



Gadget Keeps Suspension Even



► For complete schematics and instructions, go to www.designnews.com/GadgetFreak.

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Gadget Freak James Kinney was looking for a way to take the pressure off the back end of a tow truck when it's carrying a heavy load. If you can equalize the pressure of the truck bed so all the weight is not on the back end, there will be less stress to the truck's suspension system. Kinney developed the air suspension system, called the Mechatronic Microcontroller, in his mechatronics' class at Colorado State University. The gadget uses a resistive touchscreen from an electronic Sudoku game to select the ride height of the tow truck's bed to make it level, thus spreading the stress of the towing weight evenly across the truck's suspension.



Check out the Mechatronic Microcontroller in action at www.designnews.com/GadgetFreak.

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5	330 Ω Resistor	296-4698
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