## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Basic Engine Measuring Techniques - Overview

# BASIC MEASURING TECHNIQUES

**BASIC ENGINE MEASUREMENTS**

During the course of engine repairs some basic engine measurements are required to verify engine diagnosis as well as to complete proper repairs. These measurements are made by precision measuring tools such as micrometers, Vernier calipers, cylinder bore gauges and dial indicators.

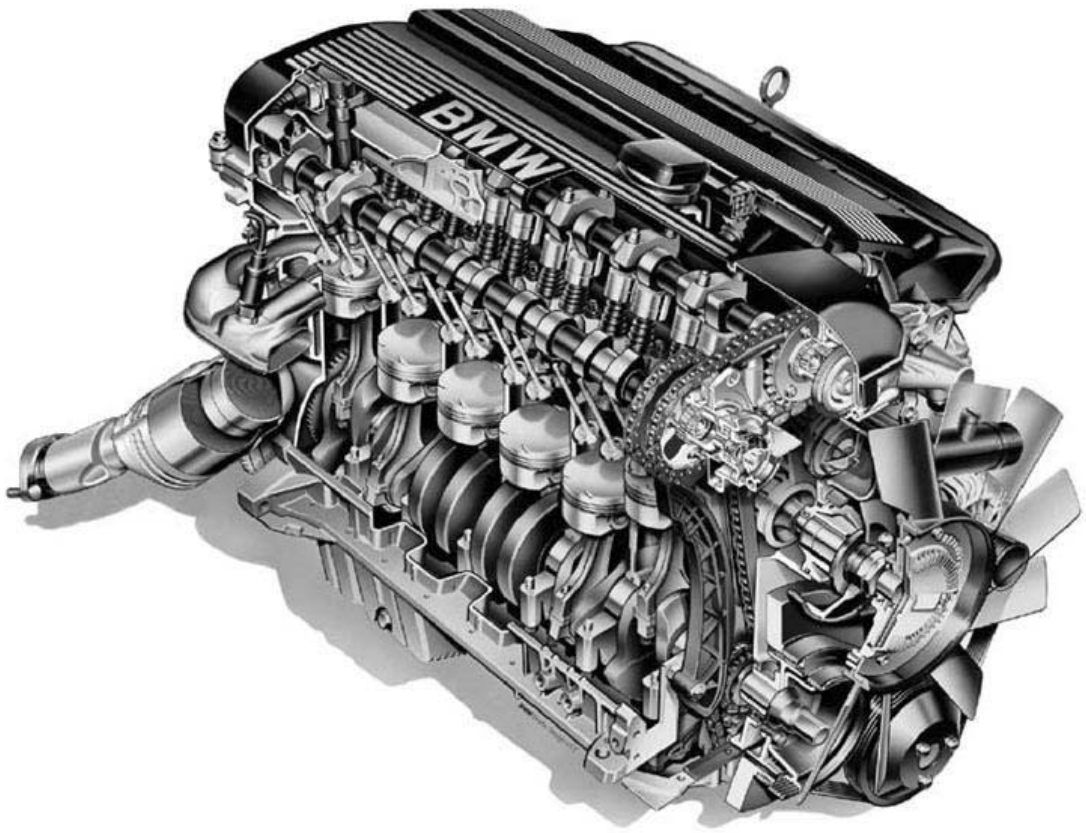


**Fig. 1: Sectional View Of Engine**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Also, a working knowledge of the metric system is also a vital skill that is needed by the technician. All BMW engine measurements consist of metric specifications. Some of the routine engine measurements performed include:

- Valve Guide Wear (Tilt Angle K)

- Cylinder Bore Measurements (Taper and Out-of-Round)
- Cylinder Head Warpage and Thickness
- Axial and Radial Endplay Measurements (Crankshaft/Camshaft etc).

Among all of the skills possessed by a modern technician, basic measuring techniques are perhaps the most overlooked and least used. This is why it is important to review these skills from time to time as a refresher.

Also, it is necessary to access technical data to obtain the proper specifications for these measurements. This course is designed to review measuring techniques to assist in engine diagnosis.

**Vernier Measurement**

The Vernier scale is used on various measuring tools such as the Vernier caliper and the Depth Gauge. The Vernier scale can be used with Fractional (US) and Metric systems. For the purposes of this training module we will always refer to the Metric Vernier scale.

The Vernier scale consists of a fixed scale and a sliding scale. The fixed scale is divided with graduations in 1 millimeter increments. The sliding scale has 10 graduations in increments of .5.

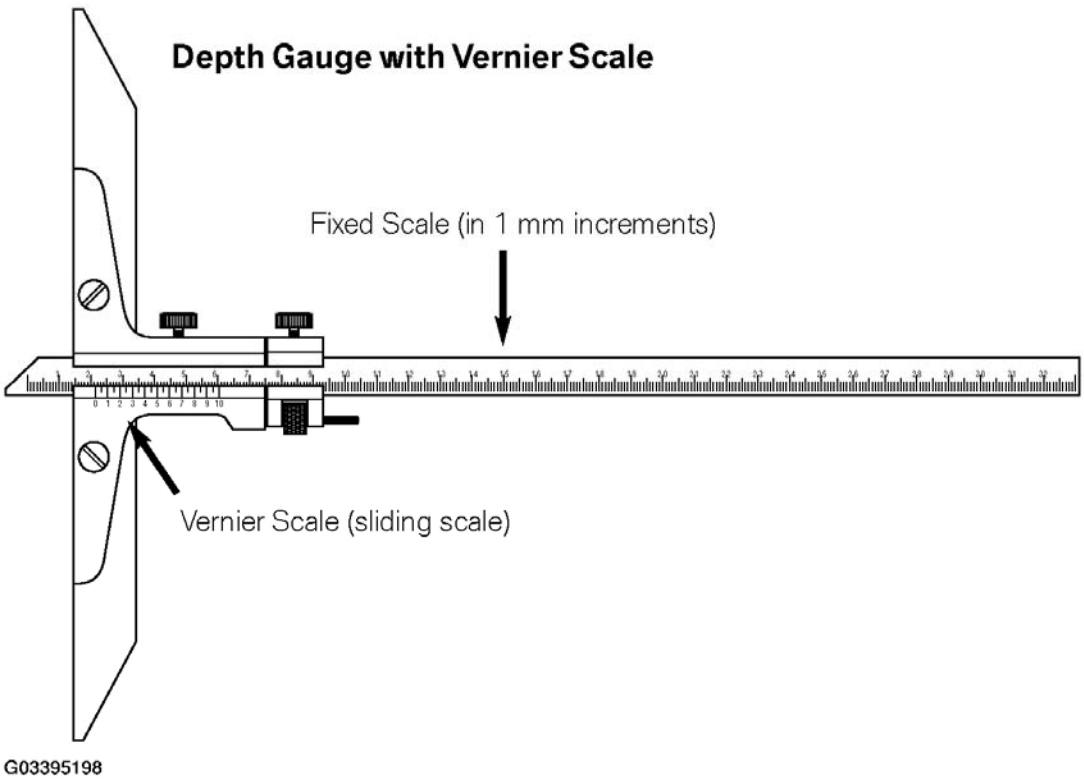


**Fig. 2: Identifying Depth Gauge**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

In order to read a measurement, use the zero mark on the left end of the vernier scale to use as a guide to read a measurement on the fixed scale.

In the example shown at the right, the zero mark is resting between 26 and 27 mm. Therefore the base measurement is 26 mm.

Next, the decimal measurement must be taken. For this, find a line on the Vernier that most closely matches any line on the fixed scale.

Using the example drawing, the "4" on the Vernier scale is lining up directly with a line on the fixed scale.

Combining the previous reading with this reading, the result would be 26.4 mm.

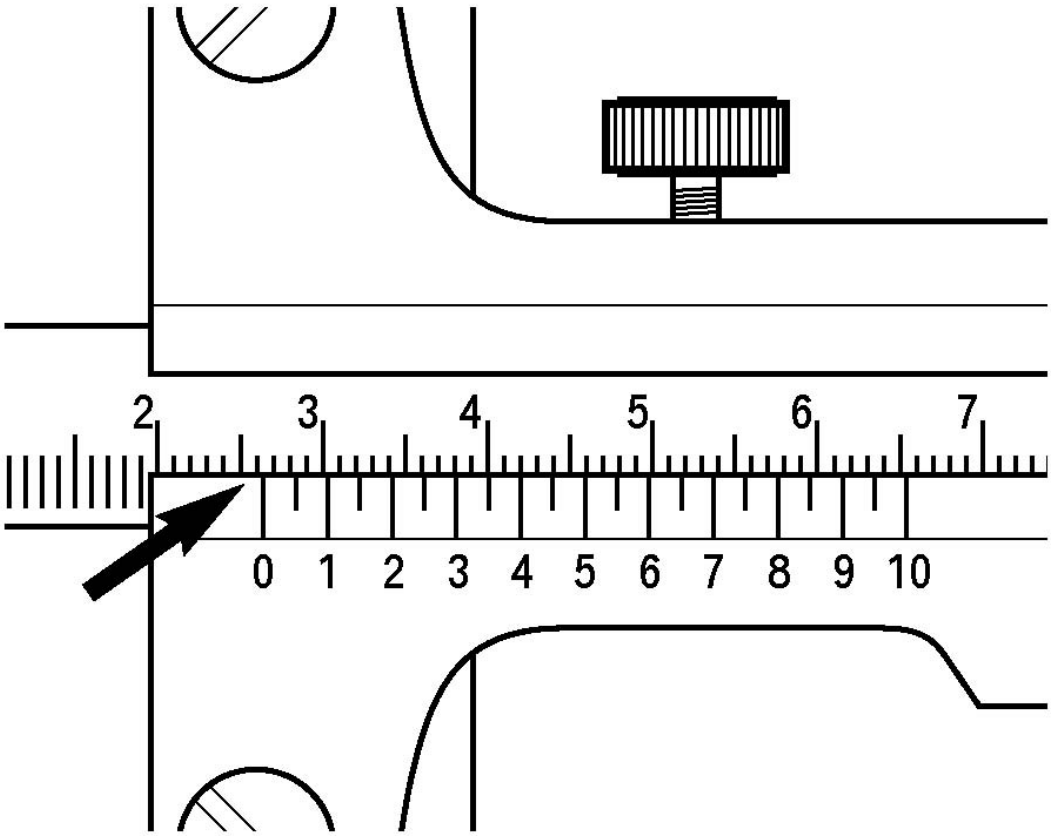


**Fig. 3: Locating Vernier Scale Reading**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

The designations on the Vernier scale are in increments of .5. For example, if a reading on the Vernier scale falls on the .5 (i.e. 2.5, 3.5 etc) designation this would indicate 5/100th's of a millimeter.

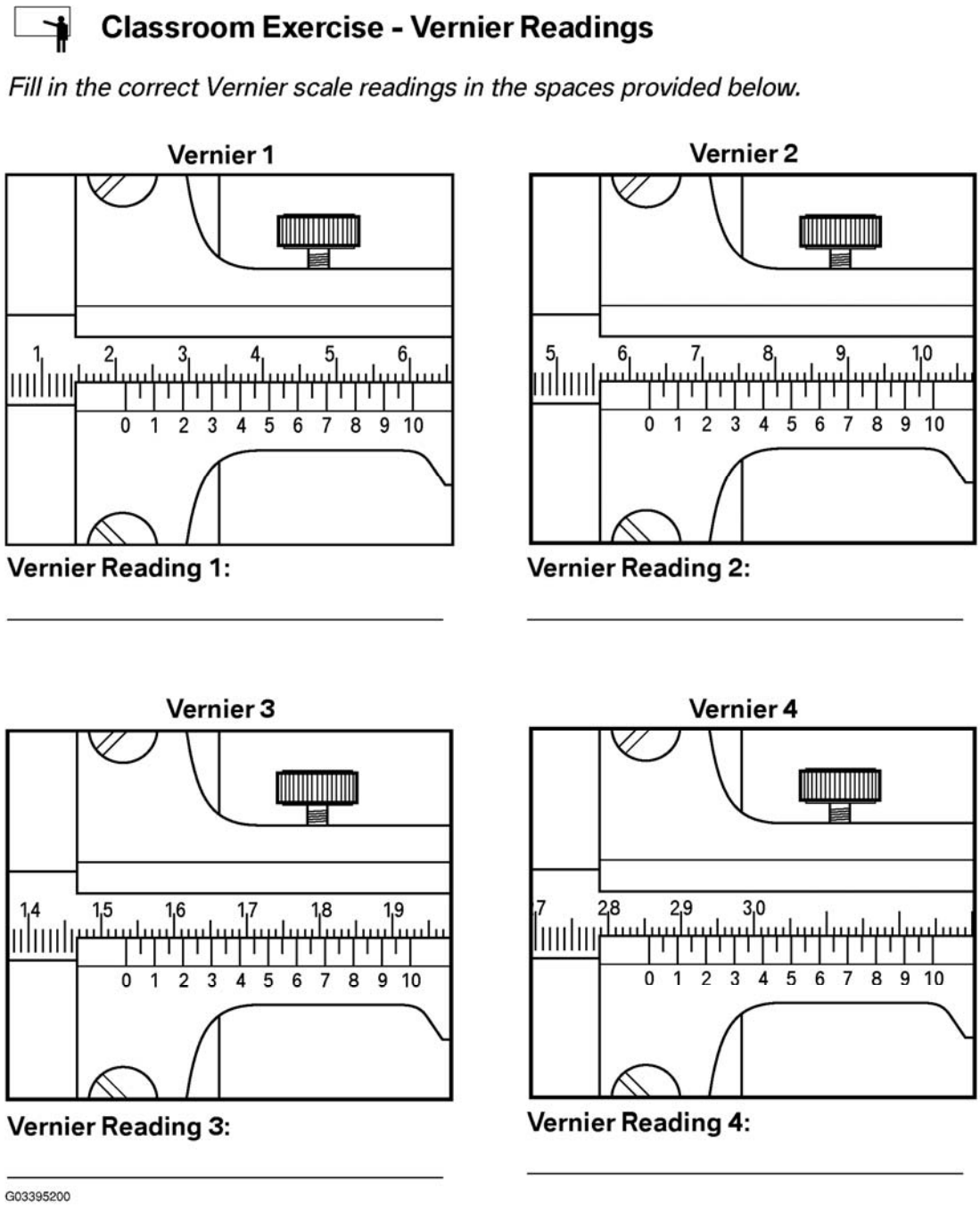


**Fig. 4: Identifying Vernier Scale Reading**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

**Micrometer Measurements**

Another valuable measuring tool is the micrometer, which can be used for measurements such as bearing journal diameter, cylinder head thickness, valve shim thickness and brake rotor thickness etc. Micrometers also come in configurations for inside measurements as well.

The micrometer scale comes in both fractional and metric varieties. We will cover only the metric micrometer scale in this course.

First you must familiarize yourself with the construction of the micrometer in order to understand how measurements are made.

**Metric Micrometer Construction**

The micrometer is constructed of a few basic parts. The actual item to be measured is placed between the anvil and the spindle. The micrometer can be adjusted to the approximate size using the thimble. The thimble should only be used for the coarse adjustment. In order to make the actual measurement, the micrometer should only be turned using the ratchet (a.k.a. the friction stop). Do not attempt to make a measurement using the thimble. This will give an inaccurate measurement and ultimately damage the micrometer.

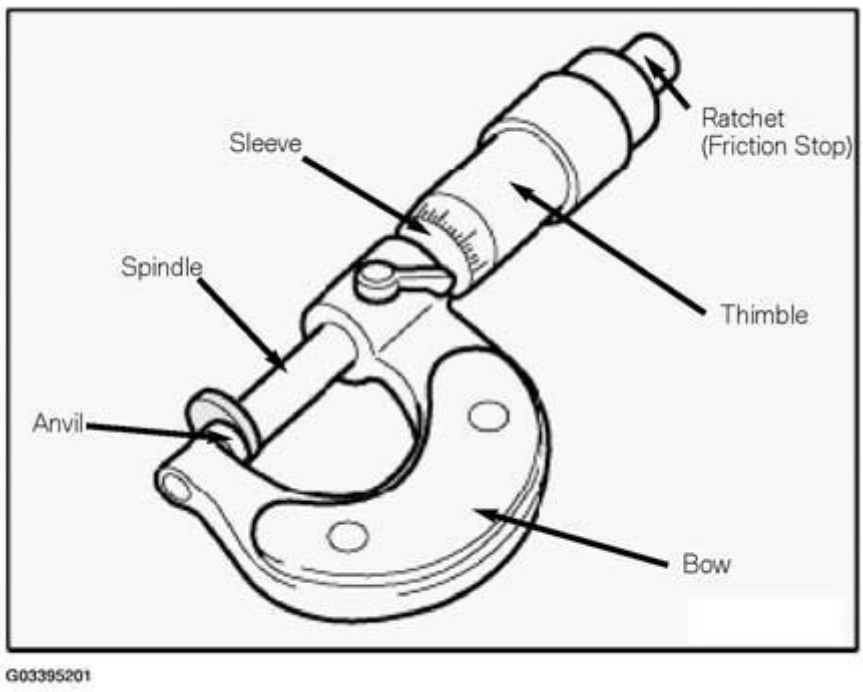


**Fig. 5: Identifying Micrometer**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Micrometers are available in various sizes for outside as well as inside measurements. The more common variation is the outside micrometer. They are usually available in 25 millimeter increments such as 0-25 mm, 25-50 mm, 50-75 mm etc..

The metric micrometer can measure in increments of one hundredth of a millimeter (.01mm). One hundredth of a millimeter is equal to 0.0003937 inch which is less than one thousandth of an inch.

The measurement area of the micrometer consists of the sleeve scale and the thimble scale. The sleeve scale is used to read whole and half millimeters. The thimble scale (which rotates) reads in hundredths (.01) of a

millimeter from zero to fifty. Two complete revolutions of the thimble equals one millimeter.

On the sleeve scale, each scale mark above the center line indicates whole millimeters. Below the center line, half of a millimeter (or .5mm) increments are indicated.

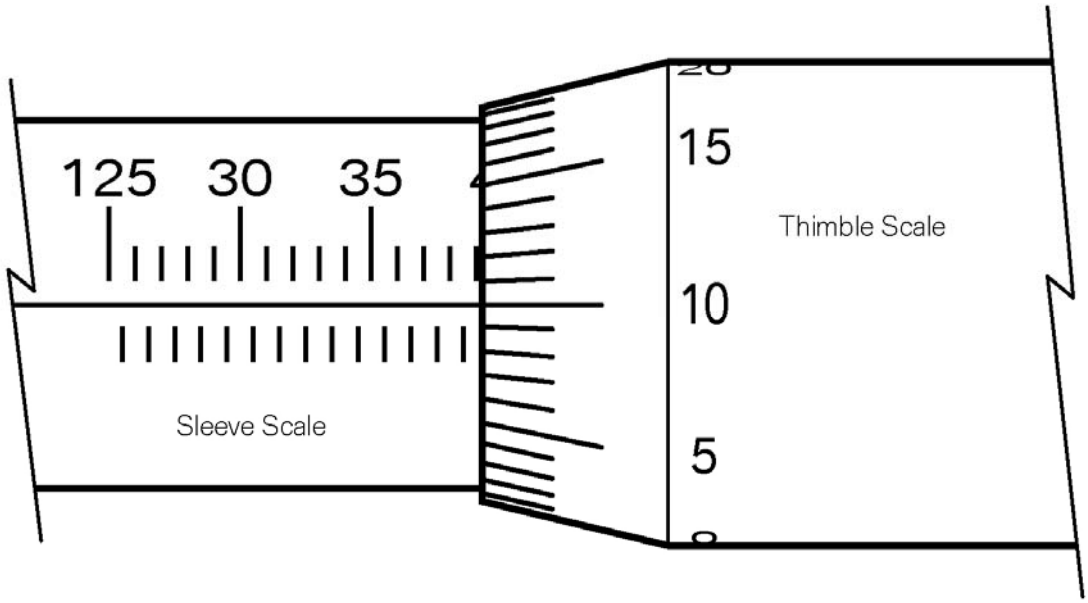


**Fig. 6: Identifying Micrometer Reading**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Using the example shown above, the micrometer is a 125-150mm micrometer. To read this micrometer, first take the basic reading from the sleeve scale. The thimble is past the 139 mm mark. Therefore the reading is a least 139 mm. Next, look at the thimble scale and note the reading on the centerline. The "10" on the thimble scale is lined up with the centerline. This indicates a reading of .10 mm. If you add the two readings; 139 + .10 = 139.10 mm.

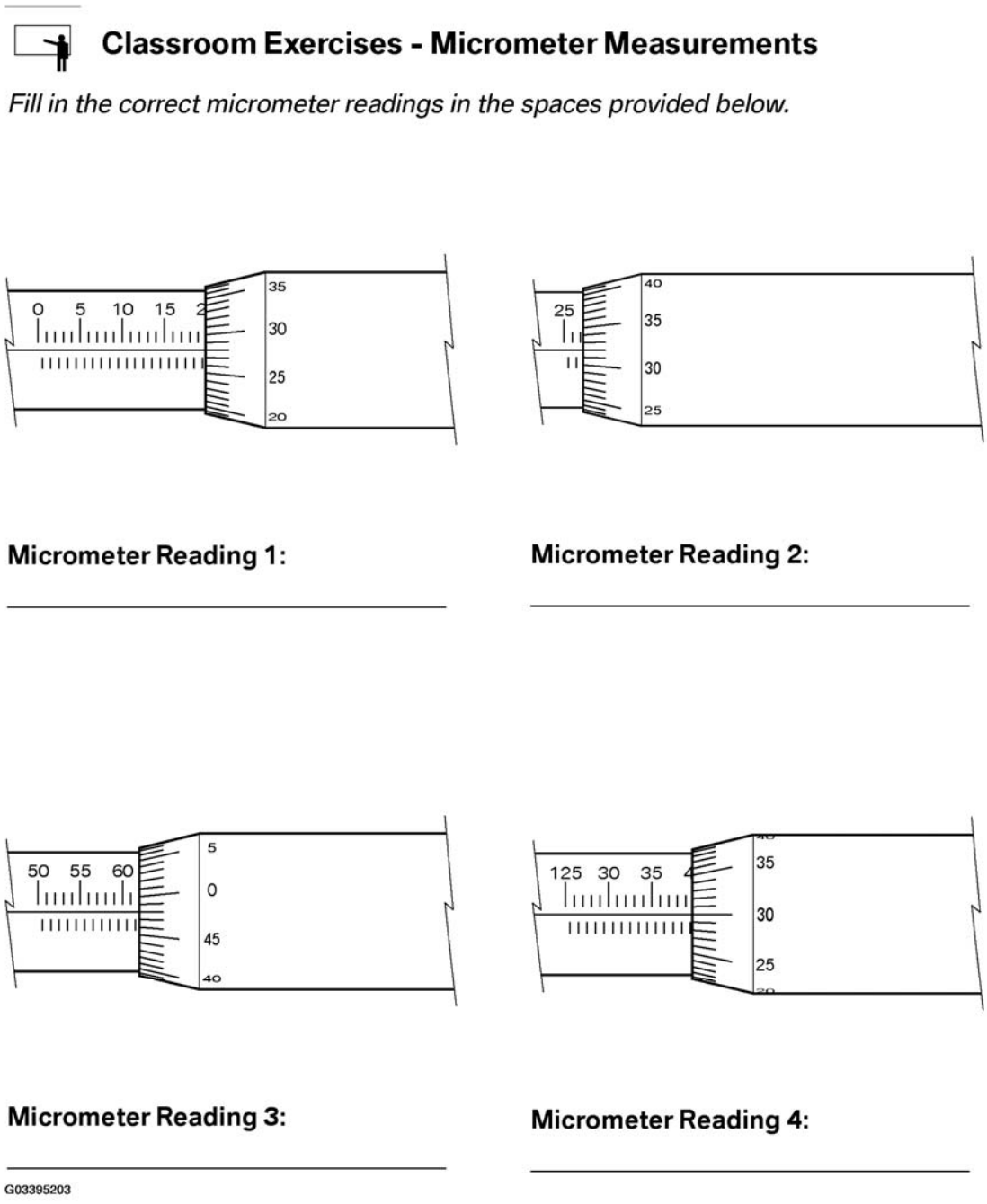


**Fig. 7: Identifying Correct Micrometer Reading**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

**Dial Indicator Measurements**

The dial indicator is used to measure the travel or movement of a specific item. It can also be used to measure axial and radial runout. In engine measurement applications, the dial indicator can be used to measure valve guide wear, axial movement of the crankshaft (thrust), and runout of flywheels and harmonic balancers.

First, it is important to familiarize yourself with Dial Indicator construction. The face of the dial indicator consists of a moveable bezel which is also attached to the large measuring scale. This allows the tool to be brought to the "zero point" when needed.

The main measuring device is the contact point. The contact point (1) is placed against the object to be measured. Usually, the contact point is rounded or has a ball bearing. This allows for a more accurate measurement.

The measuring face of the dial indicator consists of 2 scales. The smaller scale is for the "coarse" measurement which is in graduations of 1 millimeter. One revolution of the small scale is 10 millimeters.

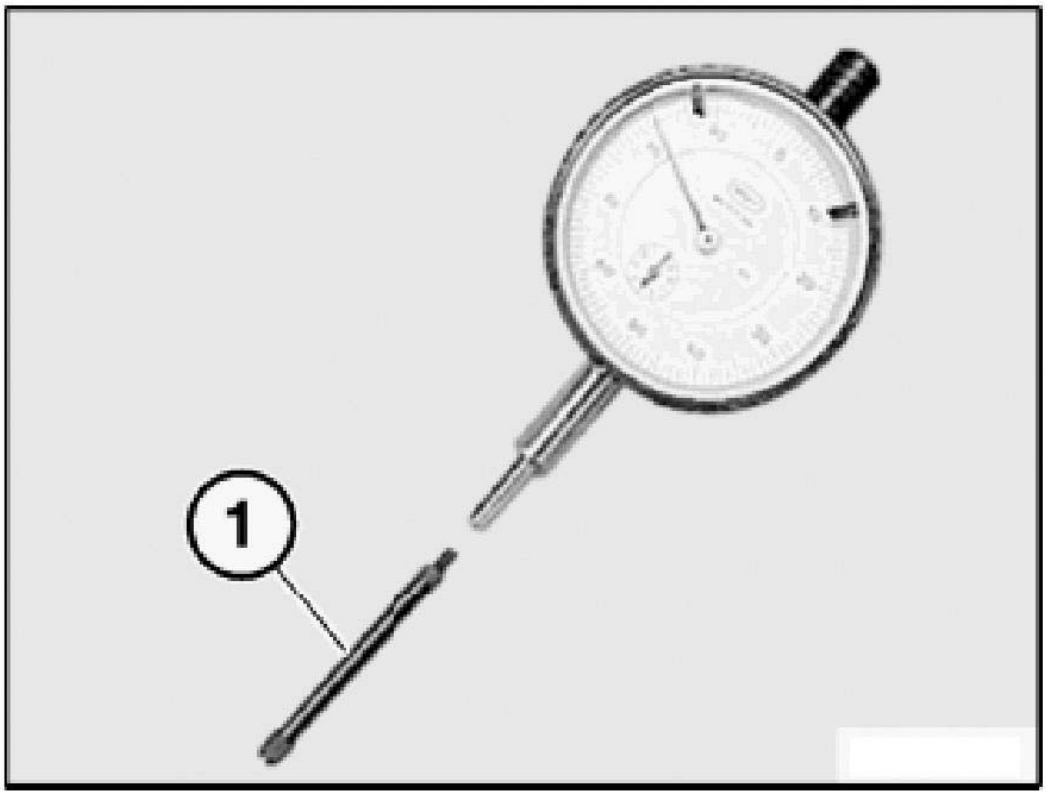


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**Fig. 8: Identifying Dial Indicator**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

The large scale is in graduations of .01 millimeter and the scale goes from zero to one hundred. Therefore, one revolution of the large scale is one millimeter.

The dial indicator also needs to be held in place when taking a measurement. This requires a stand or base. Depending upon the application, these stands can be a clamp type, magnetic or a threaded base.

When taking a measurement, place the contact point on the object to be measured. The dial indicator must be pre-loaded slightly to prevent the measurement from bottoming out.

When reading the scale, be sure to "zero" the dial indicator first. If the readings to be taken are less than 1 millimeter, you do not need to use the small scale. If the readings are larger than 1 millimeter, be sure to factor the small scale into your measurement.

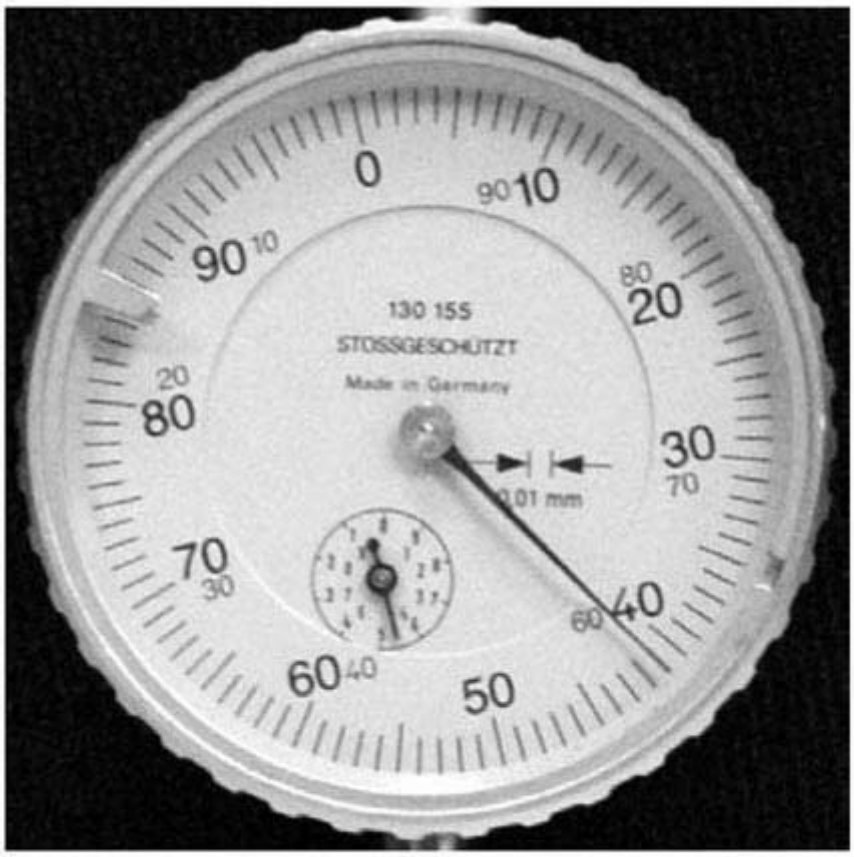


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**Fig. 9: Identifying Dial Indicator Reading**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

**Examples Of Dial Indicator Measurements**

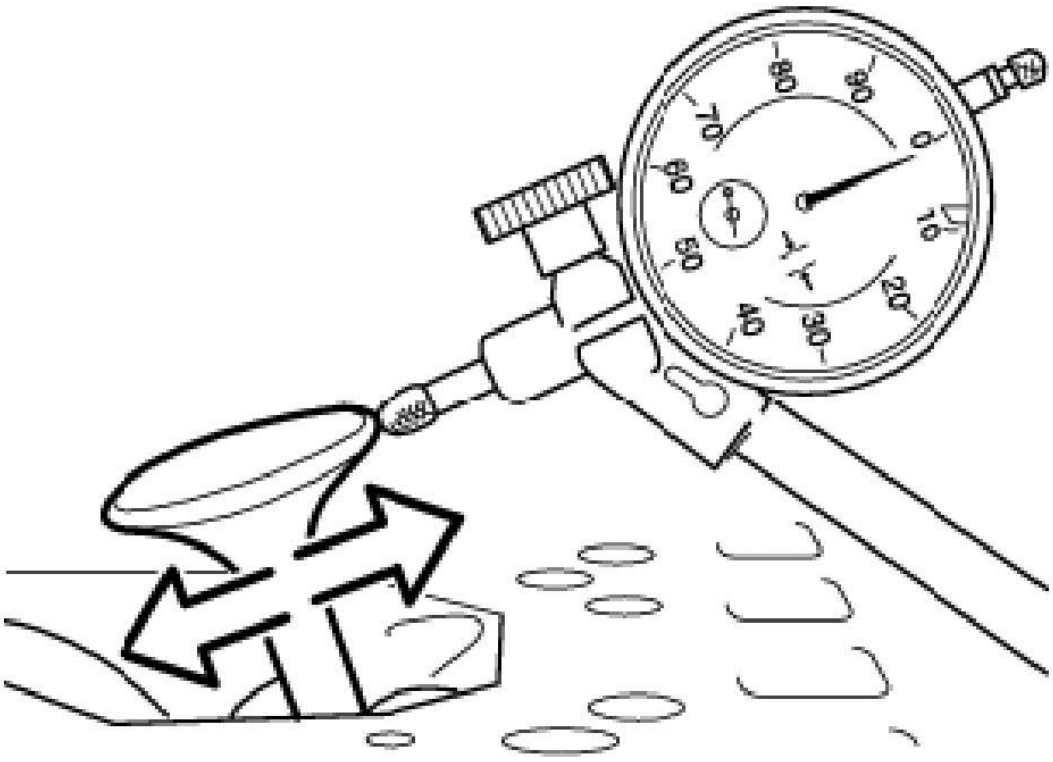


**Fig. 10: Measuring Valve Guide Wear - Tilt Angle "K" Using Dial Indicator**
**Courtesy of BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**