

**Wheels:** A reader asks, “I want to install a serpentine belt on my 1998 Jeep Cherokee, which has an inline 6-cylinder engine. The question is how to properly tension the belt. Is there any way to get a safe adjustment if you can’t get your hands on a tension gauge?”

**Halderman:** If a belt tension gauge is not available, the usual rule-of-thumb is that there should be about ½ inch of play in the belt when you push on it between the pulleys. Another rule is that you should be able to twist the belt 90 degrees, but not more than 90 degrees (too loose) or less (too tight).

