

Contact Tyre Choice and Preparation for the JOK3R

Selecting the right tyres for your JOK3R is crucial to optimize its performance and handling. The Shore hardness rating of your tyres plays a significant role in how well your JOK3R grips the track and reacts under different driving conditions. Although this information sheet is based on the **Contact** range of tyres, it also similarly applies to all foam tyre's available.

Understanding Tyre Shore Ratings

Softer Tyres (Lower Shore Rating)

Softer tyres, rated at 32 or 35 Shore, conform more closely to the track surface, providing increased grip. These tyres are commonly used for the rear, enhancing traction and rear-end stability, especially on surfaces that offer less natural grip.

Harder Tyres (Higher Shore Rating)

Harder tyres offer less grip but greater stability, making them suitable for high-grip conditions. Using harder tyres on the front helps to prevent excessive responsiveness, making the JOK3R easier to control and reducing the likelihood of oversteer during sharp turns.

Recommended Tyre Setup for the JOK3R

For a balanced handling profile, the following tyre combination is frequently used:

- **Front Tyres:** 47 Shore (47s)
- **Rear Tyres:** 35 Shore (35s)

Beginners might consider starting with harder front tyres rated at 50 Shore (50s). This setup offers a good balance: harder front tyres reduce the risk of oversteer, while softer rear tyres improve grip and stability.

Common Tyre Choice Mistakes

Inexperienced users often make these mistakes:

- **Front Tyres:** Choosing 45 Shore tyres, which can be overly grippy.
- **Rear Tyres:** Opting for 37 Shore tyres, which may provide insufficient grip.

This front-biased setup can lead to excessive front-end traction, making the JOK3R challenging to control, especially through turns at higher speeds.

Tyre Preparation: Essential for Optimal Performance

Proper tyre preparation is essential for achieving the best performance on the track. The use of tyre additives can significantly enhance traction and handling.

Tyre Additive Application

- **Common Additive:** Spider Blue is a popular choice, though other brands offer similar products.
- **Application Process:**
 - **Rear Tyres:** Apply the additive generously across the entire surface. Allow it to soak in for at least 20 minutes before driving to maximize grip.

- **Front Tyres:** Apply a smaller amount of additive, focusing on a ½ to ¼ band from the inside edge of the tyre. Let it sit for about 5 minutes. Avoid applying additive to the outer edge to prevent making the front end overly twitchy.
- **Wipe-Off:** Before hitting the track, thoroughly wipe off any excess additive with a clean rag or kitchen towel to ensure the tyres provide immediate grip.

Considerations for Front Tyres

- **Track Conditions:** On low-grip tracks, you might apply more additive to the front tyres for better traction. On high-grip tracks, use less additive or a shorter application time to avoid making the front end too aggressive.
- **Handling Balance:** Aim for a setup where the front tyres provide adequate grip without making the car too reactive. Beginners may want to start with no additive on the front tyres and experiment as they gain experience.

Tyre Maintenance and Trueing

Maintaining equal tyre size is crucial for optimal handling:

- **Swapping Tyres:** Rotate tyres from side to side after each run to even out wear.
- **Trueing Tyres:** Experienced racers use a tyre truer to achieve optimal performance. Typically, rears are trued to around 46mm and fronts to 45mm. A thinner band of foam helps reduce chunking during cornering and improves handling characteristics. If you're new to racing and lack this equipment, experienced racers often offer truing services for a small charge.
- **Use of Wheel Discs:** Using the wheel disc supplied with Contact tyres helps prevent foam chunking, maintaining performance.

Summary

- **Rear Tyres:** Apply additive to the entire surface and let it sit for 20 minutes for maximum grip.
- **Front Tyres:** Adjust the amount of additive based on track conditions to maintain a well-balanced handling characteristic. Avoid over-application to prevent excessive reactivity.

By following these guidelines for tyre choice and preparation, you can enhance your JOK3R's performance and adapt to various track conditions, ensuring a more controlled and enjoyable driving experience.

Tips for JOK3R Newcomers

1. **Stick with Proven Combinations:** For beginners, the 50s front and 35s rear setup offers a good balance of stability and traction.
2. **Test and Adjust:** Experiment with different Shore ratings and test your JOK3R's handling on familiar tracks to find the best setup for your driving style.
3. **Consider Track Conditions:** Adjust tyre softness based on the track surface. Softer tyres offer better grip on low-traction surfaces but can affect overall balance.
4. **Seek Advice:** Experienced racers are often happy to offer help and advice, especially to newcomers.

Lastly, remember that while softer tyres provide better traction, they wear out faster and are more prone to chunking. Balancing performance with durability is key to a successful racing experience.

Happy racing, see you all trackside!

Shaun and Remo

BattCave