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## Careful with those tyres, Eugene!

Posted by Cyril on Mar 26, 2013 in Archive, Cyril | 0 comments

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Are you tired of tyres (or maybe tires) in F1? It certainly tires me to hear TV commentators' ecstatic screams about tyres (let's stick to the British variant from now on) that are falling apart and how racing is suddenly fantastic: "Oh look! He's losing huge chunks of rubber on the main straight from his tyres that are already 2 laps old!!! See how spectators in the grandstands are catching marbles with their bare hands and are totally having fun! We love you, Pirelli!!!"



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Since 2011 I've asked myself the same question many times, is it necessary to have these funny tyres on funky F1 cars because it does remind me of Bridgestone tyres circa 2005, with the Schum and Rubens driving around Sepang or Barcelona with some kind of torn jeans instead of proper racing tyres. You do expect pedal-to-the-metal approach, even if there's less overtaking. I mean there is no such thing as a boring F1 race (it may occasionally seem that way if you're sitting in your living room having dreams about real F1 cars and stars; luckily these dudes now have Twitter and Facebook where you find a lot of Grand Prix advisors and paddock insiders who have never seen a racing car – let alone an F1 car – live). I prefer Tumblr, myself, it's got plenty of X-rated bots who tend to "like" my posts, but otherwise it's mainly real people and kids who steal photos from F1 websites, put them through various stupid image filters and then get off on it. Get yer kicks on kimigirl66's blog!

Remember, boring F1 races exist only in your wild imagination, that's according to Peter Windsor and disagreeing with Peter is like denying the existence of Jesus Christ – the greatest American that has ever lived!

So, yeah, for sure, y'know: I walked around the track in Jerez during F1 winter testing with @DmerinoF1 and we got nearly hit by bits and pieces of Pirelli tyres from the passing cars (click [HERE](#)). The entire track was covered with marbles off the racing line, one big puddle of rubber mud which they had to clean at the end of each testing session.

Despite popular opinion, it's possible to spice up Formula 1 races without having to use this interesting – shall we say – tyre technology or having to exploit the concept of artificial racing. I would personally be in favour of a different tyre supplier in F1, Bridgestone, Michelin, Kumho or Omskii Shinnyi Zavod – it doesn't matter, just get rid of Pirelli, they're better suited to calendars than F1 racing. You basically end up having a tyre war where in theory you should have a basic round piece of rubber whose main purpose is to rotate and make contact with the road surface. You can easily use a bit of PR to present your wonderful and glorious tyres to an ordinary F1 fan, just make Vettel or Alonso say something nice about your product, but please don't destroy pure speed and F1's pedigree.

I spoke to a few guys in GP2 and GP3 about Pirelli and most quotes point to the same direction: adapt

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I spoke to a few guys in GP2 and GP3 about Pirelli and most quotes point to the same direction: adapt and be adept.

Here's what Didier Perrin, GP2/GP3 technical director said: "Young drivers have to be prepared for GP2 and then Formula 1, so at that level they need to learn how to take care of their tyres." Fair enough.

Young driver Conor Daly, also known as Connor here, added: "Two or three pushing laps is all we get out of a set of tyres! On the other hand, that's how Pirelli works, that's how Formula 1 is; we have to learn and keep pushing." OK, I can accept that.

Thomas Couyotopoulo, team manager/sporting director at Racing Engineering team (GP2 Series) produced a more elaborate speech: "You have to make the tyre on the car work correctly. For qualifying run you can nearly feel the tyres fading away towards the end of the lap. It's the same for everyone, so you have to learn how to adapt. There's a limitation with Pirelli tyres but there's a reason behind it and it's what they're using in F1 anyway."

I feel like I've been Pirelli'd... There's no way out! Or is there?!

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@DanicaPatrick says Tony wouldn't want her to give him the position on track,  
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