharge or change your battery.

FAQ – frequently asked questions

“The lever at the SHIFTER F1 actuator unit has 2 drills. At which do I mount the Uniball of the shifting rod?”

Answer: Usually you mount the Uniball at the upper position 1 (longer lever). After a customization with the system of at least 1 hour you can also try pos. 2 to see if you feel a difference. Due to a long range of different chassis and engine type, this possibility provides the option to perfectly adapt the system to your kart.

“How long does my Racing-Powerpack work until it needs to be recharged?”

Answer: A perfect function of the system is ensured for up to 1500 shifting sequences without recharging in between. We recommend to connect the battery to the loader in every driving break to extend the driving time.

„I push the shifting paddle, but the shifter does not move or moves very weak. All cables and the battery are checked and connected correctly“

Solution, step 1: Check the fuse, which is mounted at the battery connecting cable. If the fuse is defect, change it with a new one (30A) and try it again. Also check the screw-connection of the fuse holder, and tighten it if it is loose.

Solution, step 2: If the fuse is ok, change the used battery with a new one (completely charged) and check the function of the system again. If the system now works well again, your old battery is discharged or defect. This may be normal after some years using the system.

Note: The correct mounting of the battery is essentially for its life expectancy. If the battery gets continuous hard vibrations, it can be destroyed within 20 minutes or less. A defect appears directly, so the battery gets useless from one second to the other.

„The system changes the gears perfectly, but sometimes I cannot shift up at full throttle“

Solution: In first, second and maybe third gear, do not full throttle but take your foot slightly from the accelerator when shifting up. Therefore, the gearbox gets discharged, the kart reacts much more smooth and the gears will change easily.

„I also cannot shift up at full throttle in the higher gears“

Solution: Check the connection of the ignition interrupt, in particular the connectors at the ignition coil, as well as the cable to the ECU for defects like ragged connectors, cable abraded by grinding on the track etc.

„The system often shifts perfectly, but sometimes not“

Solution, step 1: Check the position of the shifting rod at the lever of the shifter. If it is mounted at the upper hole, mount it at the lower hole and try it again.

Solution, step 2: To change the 5th gear to the 6th, the system needs more energy. If this is your main problem, it indicates a discharged or defect battery. Change your battery with a new, charged battery. If the problem appears again after charging the old battery, the battery is defect.

Solution, step 3: If the change of the battery makes no difference, check the connector of the ECU. If the cable gets bended often, this can cause defective contacts. To solve this problem, you should fix the cable in a way, that it cannot bend in the area of the ECU connector.

„There are often explosions in the exhaust when shifting up“

Solution: Check the spark plug of your engine for correct carburation and eventually change the carburator setting. Take attention because a too meagerly setting can cause damages on your engine.

„There are explosions in the exhaust when shifting up“

Solution: Some types of digital ignitions are reacting too slow for the ignition interrupt. Unfortunately there is no technical way to fix it. Try to improve the situation by lifting the accelerator slightly.



Attachment

1. Maintenance

The device is maintenance-free. Please keep it always dry and clean. Ensure that the battery is charged completely before you go for a racing weekend and disconnect the Battery if you don't want to use it for a longer time.

2. Disposal

If you don't need your ME-Shifter anymore or if you use it that much, that you have to replace the device one day, please dispose it environmentally, don't put it into the domestic waste. You can rely on your karting dealer or send it to the manufacturer directly. The disposal will be free.

3. Service

Although the device is designated for racing usage, which always is combined with high material-stress, we issue a product warranty of 6 months for our products.

During this time you have a right for free reparation of the device. In this case please deliver the device to your local karting dealer or send it directly to the manufacturer. Please don't forget to add a copy of your invoice.

MECHATRON KART warranty treatment

Attn. Paul Gross

Sturzstrasse 44

D-64285 Darmstadt, Germany

If defects appear after the time of warranty, we'll make an effort to repair your device fast and economic.

4. Technical specifications

Name of the device:	ME-Shifter F1 Racing EVO
Supply voltage:	12V...16V=
Nominal current (under load):	60A
Standby current :	16mA
Useable lever force :	ca. 300N
Dimensions of the actuator(lxwxh in mm):	130x80x50
Weight of the actuator:	996g



Declaration of conformity

We confirm that the construction of the device

ME-Shifter F1, Typ A2E3 Racing EVO

Since 11/2006 meets following EU-directives:

98/37/EG (EU-machines directive)

89/336/EWG (EMV- Directive with amendment 93/68/EWG)

CE marking 2006

MECHATRON KART
Dorfbrunnen 1
D-34576 Homberg
Germany



Paul Groß
CEO

