The Harley-Davidson Service Department recommends the following procedure as an alternate method to Step 4 in the rear wheel alignment procedure outlined in the latest FLT Service Manual.

1. See Figure 1. Obtain a piece of 1/8 in. aluminum welding rod 25 in. long. Grind one end down to a blunt point. With a pliers, bend the rod as shown to clear the frame and extend back to the rear axle. Place a snug fitting rubber grommet on the rod to act as a slide measurement indicator.

2. See Figure 2. With the blunt end of the alignment tool inserted in one end of the swing arm pivot shaft, slide the rubber grommet along the tool until it is aligned with the center of the rear axle as shown. Repeat for the other end of the pivot shaft.

3. The measurement between the center of the rear axle and the end of the swing arm pivot shaft must be equal on both sides of the motorcycle to within 1/32 in.

4. Adjust the rear chain as described in the latest FLT Service Manual to obtain the equal measurement.

Figure 1. Alignment Tool
1. Alignment tool  
2. Rubber grommet  
3. Swing arm pivot shaft  
4. Rear axle

Figure 2. FLT Rear Wheel Alignment Procedure