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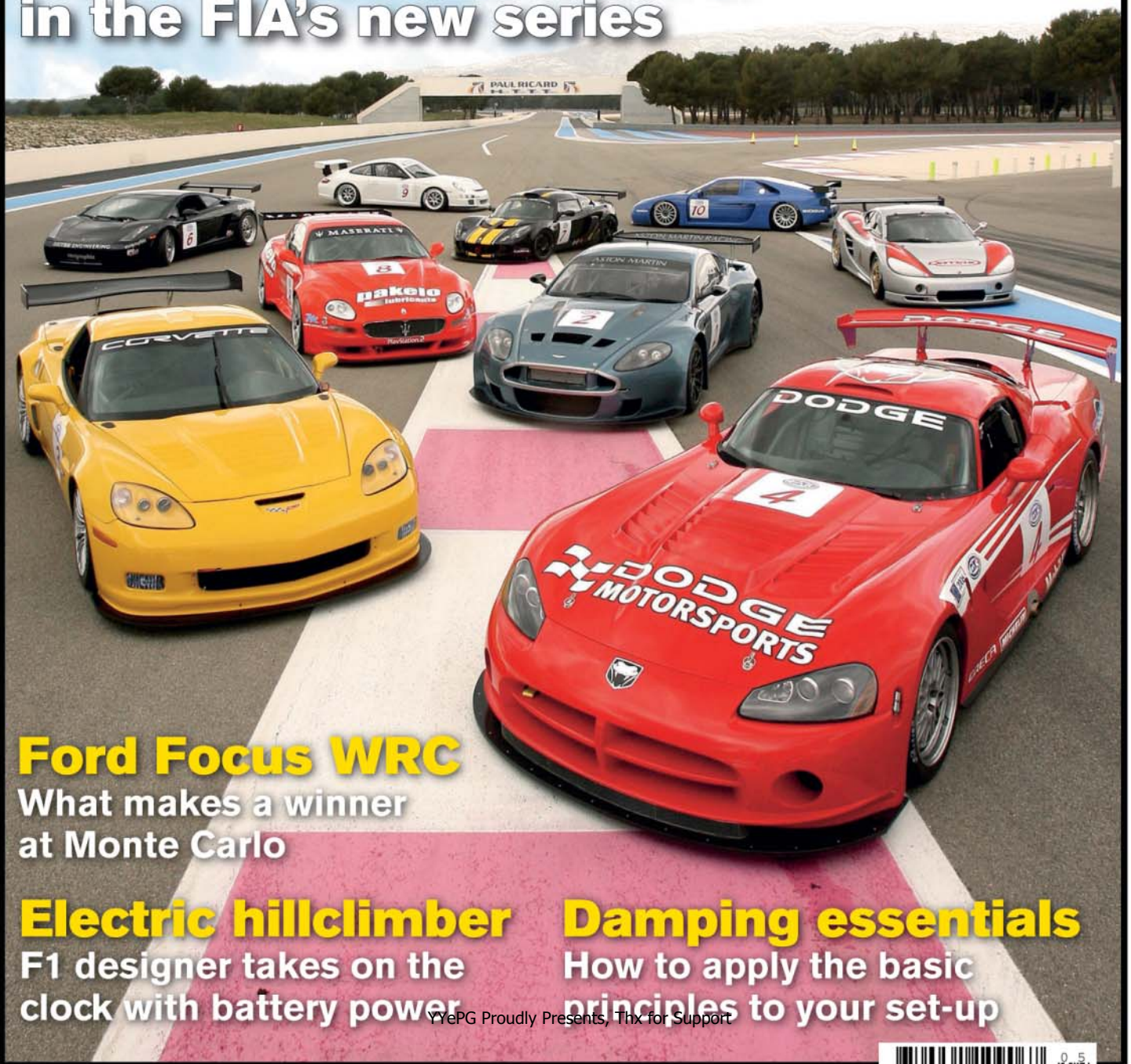
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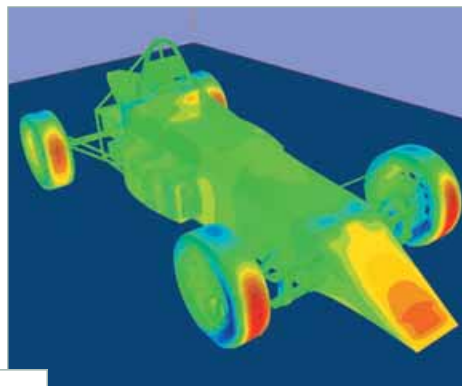
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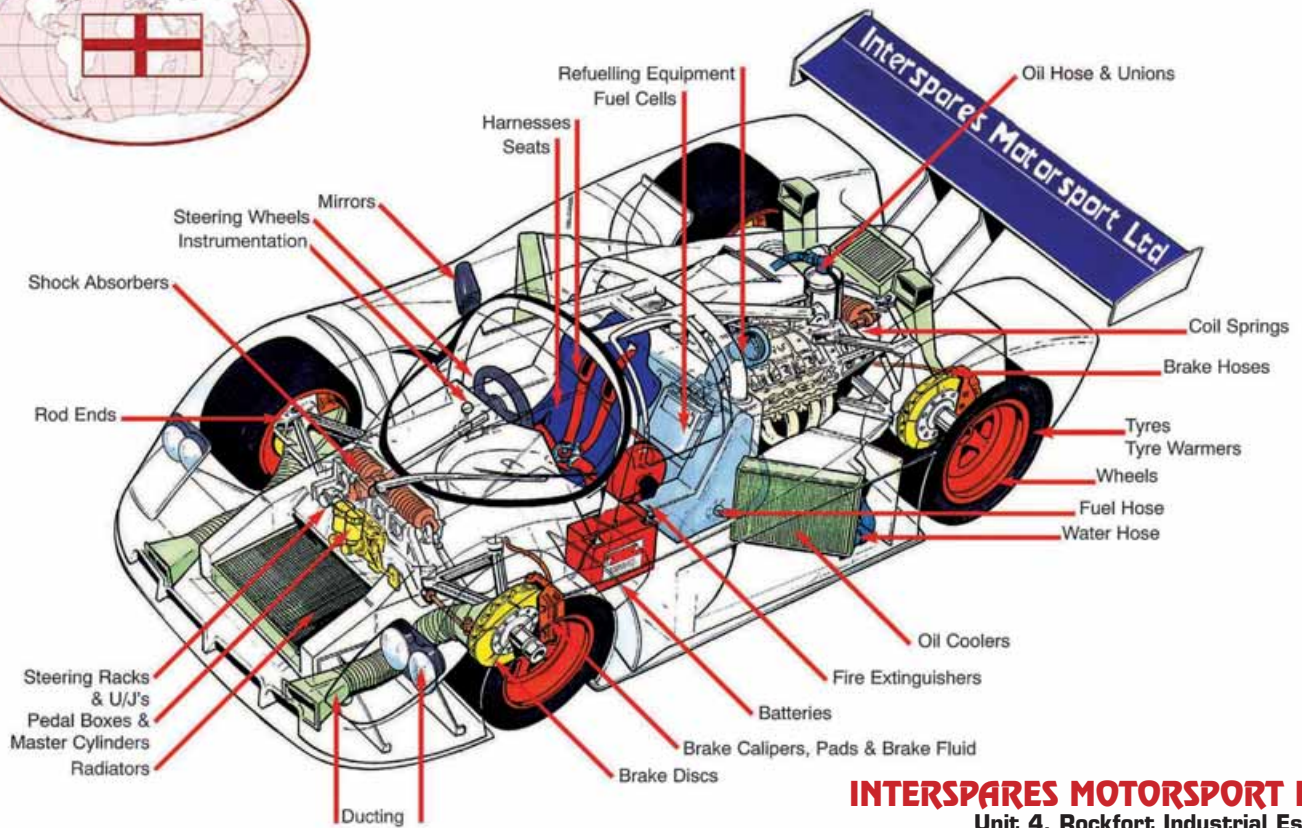
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Write Line

Depending on which direction you thumb your copy of Racecar Engineering, you will either have just seen or will be about to see a wealth of recently unveiled new racecars. I view this state of affairs with enthusiasm, not least because, as the editor of this title, it makes my life much easier. In contrast, 2004 was probably the most barren season in decades for new cars. As someone tasked with filling this magazine with new developments in motorsport, I'm sure that absence contributed more than a few of my grey hairs. Be sure we'll make hay while the sun shines.

Interestingly the explosion has been in sportscars, both prototypes and GTs. On the one hand the initial promise of the LMP categories seems to be finally paying off particularly with a crop of LMP2s. Also the notional LMP3 class seems to be gelling with new cars and a move to aligning the class' regional series under an internationally recognised set of rules. On the other hand, SRO's creation of a GT3 category has inspired teams and manufacturers to dust off virtually every suitable coupé as a potential candidate.

It's all great stuff and feeds these pages, but is there really a market for all this thoroughbred hardware? Just because people are building cars, it doesn't mean there is anyone willing to buy them. Indeed motorsport has a long history of duping otherwise rational individuals into putting enthusiasm over good business sense. For once, I think this is not a case of hopeless optimism over commercial realities. Think about where the money to run these cars is likely to come from. We are not talking highly funded but famously tricky works budgets here. Nor are we talking about the capital behind pressured, young Formula 1 hopefuls desperate to make an impact that will get them to the top. All these cars are aimed at the self-funded amateur. That is drivers without work's backing on any genuine sponsorship deals.

So what? I hear you ask. Is a bunch of 'hobbyists' really going to sustain motorsport in the future and see it through to a new dawn? I would urge you not to be too dismissive. A not inconsiderable proportion of international racing these days is populated by 'gentleman drivers'. Get away from the heavily manufacturer-backed series like touring cars or the single-seater learning Formulae and there are plenty of drivers doing it 'just for fun'. And their annual spend on their hobby is far from insignificant. For the new GT3 category, SRO expects teams to be working on budgets of up to £200,000 a season. Yes, I know it wouldn't pay the tea and biscuits budget of an F1 team, but there are only 11 of those. Add up the spend of all the amateur, international level drivers and it amounts to a very worthwhile spend on parts and staff. That means jobs all round. Much, like we discovered when we analysed historic motorsport, it adds up to much more than a cottage industry.

The important thing to remember is this is the age of arrive and drive. There's no point offering customers a chassis and expecting them to get on with it. Service is the key, taking care of all their needs; while charging them for the privilege of course.

There are plenty of glamorous sports for the world's wealthy to indulge in from ocean racing to polo. But is any more exciting or glamorous than motorsport. It is up to us to make sure there is no competition.

“THIS IS THE AGE OF ARRIVE AND DRIVE”



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Vol 16 No.5

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New sportscar season sees



Sam Collins

ProTran's Reynard 2KQ based hybrid, the RS06/H, was unveiled to the press at Brooklands in February this year, the all-English team is aiming for Le Mans

The Prototype racing boom is showing no signs of slowing down as there seems to be more teams than available cars in all series from LMP1 to LMP3. 'We have sold 24 cars since September last year,' enthused C/D sports specialist Lee Stohr. 'We have had to expand our capabilities with the addition of a new composites oven.'

Juno Racing has also been forced to expand by moving to a new factory in the north of England to accommodate

the demand for the popular SSV6 and new VdeV series car, the TR220. Juno founder Ewan Baldry continues to eye Le Mans, but will wait until he has the finances to mount a serious campaign. The recent success of the firm could accelerate this.

Meanwhile Racing for Holland has taken delivery of the ex-Jim Gainer Dome S101 hybrid to use at Le Mans this year. Last year the team pioneered the usage of Creuat's innovative suspension

system (see V15N10), yet this year it will return to more conventional spring damper units. 'It's an experimental system and as such is still under development,' explained a Dome source. 'It suffers problems at speeds in excess of 300kph. The hybrid LMP1 Dome S101-Hb produces more downforce than the S101 the team used last year, and the suspension has not been developed for the higher aero loads.'

Looking to the 2007 season Dome is

assessing its options; neither LMP1 or 2 has been ruled out.

Yet Dome is not currently looking to sell customer cars. It would mainly like to work with a car manufacturer helping its racing car development.

'We tried to sell our cars in the market around 2000, however there always used to be financial problems with the customer and conditions were not right to do the race, even though we developed the car specially. As a result,

LMP production booming



Creation

Another hybrid with its roots in a Reynard is the Creation C60-H. As *Racecar* closed for press only this rendering (above) was available

Radical's first Le Mans racer, the SR9 (right), is nearing completion, and it has been described as looking like a cross between Giger's alien and Darth Vader



Radical

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explosion of prototypes

our president Hayashi's frustration got really high and now seems to hate selling cars in the market,' explained Dome's head of R&D Hiroshi Yuchi.

Hoping to race against the Dutch Dome is the very English ProTran RS06/H owned by the very patriotic Paul Cope. The car is a development of the Reynard 2KQ with hybridisation done by Kieran Salter. 'From the roll hoop back this is a new car, but the front is just modified Reynard, like the Nasamax,' explained ProTran's Lester Ray. 'We did as much as we could with the front of the car without having to redo the crash test.' There are disadvantages to running an older car such as the Reynard, 'the double roll hoop could be a disadvantage aerodynamically, but we are hoping that the switch to LMP1 will give us the power to overcome that.'

Originally ProTran had wanted to run in GT2 but there were no suitable (read English) cars available for the right money, so the RS06 was created. It was initially intended to be an LMP2 but AER released its twin turbo V8 LMP1 power plant early in the car's development. 'It was decided that we could go to LMP1 for similar money and it may be easier to get an entry in that class as there are so many LMP2's around at the moment' stated team founder Paul Cope.

With hybrids being outlawed



Swiss Spirit

Courage's new LC70 was unveiled in the colours of Swiss Spirit in Geneva

everywhere, except the ALMS in 2007, ProTran is seriously considering developing an all new car with KWM for next season. The team has lodged an entry for the full LMS season and also the Le Mans 24 Hours.

Courage competition has also entered the LMP1 fray with the LC70, which is to be used by a new team called Swiss Spirit as well as by the factory itself. The new cars bear a strong resemblance to

the LC75 LMP2, but under the bodywork things are somewhat different. Power is supplied by Judd's 5-litre V10 driving through Courage's own TLSE six-speed gearbox. A curious feature on the car's bodywork is the chain of lumps and blisters on the nose.

In previous years the Sebring 12 hours has been seen as the qualifying race for Le Mans. But this year many European teams have been told the

opening round of the LMS at Istanbul in Turkey is the event to go, to causing some dark murmuring. One team principal told *Racecar*: 'It's ridiculous to have a race so far away and force teams to go, it's not even in Europe. My staff will be away for a month and that's very expensive.' Another senior figure said: 'The teams don't like it, the fans don't like it and the media don't like it but for some reason the ACO do'.



Y-Car

New French prototype constructor Y car has issued these renderings of its forthcoming CN chassis

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INTERCOM

MIKE BRESLIN



You know why soccer is so popular across the globe? It's because it's simple. A boy in Mali can kick a tin can between two oil drums and we understand. Similarly, you can watch a game with an Arabic commentary and still know what's going on. Soccer is almost instantly understandable; even the offside rule isn't that complicated. The game's goals are simple, and its terminology is simple – the 'goal' is the goal.

But there are even simpler sports. Racing has to be the most natural competition known to man, for instance. Everyone knows that the first one to get to the woolly mammoth gets the choicest morsels, and I guess it grew out of that. Man against man, simple. Horse against horse, again it's simple. Car against car, oh dear...

Where have we gone wrong? How come, with F1 in particular, we've managed to turn something as natural as racing into an event that Wittgenstein would struggle to understand?

At a recent F1 press event I was talking to a non-motorsport journalist about F1 racing. He told me that this was not the first time he'd come into contact with this strange world of ours. Just a few years ago he'd been whisked into Silverstone by chopper, enjoyed the slap up Paddock Club fare, and then he was in turn impressed-then-confused-then bored by the racing. In fact, once the first round of pit stops had happened he had no idea what was going on, or why. Nor did he really care.

And that's the problem. Unnecessary complication. It's okay for us dyed-in-the-wool fans, but can we really expect to compete with other sports when it comes to viewing figures if the man on the couch simply doesn't know what's actually happening?

All right, stay with it for long enough and the commentator will explain, but I'm not sure that the average viewer's patience is up to that. After all, he has that ultimate weapon of mass distraction at his finger tips – the remote.

What makes it worse, of course, is that as soon as someone gets a handle on what is going on, the FIA comes along and changes the rules again: 'One set of tyres? No that was last year... Single lap qualifying you say? Oh, haven't you been paying attention?'

Which brings me to the new qualifying format. Hardly kids' stuff, is it? Let's just hope they haven't scored yet another own goal.

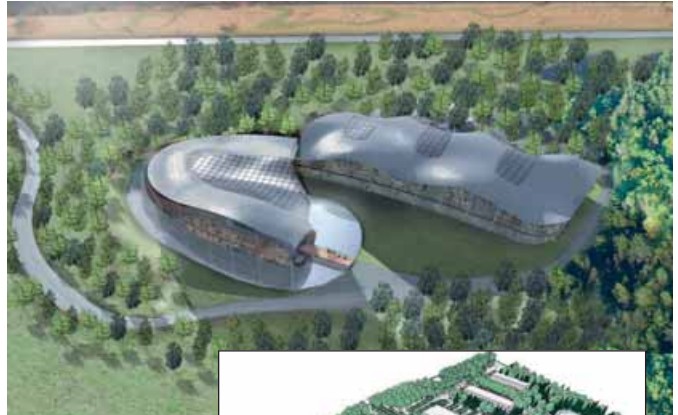
Prodrive eyes F1, while Dome says no

Prodrive is evaluating a return to Formula 1 with its own team in 2008, it has been revealed. The English firm who is behind the Aston Martin racing programme and Subaru WRC team was last involved in grand prix racing with BAR-Honda in 2004.

Prodrive head man, David Richards, first hinted at a return to F1 in an interview with *Racecar* in V15 N8 when, in reference to the new, lower cost regulations that will come into force for the 2008 season, he stated, 'In the current environment F1 is not a viable business proposition, but in the next couple of years it is quite likely to be.' When that comment was made the rules were not finalised but they since have been.

A new team would bring F1 to its maximum entry of 12 teams, which should cause the value of all teams to rise significantly as any new team wanting to enter F1 would have to buy an existing outfit. An established organisation like Prodrive would be exactly what the other teams want.

If the firm does decide to undertake a F1 project then it would be housed in a facility at a new research and development centre in Warwickshire, England. A group known as the Fulcrum Partnership has applied for permission to develop a 200-acre site adjacent to the Prodrive test track. The new centre would house offices, design studios, R&D laboratories and a conference



Prodrive's new F1 building (above) will be built within the 'Fulcrum' centre (right)



centre. Currently the site, which is a former military airfield, houses Marcos cars, TRW and a Prodrive facility. If plans are approved construction will start early in 2007.

Meanwhile in Japan, motorsport R&D specialist and racecar manufacturer Dome has completed its new factory, which was scheduled to open in April. In the mid-to-late '90s Dome was very keen to enter F1, even going as far as building and testing a prototype car, and with the new 'low cost' F1 of 2008 there have been rumours that the Japanese

firm, like Prodrive, is planning a return. But head of R&D at Dome, Hiroshi Yuchi, pours cold water on them: 'No we will not do that, as Minoru Hayashi – who is the president of Dome – lost the passion for F1 completely.' Talk of Dome being involved with the Honda-backed Super Aguri F1 programme is also thought to be wide of the mark.

However, a new LMP project is being considered, and the Formula 3 F107 is already competing with some success in Japan, though there are no plans as yet to bring it to Europe.

Super Aguri reworks Arrows



Super Aguri's re-worked Arrows chassis made its competition debut at the Bahrain Grand Prix. Initially the test car appeared with 2002-spec aerodynamics (centre) then with an update kit for the Bahrain Grand Prix (right). The car has evolved from the Sergio Rinland-designed A23 of 2002 (left). The arrival of the all new Aguri has been delayed.

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Caparo goes motorsport

Caparo Vehicle Technologies is to create an advanced vehicle technology, engineering and design wing. Caparo will supply to the OE, Motorsport and aerospace markets as it aims to accelerate the use of lightweight materials in vehicle structures.

Two former McLaren engineers Ben Scott-Geddes and Graham Halstead,

who were behind the Freestream high performance road car project, have been appointed to positions within the new firm. Geddes is to become Design Director with Halstead becoming Engineering Director. Former Ricardo head of CAE Mark Findlay has been appointed MD of Caparo VT and will be hiring a team of around 30 top engineers

in the coming months. Caparo group chief executive Angad Paul will take the position of chairman while fellow main board director Richard Butler will also take a seat on the Caparo Vehicle Technologies' board. Sean Butcher who identified the commercial opportunity and brought the two parties together will become commercial director.

'We will use our vehicle technology company to add new materials know-how to our existing aluminium and steel structural capabilities' enthused a Caparo spokesman. 'To us, advanced composites represent an important development in delivering to our customers better vehicle efficiency with less environmental impact.'

LMP constructors association

A number of racing sportscar manufacturers have already signed up to the new International Sports Car Manufacturers Association. Early members include Radical, Chiron, Saker and Diasio. The body has been set up as a result of the recent rapid growth in the sportscar market and aims to 'address the issues facing the industry on a global scale'. Out of these issues, the first must be the establishment of common regulations for safety and car construction and an official press release from the new body states as much. Such a move would open up the global market and allow EU and US firms to trade within the

same rule structures.

ISCMA hopes to be able to broker block deals with suppliers for all of its members on common parts such as rod ends and electrical connectors. Research partnerships will be setup with government and other bodies with a code of ethics applying to all members plus a membership fee. The next few months will see if the association is a viable proposition although the growth in the market suggests that it is. ISCMA will need to break into the lucrative continental European market, which may be a challenge for an organisation based in Indianapolis.

BMW's latest 'ringer



BMW Motorsport has unveiled a new motorsport version of its Z4 coupe, aimed directly at the Nürburgring 24 Hours, run on the 14-mile Nordschleife circuit. Power comes from a 3.2-litre, in-line six, which produces around 400bhp. The kit to make a Motorsport spec Z4 costs around €250,000 plus VAT (£172,325).

Jacer's new Vee



Australian firm Jacer has unveiled its new F2K6 Formula Vee, which has greatly improved cooling and aerodynamics. Turn to page 52 for more on F Vee

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Global Motorsport Congress

Vieweg Verlag's Global Motorsport Congress is set to return this year on 6-7 November. The event has moved to a new venue in Cologne after two very successful years in Frankfurt. Toyota Motorsport has agreed to support the event which will include a tour of the Toyota factory. *Racecar Engineering* will be supporting the event (see V16N2). For more information see www.globalmotorsportcongress.com

New Suzuki WRC

At the end of February Suzuki ended prolonged speculation with the announcement of its plans to join the World Rally Championship with a World Rally Car version of its forthcoming SX4 model. Company president Hiroshi Tsuda and Suzuki Sport president Nobuhiro 'Monster' Tajima unveiled the SX4 WRC at the Geneva Motor Show. The car will begin testing almost straight away and the Japanese firm will join the WRC as a full manufacturer in August 2007.

Much of the early development work on Suzuki's new WRC has already been undertaken in Tajima's Milton Keynes-based operation. Any later development will be carried out in Japan before the cars return to Milton Keynes for the final preparation for the WRC. Bodyshells will come from the firm's Hungary factory where the road-going RX4 is being built.



Suzuki's new WRC the SX4 will compete next year

Additionally, WRC commercial boss David Richards is extremely confident that another manufacturer will join the series next season, in addition to Suzuki, and that other manufacturers are ready to step into world rallying. 'It just shows that these things are cyclical,' said Richards. 'People do come and go in this sport and I know for a fact that there are two other manufacturers waiting in the wings - they are quietly going about homologating their cars. One of

them will come to WRC at the same time as Suzuki, but I'm not sure when the other will join.'

Next season's WRC will be split into two championships, with the first eight rallies - from January to June - counting as a six month series. The second half of the season and the first half of 2008 will then count for the next title. Suzuki will contest all rounds of the first 07/08 series. The RX4 WRC will also be used in competition in the first half of 2007, but only for testing.

Skoda's S2000 hopes?

Having revealed increased profits of £189m, the Skoda Auto board has confirmed that it is not ruling out an official return to the World Rally Championship. It warned that such a move would depend on FIA decisions over rules. This may indicate a Skoda Super 2000 car, based on the Fabia replacement, will replace the Fabia WRC

Meanwhile, the Red Bull Skoda team has further delayed its decision on a lead driver for the gravel rounds of this year's WRC. Sporting advisor Armin Schwarz hoped to be able to reveal the name of Austrian Andreas Aigner's team partner before Rally Mexico, but pointed out that there was still time for the appointment.

Schwarz visited Skoda HQ after Rally Mexico, and the Red Bull team's first gravel test was scheduled for end March/beginning April. Its first dirt event is set to be the Rally d'Italia Sardinia in the middle of May.

Altitude sickness



Group N cars suffered on rally Mexico due to the high altitude

World Rally Car engines drop some 10 per cent of their power for every 1000m of altitude meaning drivers were 20 per cent down on power even in the service park in Leon; HQ town for Rally Mexico.

Subaru engineer Pierre Genon estimated that on the highest stages cars lose some 27 per cent of their available output. In terms of top speed, a potential 220kph is reduced to about 200kph. Acceleration also suffers with at

least half a second being added to the 0-100kph time.

The cars' cooling suffers from going slower as less air gets to the engine and brakes due to the altitude. Air that does get in is thinner and less effective.

Brake effectiveness also suffers because the comparative lack of power means drivers adjust their styles, tending to apply the brakes later and for shorter periods.

Fiat Super 2000 problems continue

A row is brewing over Fiat's all-new Super-2000 Grande Punto.

Sources close to the FIA said that the car was not granted its homologation papers on the set date of March 1st. It was expected that Fiat would re-present the car with answers to the FIA enquiries within the one week of the originally scheduled homologation date.

The all-new Super 2000 formula is for four-wheel drive, normally-aspirated cars producing about 280bhp and is designed to cut costs by using a common transmission and differential developed by French company Sadev.

Strict limits on the amount of technology that can be incorporated into the car mean there will be a rigid price cap of €150,000 (£103,439) per car. This is to curtail

expensive driver aids and materials.

It would appear that Fiat has incorporated a number of materials and technologies that go against the spirit of the rules, even though the Italian car giant has indicated that it would be willing to sell at the agreed price.

An insider commented: 'The rules are intended to make sure that the cars are actually worth €150,000 rather than just sold for €150,000. Fiat has got problems because it is obvious that the car is worth at least €20,000 more; maybe a lot more.' As increasing costs appear to be the biggest problem currently facing rallying, the FIA is under tremendous pressure to take a hard line on the Punto, which is the first car built to the newly introduced Super 2000 rally rules.

500 costs \$25,000

Nextel Cup crew chief Chad Knaus was fined \$25,000 by NASCAR, barred from attending four races and placed on probation until the end of the year for illegally changing the shape of the rear window during qualifying for the Daytona 500.

Knaus had tampered with the sway bar adjuster, which is accessed through the rear window to help push the window outwards, thus aiding aerodynamics. Some in the garage indicated Knaus was hoping to get caught so he could be released from his contract with Hendrick Motorsports.

Knaus started his NASCAR career working with previous crew chief Ray Evernham on the Jeff Gordon Hendrick Chevy team. He left to work for Evernham's self-owned Dodge team only to return to Hendrick in 2002 as crew chief for Johnson. Knaus has had more victories since 2002 (19) than any other crew chief and apparently Evernham has been trying to court him back. But Knaus has a contract in place with



Knaus (left) in discussion with driver Jimmie Johnson at Daytona

Hendrick and after the latest fiasco it's obvious they're intent on keeping him.

NASCAR has also penalised Terry Labonte's crew chief Phillippe Lopez at the new Hall of Fame Racing the same amount but docked the team 25 points for an illegal carburettor. NASCAR's Robin Pemberton commented that points are only taken away if it's a part they can physically put their hands on.

All the rule infringements didn't bother the fans at all. The Daytona 500 attracted 37.2 million TV viewers making it the most watched Daytona 500 ever as well as the highest rated NASCAR event in history, according to information released by NBC Sports based on data from Nielsen Media Research. There were also seven million listeners on the Motor Racing Network radio broadcast.

Hall of fame for Charlotte

After a yearlong decision, NASCAR weeded out six other contenders to reveal that the city centre of Charlotte, North Carolina will be home to the new NASCAR Hall of Fame. 'To NASCAR fans everywhere, it is my distinct honour to announce that NASCAR has selected Charlotte, NC to be the home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame,' said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France. 'The City of Charlotte will welcome fans from around the country and even the world to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.'

The \$154.5 million project will be funded by a two per cent increase in Charlotte hotel taxes that will bring in \$102.5 million, plus private sponsorships and under market bank loans. The city of Charlotte will own and operate the facility giving NASCAR percentage cuts ranging

from 5 per cent of restaurant sales, 7.5 per cent for items like catering and admission and up to 10 per cent in merchandise revenues, plus \$100,000 per year to NASCAR charities.

Charlotte is projecting 800,000 visitors in its first year of operation, dropping and stabilising to half that in 2016 and beyond. Charlotte is seen as the hub of the NASCAR industry with 82 per cent of NASCAR NEXTEL Cup teams, 72 per cent of NASCAR Busch Series teams and 55 per cent of NASCAR Craftsman Truck teams based in the Charlotte region.

The industry's current annual statewide economic contribution is estimated to be \$5 billion. Although it will continue to be headquartered in Daytona Beach, NASCAR has exercised the right to build a

300,000sq ft office tower at its own expense as part of the project that will house licensing and merchandising offices for example. The hall, which will open no later than spring 2010, is expected to include exhibit space, induction halls, interactive entertainment restaurants, retail outlets and a state-of-the-art media centre. It is designed by architecture firm Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, responsible for iconic buildings worldwide including the Javits Convention Centre in New York City and the expanded Louvre in Paris.

■ Following the March Las Vegas Motor Speedway race a \$300 million construction was started, the track will be narrowed in the turns from 70 to 52ft and the banking will change from 12 degrees to 20.

Nelson goes it alone

After being responsible for the creation of the NASCAR 'Car of Tomorrow', former crew chief and NASCAR research and development safety guru Gary Nelson resigned from his post during February to form his own racing safety and technology consulting company working with NASCAR and other racing organisations. 'Nelson & Associates will be open for business right away and I'm delighted that NASCAR will be my first client,' commented Nelson.

With NASCAR as a client, Nelson will continue his efforts on the 'Car of Tomorrow' and other safety initiatives for the racing industry.

Meanwhile NASCAR has delivered blueprint copies of the 'Car of Tomorrow' that will debut at Bristol, Tennessee in 2007. The blueprints contain finalised safety, body and chassis requirements with the exception of the front splitter style spoiler and the rear spoiler or possible wing configuration, which will be determined following further team testing. The cars were again due to be tested during March and April at the Bristol and Martinsville short tracks.



Gary Nelson is going it alone



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Historic successes

Ian Williamson's International Historic Motorsport show was once again a success attracting 20,000 visitors over the three days and 450 exhibitors.

The continued success of the show is proving that the growth in the historic sector continues unabated. As a result, numbers of established engineering firms exhibited including Pi Research, ATL and Lola, who were all within sight of Racecar Engineering's stand.

Amongst the exhibitors was RML who recently announced the formation of RML Historic in response to the market demand. This new division of the Wellingborough, England company is to offer a number of services from restoration to race support. It is not an entirely new departure for the firm who has been actively involved with the preparation of historic cars for some time. Ray Mallock, RML's Chief Executive, who is a keen historic racer commented, 'there is a growing need for regulated maintenance and controlled



THMS

Lola Cars (with the T70) and Racecar Engineering shared a stand at the show

regimes within the historic motorsport industry. These cars require the special understanding and attention that can only come from an organisation with design, build and race experience from the early '80s to present day. Many of the cars now racing in historic Group C, such as the Ecurie Ecosse C2 and Aston

Martin AMR1, started life at RML.' The division will be headed up by Phil Barker who is also responsible for RML's current Le Mans race programme. Barker's experience in motorsport dates back to the early '80s when he was involved with a number of successful Group C race programmes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- An increasingly severe worldwide carbon fibre shortage is beginning to affect a number of racecar constructors.
- Ligier's Formula 3 chassis has been testing in Germany, more next month.
- Cosworth's 2.4-litre V8 saw 20,700rpm in the run up to the Bahrain grand prix in March.
- There was discussion over the legality of Ferrari's rear wing in Bahrain.
- DAMS won the A1GP title with A1 team France at Laguna Seca. The Le Mans outfit dominated the series with others speculating this was down to it finding something in the tyres, adjusting the setup to optimise it.
- Ferrari GT outfit Scuderia Ecosse has stepped up to the FIA GT championship from the British series.
- Mitsubishi is being linked to a return to the WRC in the next two years.

ON THE GAS...

HIROSHI YUCHI
Manager, R&D Department,
Dome Co, Ltd

Project leader for sportscars (LMP)
and Formula 3



Dome

How did you first get involved in motorsport?

I started my career as a part time employee of Dome when I was a third year student at University in 1997 and then started working full time after I graduated in 1998.

What's the most interesting project you've ever worked on?

I think it is sportscars, especially our LMP which I am still working on. Le Mans is such an exciting and challenging race with long history. Our F3 project, which I took responsibility for earlier this year, is also looking interesting. I worked in the IRL in

2004 and 2005 on the aero development of the G-Force Honda cars, and that year I was involved with cars in the Indy 500 and Le Mans 24 Hours so I have done two of the 'big three'. But the best is Le Mans.

What achievements are you most proud of?

IRL in 2004 was the first year for me and Dome to do Indy Car development. However, we won three races in 2004 with Adrian Fernandez and established a good relationship with the team. It was a nice moment I am proud of as we just started at the end of 2003 and won the race in the

summer of 2004. Such an achievement!

Can you name your favourite racing car of all time?

Williams FW14 and Leyton House CG901

Who do you most admire in racecar engineering and why?

Adrian Newey, because he is a great aerodynamicist and a great race car designer. In addition, his cars always look good.

What racing era/formula would you have liked to work in and why?

I think Formula 1 in the 1990s when there seemed to be so much more freedom on the design of the car under the regulations.

What tool/instrument could you not work without?

Our wind tunnel! Also CAD and data acquisition system and analysis software.

What engineering innovation do you most admire?

To build the new wind tunnel in Toyota which is a copy of the existing one. Whilst it may

not be pure innovation, it is a very smart way to spend the money to increase aero development capacity without losing the stability.

Is motorsport about engineering or entertainment?

Engineering with gambles! You have to take engineering risks to win the race sometimes for the better performance than your competitors.

What new technologies in motorsport are you most excited about?

Lightweight materials technology like carbon composite's for monocoque and gearbox construction. Especially the carbon composite gearbox casing by BAR Honda with the seamless shifting system.

Is there a future for high technology in motorsport?

As long as there is a competitor we have to invent something new. Sometimes that can be really high technology with huge cost if budget allows us to do it.



Murray Walker



Daniel Audetto



Chris Gorne



Rocky Rocquelin

● Red Bull Racing's head of vehicle design **Rob Taylor** is to join McLaren as 'Senior Design Team Leader'.

● **Ross Brawn** has been awarded a doctorate in engineering by Brunel University in the UK at an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

● Legendary British motor racing commentator **Murray Walker** has joined Honda Racing F1 as a special ambassador.

● Former Jaguar Racing team boss **David Pitchforth** has been recruited by helicopter manufacturer AgustaWestland.

● **Daniel Audetto** and **Mick Ainsley-Cowlinshaw** are joined at Super Aguri F1

by **Phil Spencer, Gerry Hughes, Graham Taylor** and **Antonio Cuquerella**.

● The United States Rally Championship has appointed its officers for the 2006 season; **Micheal Taylor, Olga Orise** and **Donna Hocker** will fill the roles of President, Vice President and Series Administrator respectively.

● Formula One and the WRC have appointed permanent stewards who will officiate at every round. Briton **Tony Scott Andrews** has been selected for F1 and for WRC India's **Nazir Hoosein** fills the role.

● Red Bull Racing engineer **Gunther Steiner** has joined the energy drink firm's NASCAR team.

● Nextel Cup engineer **Darian Grubb** stood in for **Chad Knaus** at the four events he was banned from after he was caught in breach of the rules at Daytona.

● **Gary Nelson**, the man behind NASCAR's car of tomorrow, has left the organisation to form his own safety consultancy firm.

● Briton **Chris Gorne** is to oversee Fortec Motorsports British F3 project as well as continuing his roles with DPR in GP2 and DAMS in A1GP.

● **Tom Smith** has been appointed as lead engineer on one of Newman-Haas's Champ Car entries. Smith replaces **Rocky Rocquelin** who has returned to Europe.

● **Phil Barker**, current head of RML's MG Le Mans programme, will head up the firm's new historic division in addition to his LMP duties.

● Team Dynamics designer **Alex Somerset** has joined rivals VX Racing as Chief Engineer.

● Grand Prix motorcycle preparation expert **Dick Smart**, who has worked with **Valentino Rossi**, has joined Paul Morris Motorsports as a Crew Chief in the Gold Coast based outfit's V8 Supercar team.

● **Robin Knight** (750MC), **John Wood** (MIRA), **Dennis Carter** (BARC) and **Alan Gow** have been appointed to sit on the board of directors of the UK's ASN the MSA. **Ronnie Trouton** and **Bill Troughear** have stepped down.

● **Pim van Baarsen** has left the Motorsport Industry Association to join Xtrac, after five years at the MIA.



Gerry Hughes



Mick Ainsley-Cowlinshaw



Luis Moya



David Pitchforth



Prodrive

Subaru performance director **David Lapworth** has been moved sideways to a new venture thought to be an F1 project within Prodrive. Operations director **Paul Howarth** has now taken more overall control of the team on events, while sporting director and former world champion co-driver **Luis Moya** will also have increased responsibilities.

Prodrive has also hired highly-regarded French engineer **François-Xavier Demaison**, to step in as **Petter Solberg's** chief engineer. **Pierre Genon**, formerly Solberg's race engineer and then chief engineer, will also move but stays with the team on the engineering side of test and development.

Another major change for the team was the departure of **Ed Wood**, who designed the last three Impreza WRCs.

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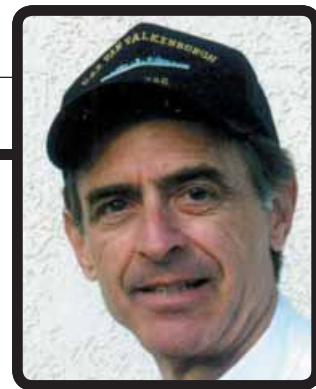
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Engineering connections

With knowledge becoming ever more specialised, a good contacts book is now more important than ever

Maybe I've been wrong all these years. Maybe racing really isn't all about engineering and technology after all. Everyone is always saying, 'It's not *what* you know, but *who* you know.' Let's re-think that. Maybe instead of it meaning, 'who can do you a favour,' you should think, 'who already has the knowledge you need?' When I was starting out in amateur road racing in the '60s, so little was known about the science of racing that one person could build, engineer, and drive his own car, even in professional racing – Bruce McLaren and Mark Donohue, for example. Now... well, how many racers today have you even heard of who can effectively drive and develop and also engineer – in all the necessary disciplines, from electronics to aerodynamics?

I bitch about the lack of innovative technology at PRI and SAE, but recently I've been finding important discoveries coming from serendipitous connections and contacts with people who had basic knowledge that I could use. Suddenly I realised that at trade and engineering shows, often the interpersonal connections are more important to attendees than the products are. Even though I don't know all the answers, I usually know how to find the person who does. In fact, I often bump into them at just these events.

'Six Degrees of Separation' is a semi-scientific concept (and movie, and game) that suggests that through all your acquaintances, you are that closely connected with everyone else on the planet. Within any profession or scientific field, there are even fewer degrees

separating you from the 'right person.' And given the ability to 'Google' search names and references, you can find the shortest path more quickly. There may only be three or four 'friends of friends' separating you from Adrian Newey.

On the other hand, the sociological downside of having the 'right connections' is that it can easily lead to 'cronyism', especially in the entertainment industry, especially in moviemaking and publishing. When you see a real dog of a movie, and say, 'what were they *thinking?*,' it's probably that they were thinking of helping out their friends, instead of searching for the real talent they needed.

It's not necessarily famous or wealthy people you need to connect with, but those who have information you need. How do you form a complete team of associates with complimentary talents? Who has the expertise? Who will be a real asset to your racing? Or who do you know that knows who does? The first →

“THERE MAY ONLY BE THREE OR FOUR 'FRIENDS OF FRIENDS' SEPARATING YOU FROM ADRIAN NEWEY”



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problem is not knowing what you need to know – what is missing. I define arrogance as not realising what you don't know, because 'a man has got to know his limitations.'

College Formula SAE teams are inherently personal connection matrices, with a lot of interaction, even between competing colleges. Beyond focusing on good grades in textbook classes, you look for people who concentrate on labs and 'special projects', people who say, 'how can this apply to racing?' Or 'on my own, I want to find out...' Watch for students who apply that philosophy to classes such as: computers – how they can be used for chassis design, simulations of vehicles, and analysing track data; materials – properties of aerospace composites, stiffness, and failure analysis; thermodynamics – optimising combustion and heat dissipation, fluid dynamics – properties of airflow in engines and over wings, wind tunnel procedures; electronics – protecting circuitry in the racing environment and the design of control systems; chemical engineering – tyre compounds and fuel characteristics; ergonomics – the man-machine

are doing. Because to rise above your position, you need a working knowledge of all areas, since it all has to go together and fit tight and light.

You need to remember that there are three categories of racecar engineers: design, development and trackside, which may depend a lot on personal traits. For example, if someone is drawn to the glamour, has a lot of hands-on experience and is a quick problem solver, they would probably prefer trackside. But if they are slow but methodical, pensive, take time to optimise everything and read a lot about technology, they are probably a better designer. The manager is empathetic, with a natural gift for understanding people as well as machines, and can manage them without obvious MBA techniques.

Just a fraction of a per cent of all the equally trained students actually make it into racing and, based on what I've seen, the following might be the deciding factors: street smarts – the ability to know a weak part by looking at it, or to be able to tell when something 'just doesn't look right.' Common sense – the ability to see what is most important at any instant, and focus on that, instead of what is more fun or more interesting. Extraordinary spatial visualisation – the ability to mentally iterate dozens of designs or solution options simultaneously, possibly subconsciously, and reduce them to the optimum almost intuitively. The kind of mind that goes to sleep mulling over an impossible problem, and wakes up in the middle of the night with the answer. Someone driven to search out and solve problems just for the fun of it. After they've done their own job, they look for other things that should be done, and do them. They can say, 'I may have made a mistake, but I'll never make it again,' or 'I don't know, but I know how to find out,' 'what's your opinion?' and 'maybe you're right.' A high level of confidence that stops just short of arrogance. Driven, organised, high energy, curious, almost obsessive. These traits are just what it takes to be successful in any field. But since you can't be all these things yourself, identify people like this, and nurture your networks. Have lots of friends and contacts in the game and interact with them a lot. Never make an enemy and never forget a friend.

Incidentally, all this may have sounded very personal – between you and me – but be careful about including me in your connection links. I may be able to guide you to the knowledge you need, but not to important potential employers. In that regard, I claim editorial immunity.

“TO RISE ABOVE YOUR POSITION, YOU NEED A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ALL AREAS”

interface and optimising feedbacks; and management – logistics and critical paths.

Connect with people who get their hands dirty, and who know all the hand tools intimately, people who study tool catalogues and know the right tool for the job. Find the generalist, who may be a passable machinist, and does some composite lay-up, and even knows how to test tyres – even spec tyres – to learn how to optimise them. Finding someone experienced at actual race driving is also strongly recommended – especially in a 'do-it-yourself' class such as Formula SAE, or solar/electric vehicle competitions at the university level.

It's also good to know people with unique talents, or rare and valuable experience. Not many pro teams can start you out as an overall manager. Recent sought-out positions have included data acquisition specialists, suspension dynamics engineers and computational fluid dynamicists. It's hard to say what the next hot area might be, but if you can find a foremost expert in it, it could help. Once they get in the door, then they tend to generalise again (in their spare time) by observing what all the other specialists

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Data interpretation

Having read your 'Both Barrels' article (*Racecar Engineering* April 2006), I had to email to tell you about a piece of software I wrote after testing an LMP2 car with linear potentiometers. When you looked at the trace of all four plots using the MoTeC Interpreter the data is very hard to decipher. As a result of this I have produced a simple piece of software that you can use to visualise how all four corners of the car are moving in relation to each other from a lap's worth of data. The corners' height above the ground is also factored in. This software has a gain (or zoom) control as you mentioned so you can see even subtle movements clearly.

I think that my software illustrates the points you made in your article perfectly. If you take a look at my website – www.linpotsim.com – you will see the full demo.

Peter Harris, via email

Aero information

I would like to say thank you for publishing Simon McBeath's very interesting article on wing selection in V16N3. It provided lots of good information for someone like me who has been interested in wing design for years. As a small comment I would like to direct readers to M Selig's website, which contains aerofoil programmes as well as profiles. The address is; www.ae.uiuc.edu/m-selig/

Bastian Loeffler
Ditzingen, Germany

Email the Editor: racecar@ipcmedia.com

or send your letters to: The Editor, Racecar Engineering, IPC Media, Leon House, 233 High Street, Croydon, CR9 1HZ, England Fax: +44 (0)20 8726 8399
Visit www.racecar-engineering.com and submit your project for a feature online



Has Formula 1 become self obsessed and irrelevant?

Viva Italia

I work for the Italian Automotive Technical Association (ATA) and we are organising the second running of Formula ATA 2006. The event includes both Formula SAE Italy and also Formula Tech. I presume your readership already know all about Formula SAE, but Formula Tech is a 'new entry', having been conceived by ATA in 2005 to promote alternative propulsion culture among students. As with FSAE and FSUK, FTech is a competition between teams of students from all over the world. It is dedicated to alternative propulsion vehicles including, but not limited to, fuel cell, hybrid and electric.

On our website you can find a brochure which explains more about the two competitions. It gives some information about the 2005 event and highlights on

the 2006 one. The event will take place at the Fiat Auto Proving Ground (Balocco, Vercelli) from 7 to 10 September.

I hope you and your readers are interested in our event. The web address is www.ata.it/formulaata/

D Vignetta, Italy

Formula irrelevant?

I've been away from motorsport for a while and so I was shocked to see what has happened to international motor racing. When I looked at your April issue (V16 N4) it was with some amazement – what has happened to the self-styled pinnacle of motorsport that is Formula 1? Control parts on the way in 2008, only one option on engine configuration, daft split rear wings... Has F1 regulated itself into irrelevance? Surely F1 should

relate to something other than some very complex regulations. If Formula 1 was all about 'entertaining racing' then wouldn't we have some sort of cross breed between NASCAR and the Indy Racing League? Formula 1 has lost its way and become self obsessed, openly ignoring the wider world of motorsport. Fans can't get near the drivers or cars and have to watch everything on television. And because of the rules the cars all look the same. Grooved tyres and those horrible looking T-bar cameras make the cars look stupid and these new twin rear wings will make it worse. I think we are just lucky the new circuits have such giant escape areas, because it means the cars are too far away for you to look too closely!

Jurgen Stiftschraube
Düsseldorf, Germany



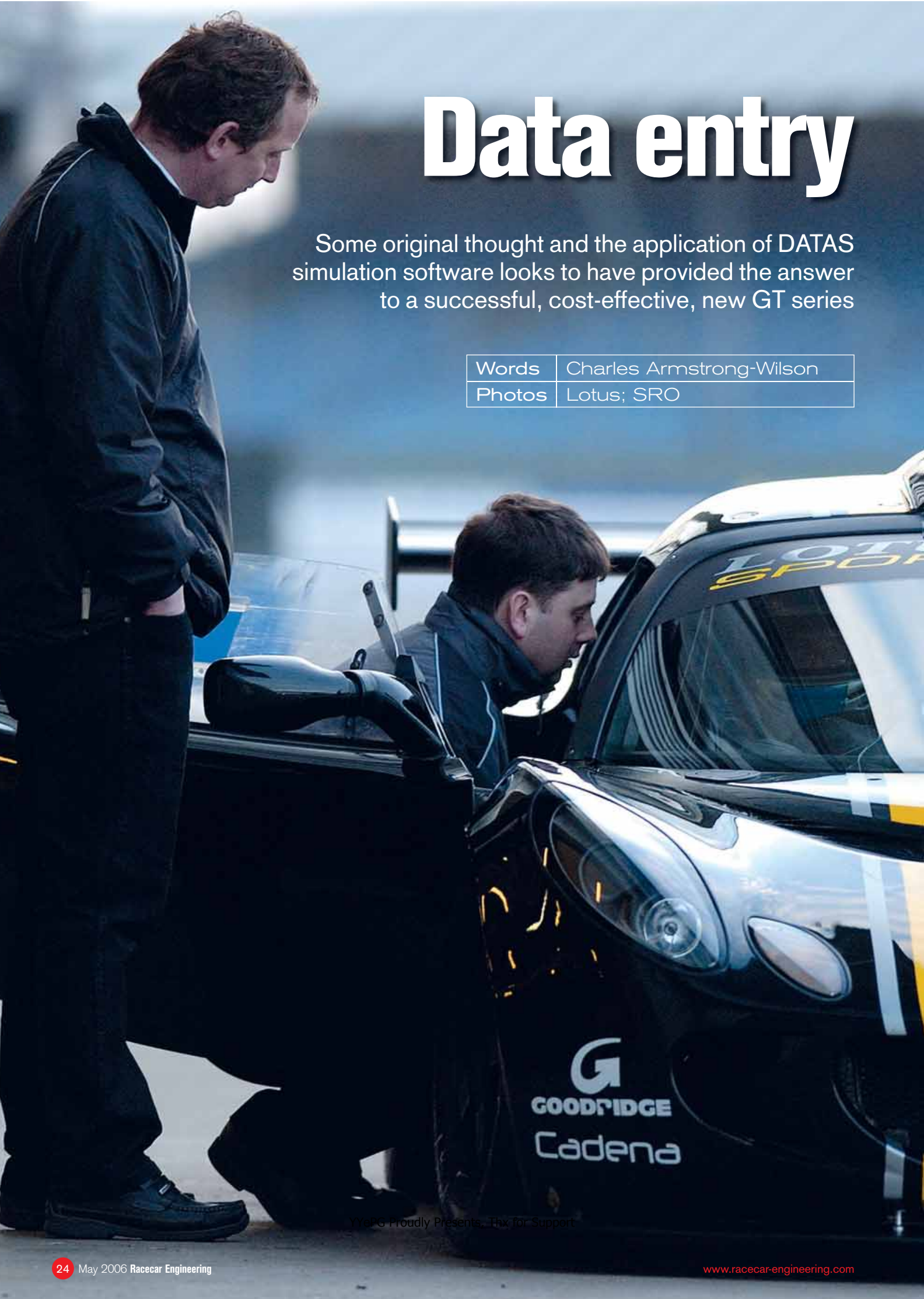
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Data entry

Some original thought and the application of DATAS simulation software looks to have provided the answer to a successful, cost-effective, new GT series

Words	Charles Armstrong-Wilson
Photos	Lotus; SRO



Y&P Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

Does motorsport really need another category of racing? In the case of GT3 the answer could well be a resounding yes. This latest championship organised by SRO brings a number of new ideas to racing that, if successful, could make it succeed when so many others in the past have failed. With its original approach, it promises to attract more drivers with more money funding more teams while, at the same time, supporting a field with a broader range on manufacturers' products than has been seen in many years. It plans to achieve this by two methods – through the way the rules of eligibility are framed and through the innovative way they are policed.

SRO's initial intention was to create a championship that fills the gap between one-make 'cup' series and full-blown international GT racing. It was felt that the jump from the former to the latter was too big for the drivers and the teams, resulting in a lack of entrants for the premier GT1 and GT2 classes of the FIA GT championship. 'We were regularly asked by manufacturers to consider a one-make series,' explains Stephane Ratel of SRO. His organisation had previously been successful with single-make championships for Venturi and Lamborghini, but to establish such a series takes enormous investment, which was not forthcoming for any of these other proposed series.

“WE CAN GENERALLY GET THEM TO WITHIN A QUARTER OF A SECOND OF EACH OTHER”

Considering the problem, Ratel postulated the idea of running several one-make fields together in one race and awarding cups to the winners of each marque. It was a radical idea and would only need a few of each type of car to make up a field. In fact, the aim is to limit each marque to a maximum of six cars to prevent one model becoming dominant. In this way, even with as few as six marques the series will enjoy 36 cars on the grid.

However, the big challenge was to frame a set of rules that would allow different marques to run against each other on a level playing field and keep costs down. How can you match a powerful, yet heavy car with a lighter, less powerful competitor? Matching power through capacity or with a restrictor would not be fair, as the lighter car would have a big advantage. Alternatively, a common minimum weight would be impossible as the heavy cars could never match it, while the lighter ones would be carrying crippling amounts of ballast. But, by working with the FIA, SRO found a solution. →



Early GT3 tests have attracted cars from Ascari KZR, Aston Martin and Dodge



The man with the plan – Stephane Ratel of SRO (left) and GT driver Christophe Bouchut at Paul Ricard for the inaugural GT3 test day

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Left to right, GT3 contenders from Maserati, Ferrari, Nissan and Lamborghini

It stems from pioneering work carried out last year controlling the performance of the GT1 cars taking part in the FIA European GT Championship. Maserati's MC12 had threatened to upset the balance of power in this series due to its superior inherent dynamic advantages. Were it allowed to race unchecked then it would have been so dominant that the only way anyone else could be competitive would be to build race-bred homologation specials. To tackle the problem, SRO turned to the FIA and its technical consultant Peter Wright. He had experienced this problem some years earlier recalling, 'I was involved in GT1 and I got fed up sitting in the technical working group listening to the arguments about the rules. I said there has to be a better way of doing this.' It took until 2004 for his solution to be taken up, but what he had come up with seemed the perfect solution to the problem of the MC12. Wright called on the help of

“ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES THAT ALLOW ANOMALIES TO BE HIGHLIGHTED”

Steffen Kosuch of DATAS and, using the company's simulation software and data from the Maserati, they set about modeling its performance, working out how to restrict it fairly.

For 2005 they rolled this technique out to the entire GT1 field using simulation to assess the performance of the cars and real track data to validate the result. Then it was possible to adjust the model to equalise the performance and then impose those changes onto the cars. As a base line they used the Prodrive-developed Ferrari 550 and then matched the other cars to that. Mostly the corrections

were made with weight adjustments although it was possible to use aerodynamics and engine restrictor changes if necessary.

'If over two races we see anything more than a half second difference between the cars we then act,' explains Wright. 'We can generally get them

Lotus Sport Exige GT3

If the new GT3 rules are able to achieve their intentions then a GT3 Lotus will be the proof. Previously GT regulations have dictated a minimum weight limit that would have required a racing version of the Elise or Exige to carry between 200 and 300kg of ballast. Not only would this be an enormous challenge technically, but it would also swamp the power available, even from the supercharged four-cylinder engine of the new Exige S. As the new rules police a performance level rather than any single physical attribute of the car then Lotus can use its products' light weight to the full in pursuit of competitiveness. This is an attraction that the Norfolk company quickly recognised and inspired the launch of its Sport Exige GT3 programme.

No limits

Chris Arnold explains: 'In theory there are no limits for Lotus. There are no limits on power and no limit



Lotus GT3 car is based on Sport Exige and uses a production car chassis and supercharged Toyota engine from the Exige S. The aim is to exploit the car's agility against more powerful machinery

on minimum mass.' With its 1.8-litre engine developing 285bhp, Lotus is going to be less concerned with having its performance restricted, rather it will be working to match the benchmark of a GT Porsche chosen by the FIA. That is not to say the Exige will forever be struggling to catch up. Rather Arnold feels that with a different performance profile to the more powerful but heavier GTs, it will have a significant advantage in some areas. 'We wouldn't be doing it if we didn't feel we had a good chance.

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Some of it will be circuit specific. If you go to an out and out power circuit, Monza say, we are always going to have a tough time,' he admits. 'But if you go to a more technical circuit, I truly believe that we can be very strong. We can carry more speed through the corners, we have more responsiveness and our cornering ability ought to be better.'

With the various track and race versions of the Elise/Exige concept the company has produced over the years, developing the GT3 meant it



to within a quarter of a second of each other.' All the time their objective was to equalise performance. 'The whole idea is don't spend money. Because if you spend money on developing the car we are going to add weight.' Initially the teams found this hard to grasp and were quick to complain when they felt unfairly penalised. But Wright was unfazed, 'I'd have George [Howard-Chappell of Aston Martin] in one ear and Giorgio [Ascanelli of Maserati] in the other and it was very simple. When the volume was the same I'd got it about right.'

To monitor the cars Peter and Steffen were receiving data every time they ran, which amounted to an enormous amount of information. However, Kosuch has analysis techniques that allow anomalies to be highlighted.

'What we are looking for is the basic performance built into the car rather than the way it's set up and driven,' explains Wright. 'So we are looking at

steady state cornering speeds, acceleration and top speed. We are not looking so much at how late the driver can leave the braking which is really more to do with how brave he is and how stable the car is. You can do an analysis of the race taking out fuel effects, tyre degradation, looking at trends, and if we see laps which don't look right, then we get the individual data for that

lap. Then we can look at where they have an advantage. You don't have to process all the data. You apply human intelligence to it then go and look at the bits you want.'

Occasionally, teams tried special tyres or engines but it was quickly identified. We go

through it and review the model and when we see the parameters in the model are changing, we plot trends and if we see a distinct trend we say hang on they've done some development. We usually accuse them of it and then they admit it. Also, if the Aston suddenly goes quicker Giorgio will →

“THE PORSCHE IS TAKEN AS A BENCHMARK FOR PERFORMANCE”

was covering mostly well-charted territory. Arnold: 'The chassis is completely standard as we take it off the production line. We use the same chassis pick-up points but all the corners are new. We run at a much lower ride height and obviously we have joints locking out so we had to re-design and re-format all the wishbones, brakes and uprights.'

The AP Racing discs are the biggest that could be fitted into the 16 and 17-inch wheels which are, in turn, limited by the bodywork. Keeping a close affinity with the road car the dampers are a development of those used on the Exige S, only three way rather than two-way adjustable. The big challenge though is tyres, with the car needing very different rubber to the rest of the GT field. 'Tyres are critical for our type of car,' confirms Arnold. 'We need a well optimised tyre as we are not relying on raw power, we are relying on cornering power and tyres are a big part of that.'

Powering the Sport Exige GT3 is the same Toyota engine as all the

company's road cars, fitted with the same supercharger as the Exige S but geared faster to increase the boost. For its racing application the unit is dry-sumped and fitted with different induction and exhaust systems. But, remarkably, the internals remain untouched and even with power now up to 285bhp there have been no problems. 'You have to take your hat off to those Toyota guys who designed this engine,' says Arnold, 'it really has got fantastic potential! For the electrics the car continues the relationship with EFI for management but the dash is from AIM and is able to interface with the car's CAN system.'

The transmission, however, was

deemed unsuitable for a couple of reasons. Firstly it was felt the extra torque from the blown motor would exceed the transmission's limits and, with an H-gate change, the time loss would be unacceptable. So, it was replaced with a Hewland PCT Touring Car gearbox, which suits the transverse installation. The new GT3 rules do not mandate a production gearbox and Arnold sees the choice as more of a cost and performance consideration.

Aero efficiency

Aerodynamically, the car was originally designed using previous experience with the production body shape. Most of the panels come from the road car but are now made in carbon, while the roof panel is the design incorporating a scoop taken from the one-off V6 Exige GT [RE V15N9]. This conveniently feeds air to an air-to-air intercooler, which Lotus feels brings worthwhile weight benefits over a water-cooled version. →



'We wouldn't be doing it if we didn't think we had a good chance' – Chris Arnold, Lotus.

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tell me. If the Maserati goes quick George will tell me.'

Despite some dissent during the season, by the end it was accepted it had worked, not least thanks to the results. Maserati managed four wins, Ferrari three, then Aston Martin and Corvette took two each. Also, the drivers' title was so close it ended up in the court of appeal arguing over a third of a litre of fuel. It was such a success that it seemed the perfect answer to matching a diverse field of cars for the proposed GT3.

Starting with the GT2 rules for construction and safety the Porsche is taken as a benchmark for performance. Manufacturers are then invited to submit cars to the FIA, which are then assessed at a series of pre-season tests in the hands of a professional driver. From the results of these the specifications for each model is fixed and documented in an FIA passport that scrutineers can refer to at each round.

However, the assessment process does not stop there and throughout the season Wright and Kosuch will be taking data from all the teams although it shouldn't need to happen as frequently as GT1. With a fixed specification for the cars and a single tyre supplier preventing a tyre war there is no reason for their capabilities to change. 'If we see a make of car that suddenly appears to have a step in performance then we are going to go and rip the car apart,' warns Wright.

Another advantage is that with the incentive to find more power removed, the need for strangling restrictors on the engines is taken away. So the cars can run freer breathing engines in a lower state of tune with a much longer life between rebuilds.

With all the cars matched in performance and no benefit from development budget, SRO hopes it has achieved stable and affordable budgets for the series. This, it feels, will make the package attractive to

**“CARS CAN RUN
IN A LOWER
STATE OF TUNE
WITH A MUCH
LONGER LIFE”**

Already a leading GT1 contender, Chevrolet is developing a GT3 Corvette Z06R

wealthy amateur drivers. In fact, the rules have been framed to exclude anyone but amateur drivers by barring anyone with an overly accomplished driving record. In addition, while manufacturers are encouraged to develop cars to compete in the series, they are specifically prevented from entering works teams. That way no marque will become too dominant and fields will remain varied which is good for attracting spectators. With the vast majority of the money expected to come from the drivers rather than big sponsors, the actions of one party will be unlikely to destabilise the whole series.

It certainly is an original idea and, if it gets off the ground, could provide a long-running series with a varied field and good racing for both those in the cars and in the grandstands. RE



Lotus Sport Exige GT3 contd.

→ In the rush to get the car ready for the first test at Paul Ricard there was no time to put it in the wind tunnel, but before Christmas it had a spell in the MIRA full-scale facility.

'We used the standard body shape so we know roughly that that had balanced downforce front and rear,' says Gavan Kershaw, principle vehicle dynamics engineer at Lotus Cars. However, it was found that 60 per cent of the downforce was on the rear. 'Obviously the rear wing was far

more efficient than we imagined so we had to make the front create some downforce. We were careful how we did that, just making sure that radiator exits and things were properly done, some extra vents for trying to get the air out of the wheelarches and really just trying to maximise the rear diffuser. It shows, even on the road car, that the cars are sensitive to the diffuser shape. Even at club level, guys put 50mm on and they are quicker round Snetterton and the high-speed circuits.'

As an experienced GT racer, Kershaw has been doing most of the testing and gives some interesting feedback. 'The car is similar to the original Lotus. It is agile, and you can actually feel the corner speeds are high.' He particularly likes the car's low weight. 'It's just enjoyment and the accuracy you can get. That was what I missed in the Mosler a little bit. You couldn't be pinch-up accurate every time you approached a chicane. With this it's like millimetre perfect every time.'

GT3 has generated much enthusiasm at Lotus and Arnold is still pragmatic. 'The whole GT3 is a voyage of discovery. It might end up staying with the European FIA and the British GT allowing it, in which case it's going to be fairly limited. But, if other national GT championships around the world start adopting a GT3 class, then potentially there is quite a large market for them.'

A lower ride height meant the uprights and wishbones had to be developed from the road version. Only the gearbox needed a total re-think, the designers opting for a Hewland PCT touring car 'box in the GT3



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More Championships than any other.

**PERFORMANCE
FRICTION
BRAKES**

The logo graphic consists of a stylized, wavy line that transitions from blue on the left to red on the right, with a white stripe in the middle, resembling a flag or a speed line.

Ford's Monte Carlo-winning Focus RS WRC06 takes rally car component integration and packaging to a new level, as M-Sport's Christian Loriaux explains

Sharper Focus

Monte Carlo, 22 January 2006 and Marcus Gronholm takes a sensational overall victory in the all-new Focus RS WRC06, Ford's first victory on this legendary event since 1994 with François Delecour. It was a remarkable result considering that it was the ex-World Champion's debut rally for his new team, plus it was the first time the new Focus had competed in anger on tarmac. And while to the general press the result was a shock, the omens had been good prior to the start of 2006, as the new Focus had already set fastest stage times during Rally Australia (the final event

“IT'S LIKE AN ARMCO BARRIER IN THERE FOR SIDE IMPACT PROTECTION”

of 2005 season) and had completed over 2000km in testing. When you consider that the WRC06 project began a mere 12 months previously, it's a remarkable achievement and the vindication of a punishing, compressed development programme.

The engineering responsibility for the project rests with Christian Loriaux, technical director of Ford's UK-based rally preparation partners, M-Sport Ltd, run by ex-British Rally Champion

Malcolm Wilson. Loriaux is highly rated as a designer whose attention to detail and logical approach produces results, as proven in his dramatic and successful re-design of the 'Mk1' Focus for the 2003 season. This, and subsequent Focus WRC cars, all benefited from Loriaux's technical abilities, producing a brace of rally wins and fastest stage times. But 2005 proved to be something of a dip in form in light of an



The Focus WRC's are prepared at M-Sport's Dovenby Hall HQ in the North West of England county, Cumbria



M-Sports designers have situated as much equipment as possible on the floor of the car to lower the centre of gravity, including the crew. Note mechanical and semi automatic shifters



Christian Loriaux (far left); Malcolm Wilson

Words	Peter Knivett
Photos	LAT; Martin Sharp

unstoppable Citroën WRC steamroller that scooped not only the Drivers title but Manufacturers' title also.

Unconventionally, the goal was to debut the new 2006 car at the final rally of 2005 and understandably, from a PR perspective at least, Ford was reluctant to do this. But there was method to Loriaux's madness as it would give M-Sport vital breathing space to solve any potential problems over the only substantial break in the WRC calendar. As Loriaux explains, 'the only time in the year when you've got a bit of time is between the last rally – Australia – and

Monte Carlo, when you have two months. So I knew that if we went to Australia and we got dramas and the engine shit itself or the gearbox shit itself then we've got two months to try to fix it and start the season in a half decent position. But if we waited until Monte Carlo and we had a problem then, with a schedule like WRC, it could take six months to fix it.'

Loriaux also had one eye on the revised

technical regulations for 2006, particularly the requirement for some components, including transmissions, to be sealed to ensure use across two events. 'They sneaked that on us,' he says. 'I was a bit gutted really, because it was a good political move from the other teams to screw us.' Clearly, getting stage miles on the car as early as possible was crucial to a successful 2006 season.

With a debut on Rally Australia the goal, it →

“WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION IS BETTER WITH A TRANSVERSE GEARBOX”

Yvette and Malcolm Wilson, M-Sport

meant having the car testing by mid-October last year. As Ford only re-committed to the WRC in November 2004 and M-Sport received its first CAD files from Ford for the new base car the following month, that gave Loriaux's 13 person technical team just over nine months to hit its build deadline, from scratch. So given the timescale, what priorities drove the design?

Philosophy of design

With an FIA-regulated 1230kg minimum car weight, shaving overall mass wouldn't seem a priority for WRC designers, but the key to success is the location of that weight. Produce an underweight car and teams can ballast it up to the minimum figure and, even better, they can place that ballast on the car in an advantageous position that produces real advantages for weight distribution and overall handling. Loriaux's design philosophy seeks to maximise this factor, but then takes it a stage further. 'Integration is the key,' he says, 'which means before you can design anything you have to design everything. When you look at the new car – and there are things here that I don't want to say – we've integrated further areas. Why? Because if out of two parts we can make one part, first you've saved money and second you've saved weight because two parts have to be glued or welded or joined together and that joint costs you weight.'

Applying that philosophy to the Mk1 Focus yielded real results in 2003 and 2004, but designing the all-new car represented even more of a challenge because the second generation



2006 Focus WRC's engine is based on the Mazda Duratec in-line four and is prepared by Pipo in France

Focus offered no clear advantages as a base car. Bigger, heavier and higher than the Mk1 Focus 'shell, in many senses the old car was a better base to work from. However, there were advantages – the new bodyshell is better aerodynamically, particularly at the rear, plus the engine in the Mk2 road car is mounted lower and is now all aluminium.

A full design concept, including rollage,

started early on with a production line Focus ST220 'shell arriving in March. Reducing weight, improving impact protection and increasing stiffness were high up the agenda, with M-sport aiming to exploit the FIA's 320kg minimum 'shell mass rule as much as possible. 'We didn't get the 'shell to 320kg,' says Loriaux, 'we got it to 340kg because we left reinforcement in the sill and added extra. It's like an Armco barrier in there for side impact protection and, because the weight is low down, it doesn't give anything away.'

Interestingly, Loriaux's approach to rollage design is pragmatic and hands-on, avoiding excessive computer-based finite element analysis. He explains: 'We build a lot of rollage variants and then twist the car using hydraulic actuators and measure using dial test gauges. Then we can tell the guys 'cut this tube, weld that one, let's do it with bigger gauge tubes, smaller gauge tubes, this and that. We can test five iterations of rollage in one day this way... It's a lot quicker than running it through a computer for two days.'

Bearing in mind the awful events on Rally GB last year, M-Sport's aim with the new, wider car was to move the occupants further inboard, relatively speaking, to improve side impact protection. In turn, this meant reducing the width of the transmission tunnel. Despite this modification though, the team has still managed to package the propshaft and exhaust within the standard Ford production structure from the front-wheel drive ST220.

All alloy engine

Although the high performance Focus road car

Technical specification: Ford Focus RS WRC 06

Engine:	Ford 1998cc, Pipo-built, I4 Duratec WRC engine. Four cylinders, 16 valves. Bore 85mm. Stroke 88mm. Pi electronic engine management system. Garrett turbocharger (with FIA required 34 mm inlet restrictor). Air intercooler. Catalytic converter.
Power:	320 bhp at 6000 rpm
Torque:	550 Nm at 4000 rpm
Transmission:	Permanent four-wheel drive with M-Sport designed active, centre differential. Pi electronic differential control units. M-Sport/Ricardo five speed sequential gearbox with electrohydraulically controlled shift. M-Sport/Sachs multi disc carbon clutch.
Suspension:	Front and rear: MacPherson struts (front) and Trailing-Arm (rear) with Reiger external reservoir dampers, adjustable in bump and rebound. Fully adjustable fabricated steel links. Front and rear anti-roll bars. Cast steel uprights. Ceramic wheel bearings.
Wheels:	Gravel: 7in x 15in (magnesium) wheels with BF Goodrich 650mm tyres. Asphalt: 8in x 18in (magnesium) wheels with BF Goodrich 650mm tyres.
Bodyshell:	Unitary construction. Unique composite side panels. Welded T45 steel safety roll cage. Aerodynamic rear wing. Unique front 'bumper' treatment.
Electronics:	Full Pi chassis and engine data acquisition for on-event diagnostics and performance development.
Fuel tank:	FIA FT3 tank, 94-litre capacity, located centrally.
Dimensions:	Length: 4362mm. Width: 1800mm. Wheelbase: 2640mm. Weight: 1230kg minimum.

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The engine bay was originally designed for the road going Focus ST220's 2.5-litre Volvo five-cylinder unit

donated its bodyshell for the rally car, the ST's turbocharged 2.5-litre, five cylinder Volvo engine was regrettably unsuitable for the WRC. Therefore, as a result, M-Sport chose to use the all alloy, 2.0-litre, Mazda-designed Duratec powerplant from the more humble Mk2 Focus road car instead. This again meant starting from scratch as there was zero component carry-over from the previous Zetec motor.

Engine development initially began in February 2005 and, rather than undertake this in-house, M-Sport successfully benefited from Peugeot's withdrawal from the WRC by quickly snapping up the services of its French motor builders, Pipo. 'We knew that the 307 engine was very good, so I contacted Pipo straight away after Peugeot announced its pull out and came to an agreement. The first engine was running on the dyno in May, developing good power,' Loriaux grins. 'But that gives you a false sense of security, because you've still got to package the turbo and you haven't done a sump. From having an engine running in a 'bodge-up' state to having it running in the car is a massive job.'

Even so, M-Sport's technical director is a big fan of the new Duratec engine, not least because its lightweight block is used in standard un-machined form, whereas the 'old' cast iron Zetec block underwent £5000 (\$8,683) worth of machining to reach a WRC-style fighting weight. Internally, it's a strong base, featuring good combustion chamber and port shapes, which greatly assisted Pipo in developing it into a turbocharged WRC motor. Running on Pi electronics, using a Garrett turbocharger and breathing through the mandatory FIA 34mm inlet

restrictor, the unit produces around 320bhp and 'well over 500Nm of torque,' according to Loriaux. More importantly, it offers a good spread of progressive power in the important 3-6000rpm range, which allowed the team to exercise its integrated thinking brief when it came to the new car's transmission package. As did the engine position within the under-bonnet area, which is dictated by the FIA.

These rules state that the engine position

“M-SPORT CHOSE THE ALL ALLOY, 2.0-LITRE, DURATEC POWERPLANT”

reference point is the production car's position of the end of the crankshaft at the gearbox/block interface. However, because the team had placed a four-cylinder transverse engine where a five cylinder used to be, they had a large space on the right hand side of the engine bay where the fifth cylinder on the road car should have been. In turn, this meant less space for the gearbox package, so creative thinking was required, and here Loriaux exploited the blank paper approach to his advantage.

To re-cap – all previous Focus WRC cars used a longitudinal gearbox, positioned behind the engine. A complex, tortuous solution, this was deemed necessary to position this bulky component further rearwards and towards the centre line of the car to assist in overall balance

and handling. These were logical design goals but, surprisingly, Loriaux was never a fan of this transmission layout that he'd been forced to carry over on his 2003-2005 WRC cars on cost grounds.

So for the new Focus he's opted for a transverse gearbox design, which runs contrary to current WRC thinking as it's positioned further forward in the car and to one side. Surely that's a retrograde step in weight distribution terms? Well, follow Loriaux's train of logic through and you realise this simply isn't the case. 'If you do a longitudinal gearbox it weighs 90kg and you can get the weight 0.5m further back down the car than with a transverse unit. If you do a transverse gearbox you save 30kg and, if you want to put that 30kg as ballast, you can put it behind the rear wheels. That means you move it 2.5m further back down the car, so effectively the offset is much bigger. So the weight distribution is better with a transverse gearbox, plus you've made the car 30kg lighter,' Loriaux enthuses.

He's also very positive about the decision to swap from Xtrac to Ricardo as M-Sport's transmission partner which, again, runs contrary to perceived opinion, even within the team itself. 'When I said to Malcolm [Wilson] "we go with Ricardo" he said to me, "I reserve the right to change that decision." It's the first time ever he hasn't trusted me... Two days later he came back and he went for it, but then he had more to gain because he was saving £20,000 (\$35,000) per gearbox!' The resultant semi-automatic unit is a true joint venture between M-Sport and Ricardo, with the bulk of the design work carried out at M-Sport and Ricardo finalising the details. As with the previous gearbox the gears are shifted via an electro-hydraulic mechanism, but on the new car there are only five forward ratios, as Loriaux deemed six to be superfluous. Why? Well the spread of power on an inlet-restricted WRC engine is such that between 3-6000rpm the delivery is quite flat, which offers a 3000rpm power band. Given that a six-speed unit offers typical rev drops of 900rpm between ratios, whereas a five-speed unit stretches this to 1200rpm, it's clear that five ratios are all that's required to keep the Focus's engine within that 3000rpm zone. In addition, 'you change gear less often, there's one less gear to go wrong, it's lighter, narrower and easier to package,' reckons Loriaux, which was highly relevant when considering the under bonnet space issues caused by the engine choice.

This gearbox also acts as the centre housing for the centre differential which, thanks to the 'cost-cutting' FIA rule changes for 2006, is the only remaining 'active' computer controlled diff left on the car. Designed and manufactured by M-Sport, it uses Pi electronic controllers and works in concert with the mechanical plate-style differentials in the front and rear axles on the →

new Focus. Aside from meaning that driver set-up changes now require mechanical, rather than electronic, alterations Loriaux reckons that the transmission rule changes didn't upset the design too much. However, the same cannot be said for the new car's suspension.

Integrating the regulations

Titanium is banned from WRC cars in 2006, which meant that after years of fabricating the rear suspension from this exotic alloy, M-Sport had to design the suspension for the new Focus in more mundane materials. Physically, little has changed from the old Focus WRC car, which makes sense because the independent rear suspension was always a strong point. At present however the material specification has not been fixed with the new version. 'We currently have an aluminium version of the trailing arm and upright, and we've also got a stainless version,' says Loriaux. 'The test car always ran with aluminium on one side and steel on the other, so we can learn and put the mileage on the two designs. That way we spread the risk and it speeds up the learning.' Fabricated steel links complete the rear suspension, which is fully adjustable, as are the Reiger remote reservoir dampers.

Up front, the FIA rules that restrict relocating the pick-up points more than 20mm (when compared to the road car) defines the suspension package on the new Focus. Loriaux admits that the front geometry is a compromise, but confirms that 'we have over 250mm of travel all round, but I'm not going to say how much!' Meanwhile, passive front and rear anti-roll bars complete the suspension picture on the new machine.

Similarly, the braking system is conventional and changed little from the previous WRC car. This sees the Focus running on 300mm Brembo four-piston calipers in gravel specification, switching to larger 370mm items with eight-piston calipers in tarmac trim.

A look inside the new Focus reveals that Loriaux's emphasis on weight reduction and re-positioning has been refined further, as everything of use is sited on the floor and, where possible, between the drivers. 'We have lost a little bit of weight with the switch panel but, if you can imagine with the tunnel being from a front-wheel drive car, it's now very low.' As are the drivers, with Gronholm in particular commenting how much lower his seat is compared to the Peugeot 307.

And he sits just behind a control that Loriaux would rather not have on his car – a spare, back-up mechanical gear lever designed to take over should the steering column-mounted paddle shift fail. Previously the handbrake converted into a back-up gearchange, simply by removing a pin. But it meant the handbrake was lost. Risky, but ingenious, it backfired on Rally Deutschland



Brembo ventilated discs and eight piston calipers provide stopping power on asphalt and four piston units on gravel. Note Reiger remote reservoir shocks and McPherson strut arrangement



The Spare wheel is located inside a cavity under the back of the car, shifting 20kg 250mm lower in the car

when the paddle shift failed on one of the twistiest stages of the WRC, where a handbrake was crucial. The result was poor stage times. So Loriaux reluctantly relented: 'I've put a proper back-up gearchange in this one, because everyone gave me so much stick about it.'

Clearly this grates with his central design philosophy and you cannot argue with his logical

“WE HAVE OVER 250MM OF TRAVEL ALL ROUND, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SAY HOW MUCH!”

point of view. 'If we need to work on something, let's work on making it reliable – why work on doing a back-up gearchange? Instead put that work into a reliable gearbox. I hate those bloody back-ups! And for me that original back-up system [from the old car] was the secret for improving the car, through true integration.'

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Certainly it seems that Loriaux's talented

M-Sport technical team have taken a significant leap forward through pursuing this philosophy on the Focus WRC06, but it's not been a painless enterprise. Viewing the car as a complete entity, where every single component has a knock-on effect on another, is a challenging undertaking for any team, particularly one facing tight deadlines. For example, the spare wheel on the Focus WRC06 lives below the boot floor, accessed via a quick-release section of the rear bumper. Shifting over 20kg of wheel and tyre 250mm lower in the rear of the car was the main goal, but this also meant re-designing the rear differential, propshaft and gearbox drop gears to gain a fractional, but vital, advantage.

So does this design method require weighty budgets and manpower? Not according to Loriaux. 'I think that's there no need for tons of people, what's more important is using people that get on well. More of the credit needs to go to those guys because we worked like bastards and no-one complained about the 12-hour days.' It's undoubtedly painstaking work but, as the Monte Carlo result proved, Loriaux's and M-Sport's ends more than justify the means.

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Entering the FIA Formula 1 World Championship is not a simple matter. The time taken to bring a new team to the grid from acquiring initial investment capital depends on the team's longer term prospects and goals. Deep-pocketed teams can afford to set up several years before they race such as Toyota, for example, who spent a whole year just shadowing the real season in order to learn the process. A small new team, however, cannot afford to spend more than a single preparation year before racing, if that.

Although racing commences during March it is the previous November that contains the most important deadline. The 15th is the date by which a team's FIA entry must have been submitted unless unanimous agreement can be reached with the rest of the grid to allow a late entry, such as happened with Super Aguri F1 for 2006.

FIA acceptance

The official entry form must be accompanied by a \$48m deposit. The deposit money is cashed by the FIA and then returned to the team as twelve equal payments throughout the season. The deposit requirement is there to encourage teams to

“THE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$48M DEPOSIT”

ensure that their finances are robust enough to last the season. A sensible team therefore needs to ensure it has enough money to last from its start point the previous year until the end of its first racing season, a practical minimum of two years. To be prudent, that money should be in the bank at the start of the pre-year build-up, and any team that has not sufficient capital at start-up is at serious risk of losing part or all of its \$48m.

Whilst sponsors may be happy to see their brands advertised on television in conjunction with F1 racing, the risk of possibly losing up to \$48m is too much for most of them and, as a result, they are unlikely to lend the team the deposit. The advertisers are not the primary business managers and are understandably loath to accept the risk inherent in a management team whose staff they have neither chosen nor can directly control. A new team may sign up all the sponsorship it needs and still be short of deposit.

Borrowing from a bank is a non-starter unless one is prepared to lodge an appropriate amount of collateral. Even if one secures such a loan the interest charges alone could cost \$1m or more, being maybe two per cent of one's first annual budget. The FIA will pay interest on the \$48m it holds on the teams' behalf but, naturally, a bank's

Greenbacks for go

In the second part of our insight into entering Formula 1, we consider the initial cost and the potential profit structure that exists within the sport

Words	Paul J Weighell
Photos	LAT YYePG Proudly Presents, Thx for Support

Super Aguri is the latest team to join the F1 circus, using an old Arrows design



borrowing rate will always be lower than its lending rate and the team will lose money. However difficult it may be, the bond money must be found, under the current FIA rules at least.

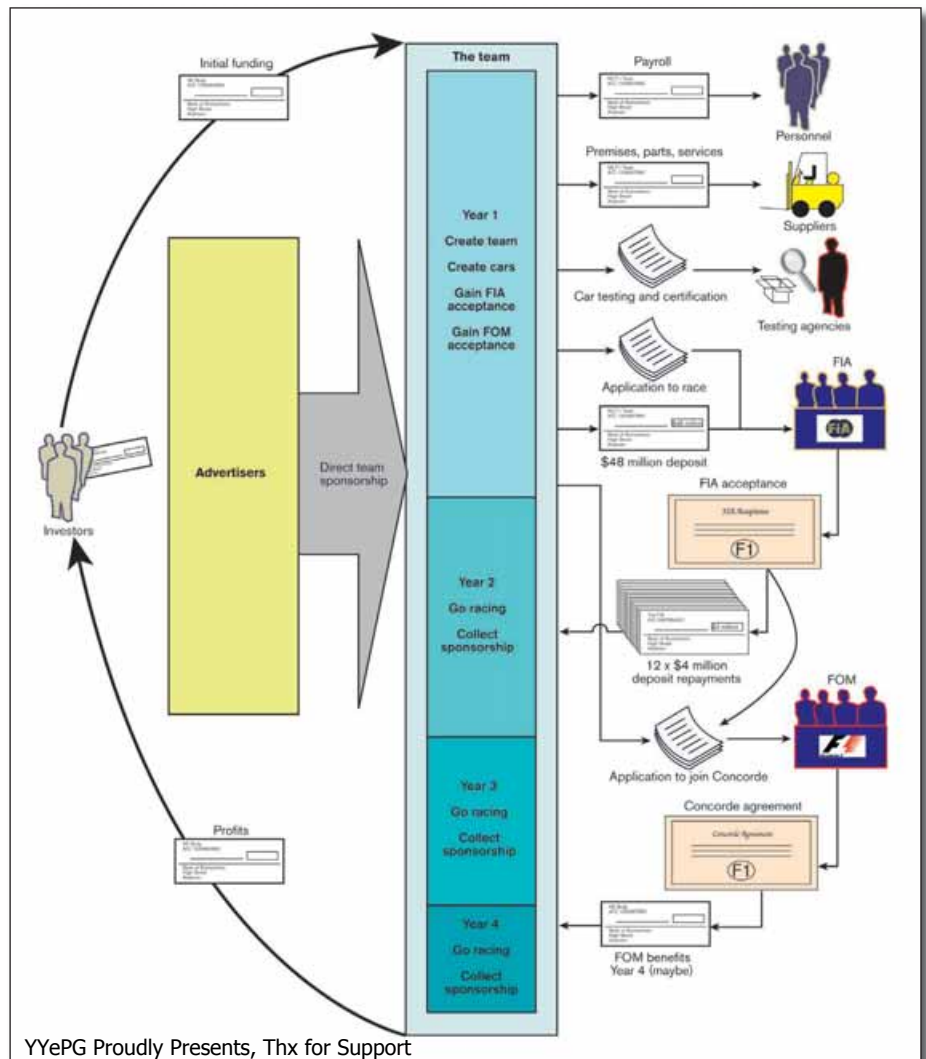
'If you wish to enter the FIA Formula 1 World Championship and your entry is accepted, you will be offered the opportunity to sign a Concorde Agreement with Formula 1 Management and the FIA. As far as the current Concorde terms are concerned, this is between Formula 1 Management and the respective team that is a signatory to the current agreement.'

Bernie Ecclestone

The Concorde Agreement details are mostly hidden until after one has gained FIA approval, including lodgement of the deposit, and one is already committed to race at that point. Having spent \$100m or so to get that far it is less likely that one will quibble over the Concorde terms. A very neat arrangement that seems not to be illegal under EU law. In theory, one can race without being a Concorde signatory, but no team takes that route. →

“THE ADVERTISERS ARE NOT THE PRIMARY BUSINESS MANAGERS”

New team business cycle



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2006 team types

Grid	Team	Status	Brand
1	Renault	Tied	Renault
2	McLaren	Tied	Daimler-Chrysler
3	Ferrari	Tied	FIAT
4	Toyota	Tied	Toyota
5	Williams	Independent	
6	Honda	Tied	Honda
7	Red Bull	Tied	Red Bull
8	BMW	Tied	BMW
9	MF1	Independent	
10	Toro Rosso	Tied Junior	Red Bull
11	Super Aguri	Tied Junior (Unconfirmed)	Honda (Unconfirmed)
12	None	None	None



The only two truly independent teams competing in Formula 1 today – Midland F1 (top) and Williams

Profit share

Only two teams can currently be considered truly independent, with the rest being more realistically described as departmental offshoots of mainstream car manufacturers (with the single exception being a vendor of soft drinks).

Wholly owned, or tied, teams can run at a financial loss as their costs are largely met by their parent's advertising budgets, with some contribution from other departments such as R&D perhaps. Independent teams must make their own income and their own profits.

One independent team filed corporate accounts showing a profit before tax of exactly five per cent of gross income. Such a neat figure points to a decision that five per cent was to be the profit margin, and that amount was then taken off the top of the sponsors' money. The practice of spending only 95 per cent of sponsors' money necessarily puts an independent team at a disadvantage compared to the tied team that can spend 100 per cent. If one takes too much out of any business then it cannot grow, and it may be

that 5 per cent was too much for that particular team, which fell into difficulty and was sold.

The wholly owned Renault team reported that it had made \$5m profit during its 2004 financial year. Exactly on what basis that had been calculated, and what real meaning it had, must be open to question for any corporate division, in this case of the Renault Group. Taking an informed estimate of the team's 2004 gross

“THE REAL COST PER POINT IS APPRECIABLY MORE THAN \$4M”

income at between \$225m-\$250m, the claimed \$5m is still only 2-2.5 per cent profit. Most businesses would prefer to see a larger profit as 2.5 per cent is little more than European inflation, depending

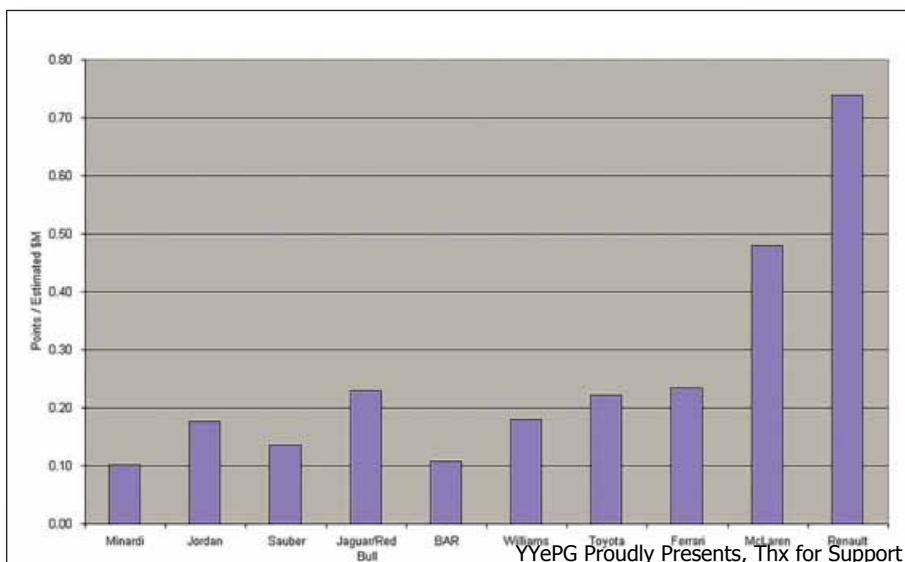
on which official figure you happen to believe! One can get better than 2.5 per cent from a local, risk free deposit account and if Renault Group were not in fact getting an incalculable amount of positive advertising from their Formula 1 presence, then F1 for profit alone is unlikely to be a business that they would choose to start.

F1 teams spent an average estimated \$250m to achieve about 70 championship points during 2005, yielding a cost per point of some \$4m. The expenditure quoted is only annual spending and does not include the accumulated value of property, capital plant and equipment or the skill and knowledge of staff. The real cost per point is therefore appreciably more than \$4m.

Spending whatever it costs to win a championship may not necessarily result in a team that can return much income to its original investors, or perhaps FIAT for one would not be in so much trouble. If a team runs for five years spending enough money to win a championship for a single year and then declines in subsequent years, the overall return on the original investment may not be as healthy as the team that spends less on performance and is able to distribute more of its income to shareholders. Or, as Max Mosley put it, 'One manufacturer is spending a sum greater than half of its total annual dividend. This is unsustainable and sooner or later the shareholders will notice.'

A new and independent team cannot immediately, or realistically, be run as a team destined to be world champions, nor can it run as the loss making advertising department of a larger company. It must instead be structured as a normal new business and seek to make a profit. That means it should run on its own money from as early as possible and then show a profit from each and every racing year.

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DS 3000E	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
FER 4003	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
DS 1.11	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
DS 2.11	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

Excellent:
 Good:
 Moderate:

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Battery charger

If battery power doesn't spring to mind as a *competitive* power source for a racecar, think again...

Words	Simon McBeath
Images	McBeath; Ogilvie

There are some commonly held negative perceptions surrounding battery technology as a viable, competitive power source – low power-to-weight ratio, short range and long 'refuelling' times are but three areas where 'traditionally' fuelled cars are pretty hard to beat. But *Racecar Engineering* has been privileged to look in on an ambitious electric racecar project that on paper – and on the strength of the test mule's performance – looks to have genuine potential to mix it with the internal combustion engines.

There are already various forms of electric-powered motorsport. Electric drag racing in the USA is administered and run by the National Electric Drag Racing Association, with classes and 'voltage divisions' (www.nedra.com). 'Current Eliminator' holds the record for the fastest standing quarter mile at 8.801secs (terminal speed 137.65mph). And two-wheeled 'Kill-a-cycle' (electric puns seem unavoidable) ran the quarter mile in 9.450secs, but hit a terminal speed of 152.07mph. So performance is respectable, but well short of conventionally powered vehicles.

At the other end of the scale is Formula

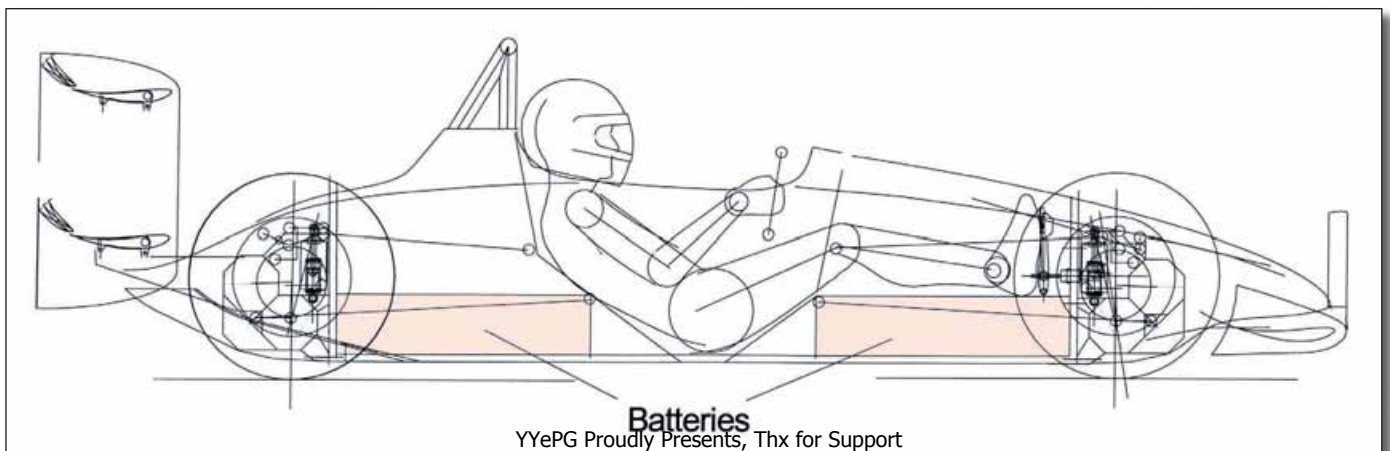
Right: Martin Ogilvie demonstrates 'WISPER' – Westfield In Structural Plastics Electrical Roadster

Below: layout of the planned 4WD electrically powered hillclimb single seater (M. Ogilvie)

Lightning. This is a 'spec series' for engineering colleges in the USA who obtain identical rolling chassis, around which students have to design and build an electric drive system. Races of 15 to 30 minutes duration, run at well-known racing venues and events, and speeds over 140mph are

attained. But the cars weigh around 2750lb (1257kg), of which the battery pack alone weighs 1200lb (545kg), and power outputs are up to around 150kW (equivalent to 201bhp). So weight is high and power is modest. Furthermore, longer duration races require pit stops in which the 1200lb lead-acid battery packs are replaced in around 30 seconds. This may be physically impressive, but is less so in terms of what it says about energy density – that after such a short duration and with modest power output, battery replacement is required. Consider too that

“PERFECT STARTS ARE POSSIBLE EVERY TIME”



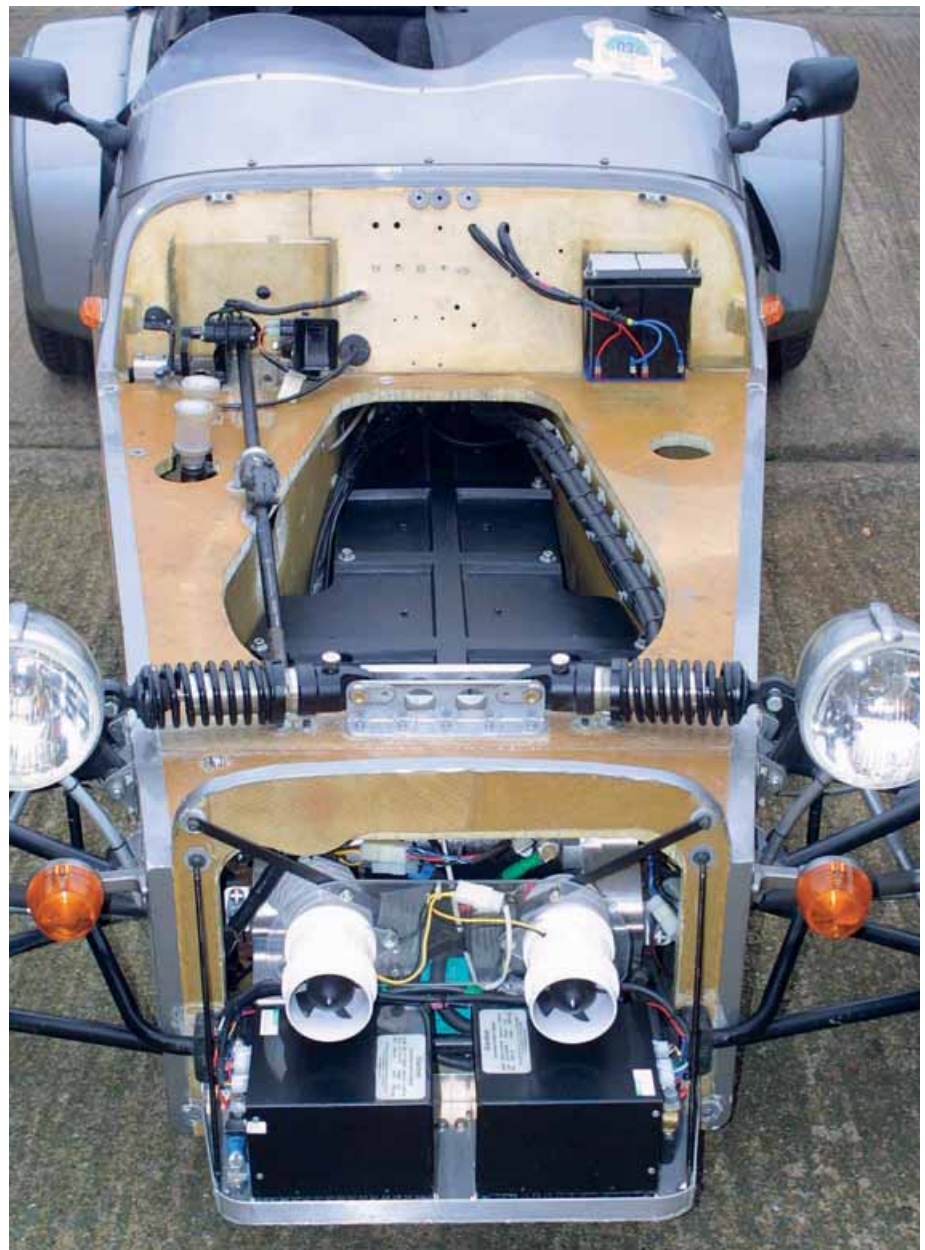
battery *charging* takes considerably longer than battery replacement, and compare that with a typical liquid fuel refuelling time. The level of technology means the power sources are just not comparable at present in this type of application.

However, one man is convinced he can make a competitive, high performance, electric racecar that can compete on the conventionally fuelled stage, and he has chosen a category traditionally free of technical restrictions in which to stake his claim – British Speed Hillclimbing. That man is Martin Ogilvie, former Team Lotus chief designer turned freelance who is responsible for (probably) the world's lightest hillclimb car – the 208kg, 1100cc Suzuki-powered PCD Saxon (profiled in V11N7) that went on to become a class record holder. Ogilvie's next hillclimber, the Arrows Hart V10-powered GWR Predator (profiled in V15N11), narrowly missed an outright win in the final event of its 2005 debut season.

Achievable target?

The Saxon's power-to-weight ratio approached 1000bhp/tonne and the Predator's was probably in excess of 1500bhp/tonne. Could electric power really be competitive among such machinery? Martin Ogilvie's stated aim, subject to acceptance from within the sport and construction to as yet unwritten safety regulations, is to produce a car capable of scoring in British Hillclimb Championship Top 12 Run Offs. These are the climactic, single-run, points scoring shootouts, two of which take place at every championship event, involving the fastest 12 registered contenders from the qualifying class runs. The front runners generally use single seaters weighing in the region of 450kg, usually powered by V6 or V8 engines of 2.5 to 4.0 litres capacity and producing between 500 and 650bhp. However, some of the lighter, smaller-engined cars of 2.0 litres, or even 1.6 litres capacity, are capable of qualifying and scoring in Top 12 Run Offs, especially on the slower courses where sure-footedness partially offsets power deficit over the 25 to 50 seconds run durations.

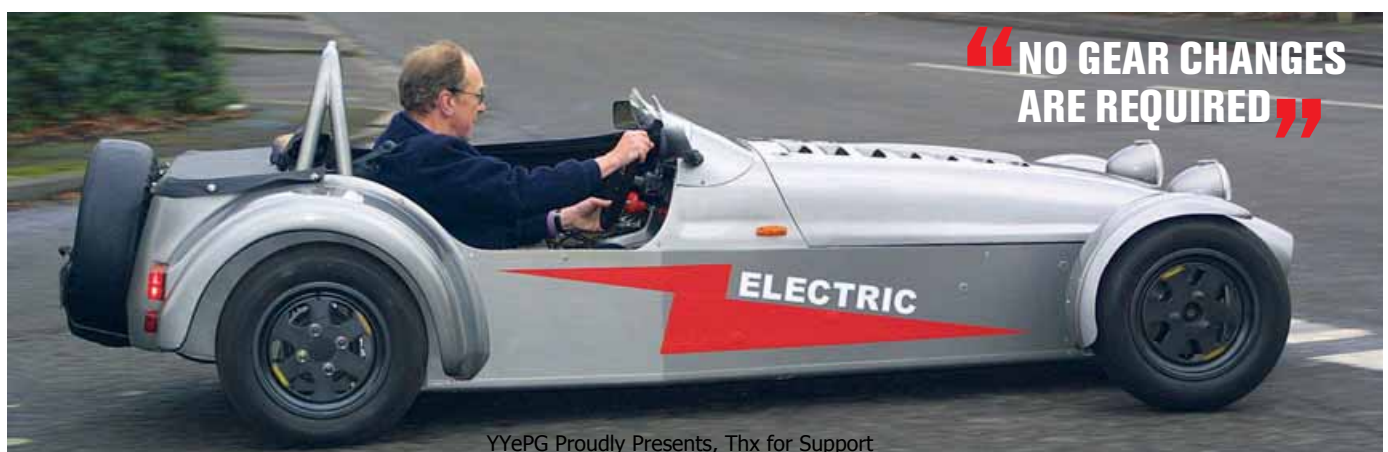
Those 1.6-litre cars may generate 250bhp at



Half of the 20 batteries are located in the former engine bay, the other half beneath the passenger space

best and weigh around 300kg. Ogilvie anticipates that an achievable target is a four-wheel-drive, battery-powered, single seater producing 200kW (approximately 268bhp) and weighing 300kg. 240kW (322bhp) may be available in due course.

So on this simple comparative basis, the sums stack up positively – the car should be competitive with and, with the right driver, capable of beating the best 1600cc cars. It should therefore be able to score British Hillclimb →



“NO GEAR CHANGES ARE REQUIRED”

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Electric racecar

Championship points. But such a comparison is too simplistic, as is evident when you look at the torque output delivered by electric motors, one of several advantages found with electric power.

On the plus side

Evaluating the pluses and minuses of electric power technology (pun intended) in the specific discipline of speed hillclimbing, a number of very positive benefits become apparent. Startline acceleration can be very consistent – the first 64ft of events is timed for interest, 2.0 seconds equal to 1g acceleration – and significant gains or losses can be made in this first part of a run. With electronic, programmable controllers feeding power to the motors, perfect standing starts are possible every time (and just ponder the other vehicle dynamics possibilities that programmable control of individual motors could offer).

Then, no gear changes are required. Formula Lightning cars utilise multi-speed transaxles in order to accelerate their substantial mass up to quite high racing speeds. A lightweight car powered by electric motors that can run to 8000rpm and which develop maximum (prodigious) torque at zero rpm, does not need multiple gears on tracks where maximum speeds are not all that high.

That torque 'curve' itself is highly significant, especially compared to the low torque, high-revving motorbike engines that propel the aforementioned 1600cc racecars. In essence, depending on the type being used, electric motors produce maximum torque at zero rpm and this remains fairly constant, tailing off at high rpm. Internal combustion engines produce peak torque at medium to high rpm levels, and have a relatively narrow range over which substantial, useable torque is developed – another reason



Above: twin controllers at the front look after the pair of fan-cooled front motors. Driveshaft to the driver's side front wheel is also visible

Right: some of the batteries revealed in situ M. Ogilvie

why gearing is required on conventional cars. As such, performance is delivered in a completely different way by electric motors, so comparing power-to-weight ratios doesn't enable sensible predictions of relative performance.

The transmission layout envisaged for the single-seater application, and which is currently



“ELECTRIC MOTORS PRODUCE MAXIMUM TORQUE AT ZERO RPM”



The speedometer and tachometer may be familiar, but the rest of the dash is filled with unique switchgear

being proven in Ogilvie's test car, is four-wheel drive. Previous manifestations of mechanical 4WD have appeared down the years in hillclimbing, and have demonstrated the expected traction gains in slippery conditions. However, inherent weight penalties have usually compromised dry weather performance and the sport has not yet seen a consistently and lastingly competitive 4WD proposition. In Ogilvie's electric application, the mass of the motors and 'transmission' is actually quite small, and the gains in tractive capability – and indeed weight distribution – ought to become very evident.

Ogilvie also maintains that build costs and operating costs will be, relative to conventionally powered outfits, pretty modest, and also points out the local environmental benefits. There will be no smelly emissions and there will be no noise. Die-hard purists may balk at these points, but surely it would be folly to not embrace these aspects and encourage the development of this 'neighbour friendly' motorsport technology? Of course the generation of the electric power used to charge the batteries might not be as



“‘NEIGHBOUR FRIENDLY’ MOTORSPORT TECHNOLOGY”

'overdriving' scenario that was being developed on the WISPER, so it was a case of having to generate relevant knowledge. Various battery types were tried and tested, and the ingenious motor packs were developed.

The batteries are presently lead-acid items from Hawker, dimensionally similar to the well-known Varley Red Top 30, and weighing approximately 9kg apiece. Twenty of these amount to 200kg, including high current capacity cabling. The motor packs combine a pair of series wound DC motors back-to-back in machined aluminium end casings. These incorporate a pair of reduction gears on each end to step down the drive from the motors and transfer it at appropriate wheel rpm to the output couplings, which are on the same axle line, so to speak, on each end. One motor drives one coupling, so each pack drives two wheels, and there is a motor pack at each end of the car. As might be expected of one who worked at Team Lotus during the Colin Chapman era, Ogilvie has designed the motor casings to fulfil a further task – they can be stressed to carry suspension mountings.

Presently the WISPER weighs around 550kg and its four fan-cooled DC motors, nominally rated at 12kW each, are pushed to output around 37.5kW apiece, producing a total of 150kW peak power (201bhp), enough to endow sub-5 second 0 to 60mph acceleration and top speed approaching 100mph. Your writer was privileged to sample the car and can report that the acceleration was not only brisk, with no wheelspin (or noise...) whatsoever, but also *absolutely* seamless, given that no gear changing is required. The →



Above: the front motor pack resides ahead of the batteries, and drives out to the front wheels

Left: the ingenious motor packs combine a pair of motors which each drive one of the two output couplings via reduction gears
(M. Ogilvie)

environmentally friendly as it could be, but getting that right is the responsibility of national governments. That said, the website of the Electric Auto Association (www.eaaev.org) maintains that electric vehicles can be up to 97 per cent cleaner than comparable petrol powered cars, including the pollution produced during power generation (although the figure depends on the mix of energy sources used for that power generation). These are sobering thoughts.

WISPER development

Ogilvie's composite Westfield (he designed the carbon version of that marque's well known road and track car) is known as the WISP (Westfield In Structural Plastics), and this very appropriately has become WISPER, the ER suffix standing for Electric Roadster. With this car he has been testing and developing motors, controllers and drivetrain for over two years now, self funding virtually the entire project to date. While researching electric motors Ogilvie came across the Stonehouse, Gloucestershire-based company Gravitron, and began discussions with technical director Morgan Nicholas. Gravitron's business portfolio covers a range of electric-powered vehicles including electric racing karts, and its

expertise encompasses battery technology, motors, controllers, data acquisition and much else that was relevant to Ogilvie's project. The ideal technical partner had been found.

The WISPER is 4WD now but initially was two-wheel drive, while preliminary data on motors, controllers and batteries was gathered. It seems that available data from battery and motor manufacturers did not cater for the kind of

Specification

	'WISPER' 4WD	'WISPER+' 4WD	Single seater 4WD
Weight	550kg	450kg	300kg
Power	150kW	150kW	200+kW
Max speed	95mph	95mph	120mph
0-60mph	4.9secs	4.1secs	2.2secs
64 foot time	2.2secs	2.0secs	1.5secs
Batteries	20 x Pb-A	10 x Pb-A + 'supercapacitors'	Li ion + 'supercapacitors'
Battery voltage	60V	60V	60V or 80V
Battery current	0 – 900A	0 – 900A	0 – 900A/700A
Motors	4 x DC, 12kW nominal, overdriven to 37.5kW peak output	4 x DC, 12kW nominal, overdriven to 37.5kW peak output	4 x AC, 200+kW peak
Transmission	4WD, single reduction gear per motor	4WD, single reduction gear per motor	4WD, single reduction gear per motor, active motor control

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THE BASICS OF BATTERY POWER

A glimpse at the basics of electric vehicles helps us understand the development routes in this project. The principle is simple – batteries supply the energy and electric motors drive the wheels, either directly or indirectly. In between the batteries and the motor(s), a controller (or controllers) matches supply to demand. In some applications a single motor may connect to a conventional gearbox and to a final drive unit for front or rear-wheel drive. Others may have two or four motors directly driving the wheels, perhaps through reduction gears.

Motors may either be DC or AC. DC motors offer simpler installations, but various types are available, which offer different characteristics.

Typically, a 'series wound' DC motor is used, which offers very high torque over a short duty cycle – a car's starter motor is a good example of this type. It is also possible to 'overdrive' such motors for a short time to attain several times their rated power output. AC motors offer somewhat different characteristics and some potential

advantages, as discussed in the main text.

The job of the controller(s) is to take power from the batteries and supply it to the motor(s). The throttle pedal connects to one or more rotary potentiometers that provide a signal to the controller(s) to enable it (them) to determine how much power to deliver to the motor(s). Essentially, the controller is a switch that pulses at high frequency, so that at full throttle the controller supplies all of the of the voltage available to the motor(s). But, say, at 50 per cent throttle it 'chops' the voltage so that 50 per cent power is delivered. The controller's electronics enable fully variable switching so that anywhere from zero to 100 per cent of maximum voltage may be delivered, as required.

Batteries tend to be the well-known high capacity lead-acid (Pb-A) type which, at a nominal 12V apiece, can require a number of batteries to be carried to achieve the desired voltage and capacity. Naturally this represents considerable mass.

Other battery types in use include nickel-metal hydride (NiMh) and lithium (Li) ion. Choice is down to the capacity required, the discharge rate

required, weight and cost. For example, suitable Pb-A batteries are internally more robust than regular automotive engine cranking batteries, are relatively cheap and offer rapid discharge rates (for high power generation) thanks to low internal resistance, but they are heavy. Li-ion batteries on the other hand were designed for low power output over long durations, but are lighter and more expensive, although the latest Li-ion battery technology enables fast discharge rates coupled to low weight, which might be an attractive proposition for motorsport use.

The internal resistance of motors and cables is a source of so-called 'I²R' efficiency losses, where **I = current and R = resistance**. From school physics we recall that **total efficiency = power input (watts = volts × amps) – losses (I²R)**.

This tells us that, even if the internal resistance of a motor is low, or the resistance of the cables is low, the very high currents (approaching 1000 amps) involved cause substantial power losses. The use of low resistance cabling is therefore crucial.

compact, lightweight and highly efficient controllers have been developed and programmed by Gravitron. They 'chop' the power at 15kHz in response to the signals from four separate potentiometers actuated by the 'throttle' pedal (better control was apparently found with separate throttle potentiometers).

Morgan Nicholas remarked that 'Martin's application is unique in that he wants the maximum acceleration available in what amounts to fourth gear! The lack of wheelspin is partly down to the [tall] gearing but also the programming of the controllers. There are also individual wheel speed sensors that will allow full traction control. And it will also be possible to get the four controllers to talk to each other and take in other sensor data, as well as wheel speeds, so we can actively distribute power around the car.' To which Martin Ogilvie added, 'the unique properties of electric motors and electronic control mean that almost limitless torque split variations to the four wheels can be achieved to suit any cornering and handling situation. Even lifting a wheel does not dissipate power since zero load draws zero current. Steering angle,

“INDIVIDUAL WHEEL SPEED SENSORS WILL ALLOW FULL TRACTION CONTROL”



Martin Ogilvie and Morgan at the latter's Gravitron workshop in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

spring deflection, g-loadings and speed inputs can all be programmed in to actively distribute power around the car, a task that requires complex hydraulic and electro-mechanical systems with traditional 'active torque split'.

Development of a racecar

But, for all its impressive performance, the WISPER is just a test mule. The leap to 200-kW and 300kg requires development on the motor and 'fuel source' fronts, as well as the building of a lightweight, composite racecar chassis. A lightweight road-going sportscar option also exists but it is clear where Ogilvie's preference lies. With his track record in making featherweight racecars, the most desirable and logical development route is the single seater option. So given the proven ability to make the requisite chassis and mechanical components, there are three key powertrain development steps to less weight, more power, and more controllability.

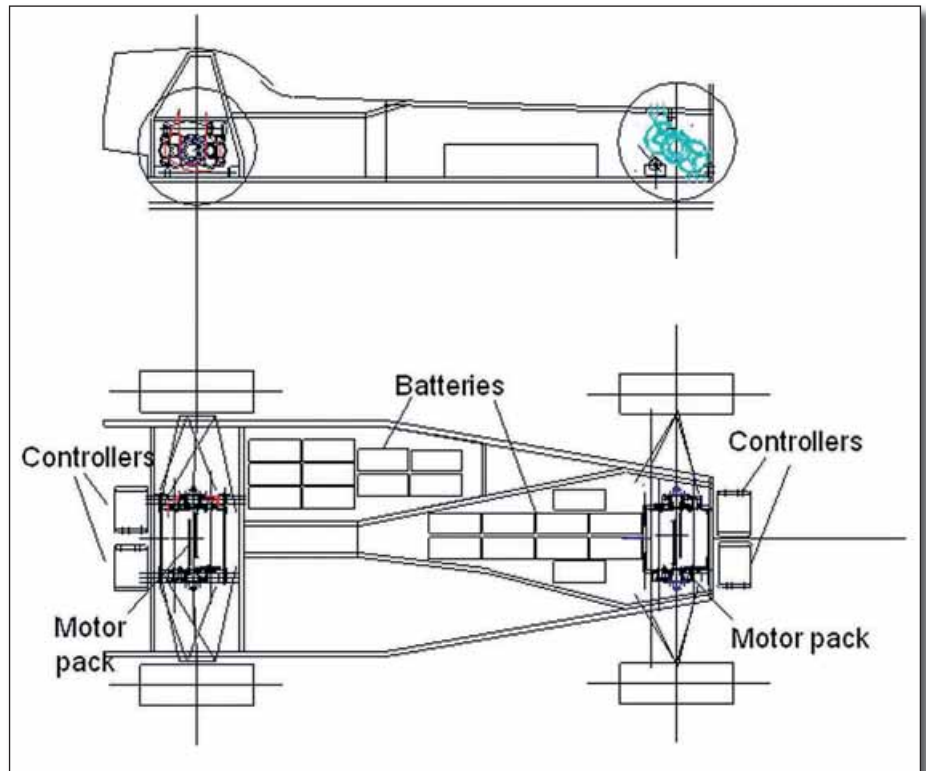
The first weight reduction step will probably be trialled on the WISPER, and involves replacing half the batteries with 'supercapacitors'. For →

those unfamiliar with these components, 'supercaps' store their electrical energy as a static charge, like conventional low power capacitors, but have capacitance values in the range 10 to 200 Farads at 100 volts, compared to 20 micro Farads to 2 Farads at 5.5 to 6.3 volts. Supercaps have pros and cons, but the beneficial features here include high power and high power density (ie low weight for the power stored), very fast charge and discharge rates thanks to low internal resistance, and no internal electrochemical reaction, which gives a very long cycle life. As such, supercaps will be able to provide the requisite short bursts of high power that this project requires, as well as saving considerable weight and not need replacing for years. Ogilvie has estimated a reduction of 100kg for the same power output in the 'WISPER+', which should see 0-60mph times down to near four seconds. And with their rapid charge rates, supercaps also offer regenerative braking potential. At writing time, Gravitron was negotiating for a set of supercaps to test.

“THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PLAN IS TO CONVERT TO AC MOTORS”

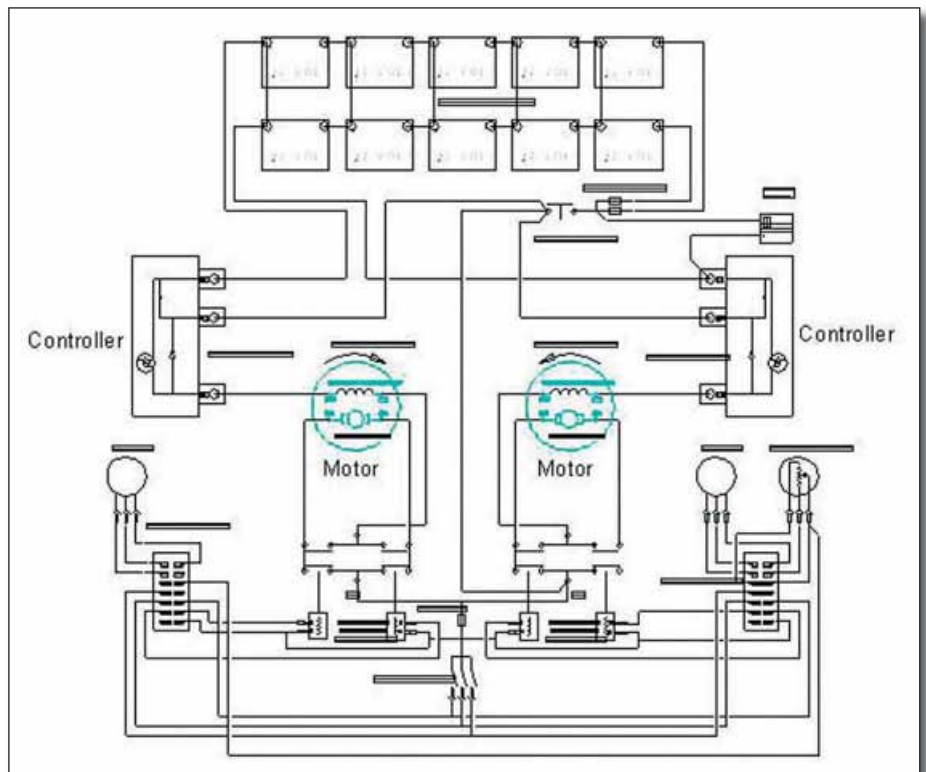
Shedding further weight will necessitate a new type of battery. As mentioned in the sidebar, Li-ion batteries offer weight savings, and the latest lithium polymer batteries are apparently capable of the high discharge rates required, while still offering significantly lower mass than Pb-A batteries. Indeed, it has been reported that Li-ion batteries have powered cars in the electric classes at the Pikes Peak hillclimb. Ogilvie has estimated that a further 50kg could be shed using these batteries, although initial cost is higher. Batteries need sourcing and testing to derive the requisite data for short 30 to 40 second bursts.

The final phase of the plan is to convert to AC motors. Control of AC motors is apparently better, offering high torque at start up and fully active torque control throughout a motor's range. And with a flatter torque spread available – there isn't the same drop off in torque at higher rpm that arises with DC motors, giving more 'power under the curve.' Because of better efficiency, especially if run at higher voltage, more absolute power should also be available. Further, should it prove necessary, it is possible to utilise liquid cooling. This motor technology is basically available off the shelf, although Morgan Nicholas anticipates that modifications to extract high power may be required, and Martin Ogilvie will certainly be keen to remove any surplus weight.



Above: schematic layout of the WISPER (M. Ogilvie)

Below: electrical systems schematic of the WISPER (M. Ogilvie)



So the requisite technology either awaits or, with a relatively modest amount of project-specific development, could easily be applied. And the numbers and characteristics already available indicate the likelihood of success is very high. Ogilvie and Gravitron have taken the development of the test mule as far as they can without further funding. But, as Martin Ogilvie

points out, 'this is an opportunity for some highly innovative media exposure for so-called 'green power' and it is intended to bring other backers on board to enable the final, cost-effective vehicle to be realised within the next 12 months.' Racecar Engineering hopes to be able to report soon on the 'ultimate electric racecar' in the carbon, so to speak...

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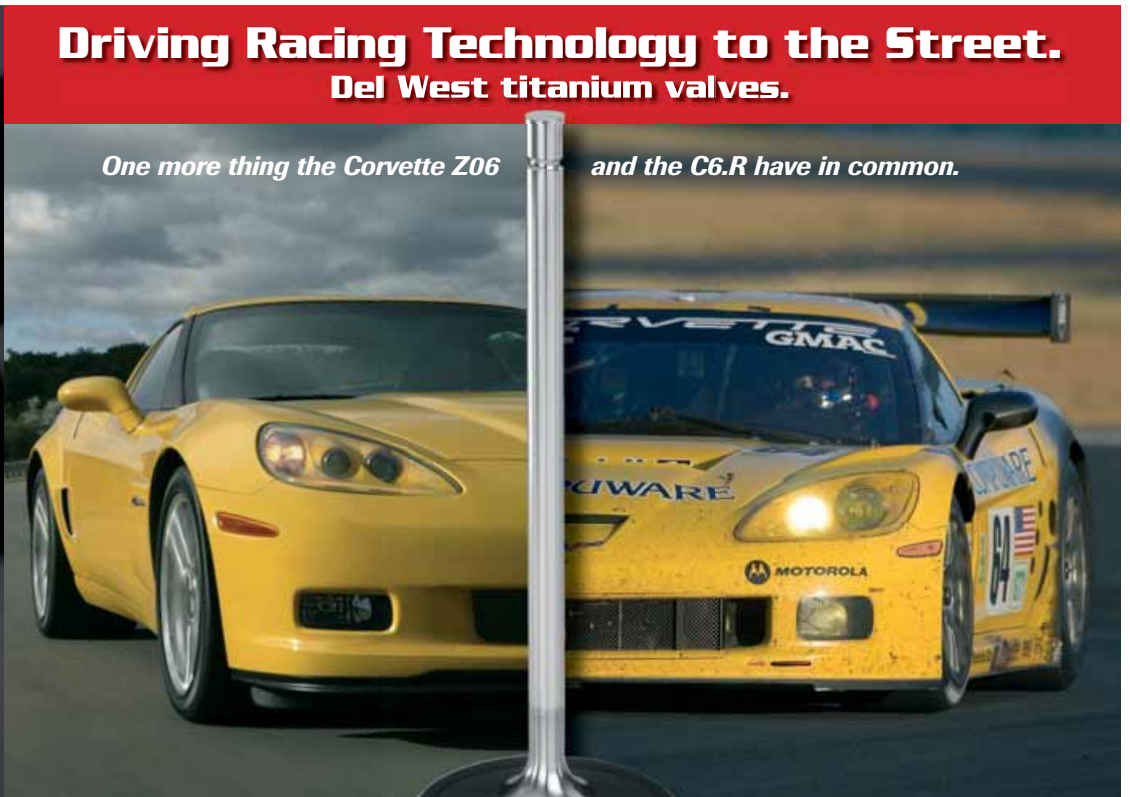
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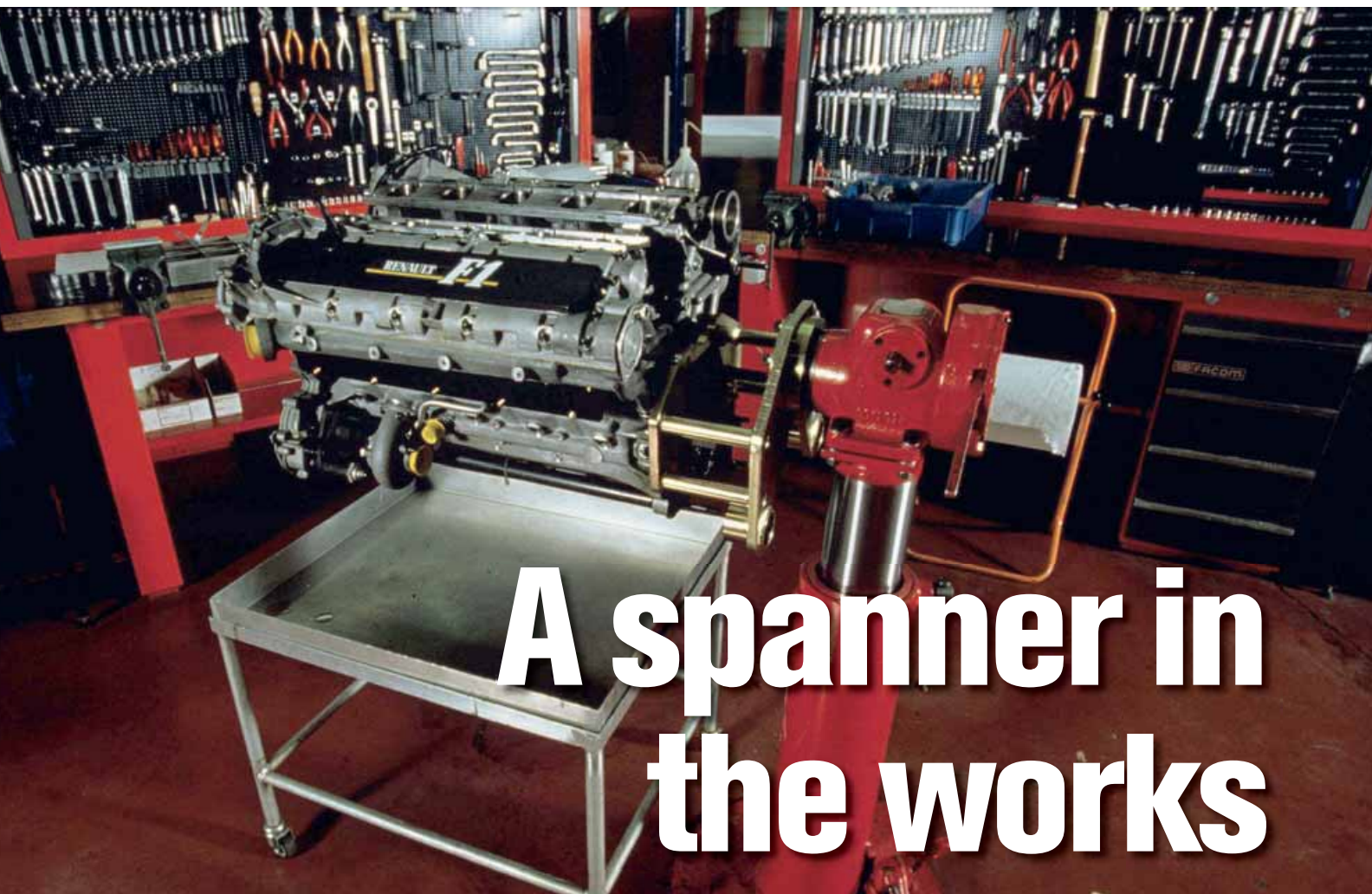
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A spanner in the works

Time is money, and time spent searching for mislaid tools is wasted money, but that looks set to change forever

Words | Ian Wagstaff

It is becoming increasingly common that the aerospace industry learns from the automotive industry or motorsport world, and vice versa. Coplan Ltd's new, patented ITC (Intelligent Tool Control) is an example of this phenomenon. A particularly simple answer to an important question it also benefits from some of the skills used to develop the latest in automotive transmissions.

Control of where tools are, or should be, in the tool box is a significant matter – be it in the workshop or out at the racetrack or in a rally service area. It is even more crucial in the aerospace industry. Coplan's sales director, Terry Fryer, recalls being shown two F15 fighters at the Tindall air force base in Florida. 'Both were in pieces looking for lost tools. The cost attributed to finding those tools was astronomical.' The problem of FOD (foreign object damage) is obviously taken very seriously in the aviation

sector and this was costing the US tax payer a lot of money. An electronic tracking system would, says Fryer, solve a huge proportion of the problems associated with mislaid tools and tool accountability.

One solution to the problem could be to use an RF tagging system. However, this would not be ideal as a tag would have to be manufactured into every tool and, as Fryer asks, how do you tag a

1.5mm Allen key? Coplan's answer has been ITC, a non-obtrusive system whereby every tool from a PIN locked cabinet can be computer tracked and logged at all times, without the use of RF tags or bar codes.

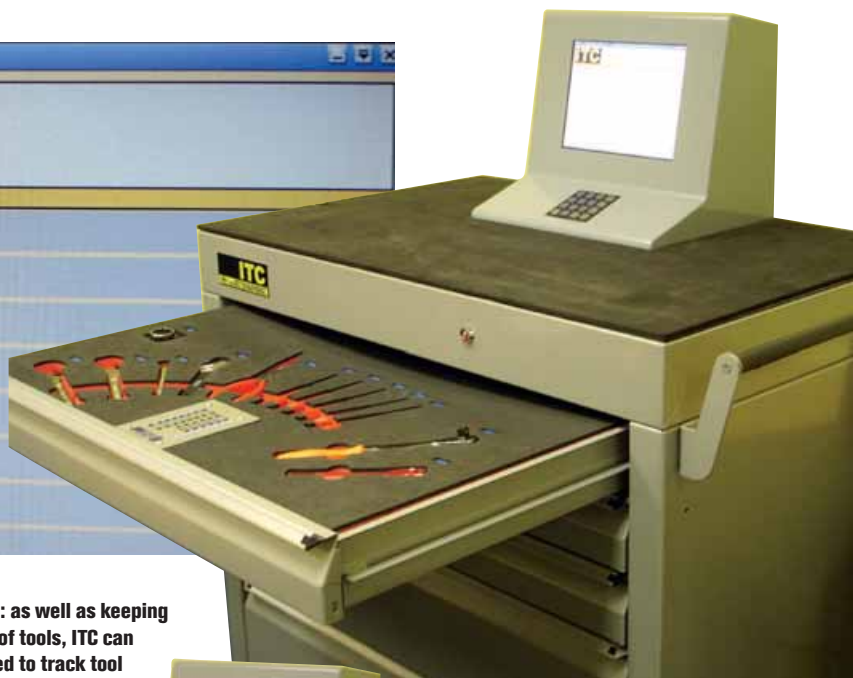
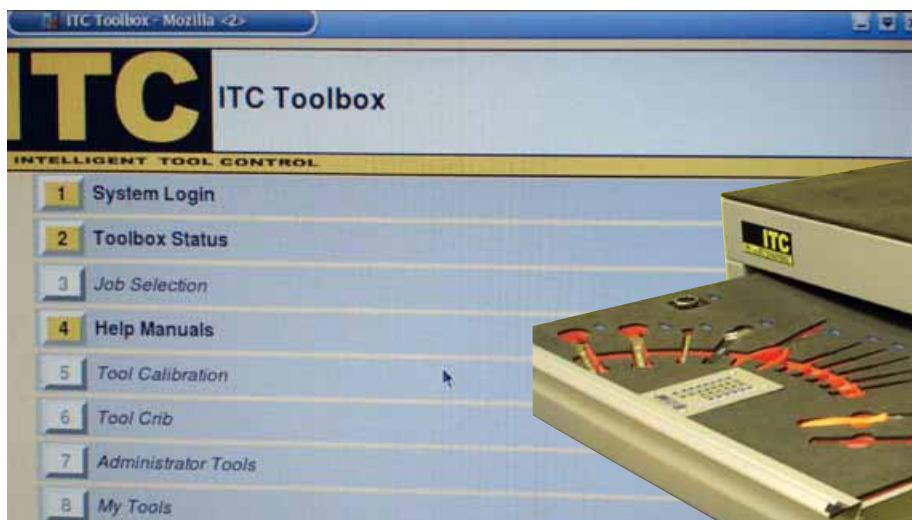
The motorsport connection

Currently, the USAF uses shadow foam in its tool boxes because nobody has previously been able to come up with a reliable electronic tracking system. 'This,' says Fryer, 'is where ITC steps into the arena.' Two neighbouring UK companies, Coplan and Zeroshift – the firm currently developing the seamless shift gearbox featured in Racecar Engineering V15N6 – have brought together the two disciplines of tool control foam and electronics to develop this system.

The concept starts with a standard tool cabinet (Coplan sources tailor-made cabinets from a UK supplier). There are a number of ways in which

“SIGNIFICANT
ADVANTAGES
FROM AN
INVENTORY
CONTROL
APPROACH”

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Above: as well as keeping track of tools, ITC can be used to track tool usage, replacement or calibration needs and to assist in tool selection

access to the cabinet can be gained: PIN code, employee swipe card or finger print. Coplan currently chooses PIN code and swipe card. This can be further extended to controlling exactly which drawers can be opened. This is probably more important in the aerospace sector where, for example, a junior airman might only have limited access to the 'box as there may be diagnostic equipment in the 'box that he is not trained to use.

As the technician takes or replaces the required tools, the information is logged via wired LAN, wireless means to a custom supplied laptop or on board data storage.

Originally the system featured magnetic sensors but Fryer points to the fact that plastic hand tools place an obvious limitation on such sensors. The sensors used in ITC are instead optical, looking for a light rather than a magnetic signature. Two optic devices, one of them an LED and the other a phototransistor, are used. The LED emits a light which, when reflected onto the phototransistor side of the circuit, will then emit a current within the circuitry which is detected as information.

The electronics, 'the bright bit', as Fryer puts it, are supplied by Zeroshift. Coplan did try two suppliers before settling on its Milton Keynes neighbour, despite the fact that Roy King is a director of both companies. King, who started Coplan with his father about 18 years ago, gave Zeroshift the seed corn money to get inventor Bill Martin's innovative idea off the ground some three years back. The skill set used by →



“ITC CAN TRACK WHEN AND WHICH TOOLS NEED CALIBRATING”

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Intelligent tool control

Zeroshift to control its transmission system lends itself nicely to ITC. 'This is water off a duck's back to these guys,' says Fryer.

Victor Ilunga, Zeroshift's controls manager, explains: 'There is a microprocessor in both the ITC and Zeroshift technology, but that is where the similarity ends. In the gearboxes we are controlling moving parts, whereas in ITC we are not. We are detecting the presence or the absence of a tool in ITC, which is completely different to what we are doing in the gearboxes.' However, the expertise gained in working in the Zeroshift technology 'puts us in a better position to do things like ITC.'

'It is about having the skills to develop something that is fit for purpose and is specifically designed for volume production,' says Bill Martin. 'Both in Zeroshift technology, as well as ITC, we have sensors, which are sending information back to the microprocessors. Then we make decisions at the processor level, as to what the application of that information should be.'

The motorsport application

Applying ITC to the motorsport market might offer significant advantages when considered from an inventory control approach. For example, how useful would it be to know how long a particular component has been used in anger? If the part is controlled within an ITC system and this information is then linked to the vehicle's telemetry system, then you will know how long it has been in use.

Coplan is more than just the company that machines the foam. One of the company's strengths is that it is said to be good at supplying a finished solution. 'We need to turn up with a truck, wheel this off and plug it in. Customers do not want to have to buy the tool box, the tool control foam and the tools from separate suppliers,' says Fryer.



Optican sensors were chosen for the tracking devices while PIN codes and swipe cards control access

ITC's obvious benefit is in that it knows just where each tool is and how long it has been out for, information that can be useful to a supervisor carrying out a quick tool box status check. This can be used to ensure that a technician has not

“A MENU COULD BE SET FOR JOB SELECTION AND FOR HELP MANUALS”

left the premises before returning all the tools they have been using. One requirement has been a user-friendly colour LED panel, signalling status and prompting necessary actions to and from the user. For instance, if an LED glows red there is obviously a problem, if it glows amber there is an

action needed from the user. The 'tool missing' LED glowing red must trigger a search immediately, and management are made aware. Green obviously means that all the tools are in place. A lost tool is a serious issue. If a technician goes home having not replaced a tool they will be in serious trouble, so procedures need to be in place to prevent this happening. In the bedlam of a rally servicing area it will now be possible to see what is missing at a glance without losing time.

However, there is more to ITC than the simple location of a tool. Another major concern is the tracking of tools that need to be taught, such as torque wrenches requiring calibration. ITC can track when and which tools need calibrating.

Other kinds of information can be accessed, including vendor, quality and usage information. For example, a kit of tools may contain 140 pieces. After a period of 12 months the kit can be interrogated to find out exactly how many have been used. It could also bring up the fact that a particular item is constantly failing. Examination of its usage could identify the reason why. 'You only really need to know the information when something has gone wrong,' says Fryer. However, a menu could also be set on the computer for job selection and for help manuals.

'The military are the people who drive this kind of technology,' says Fryer, and this is backed up by Coplan already having strong interest in the ITC product from North America's four largest defence companies – Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northolt Grumman and the USAF. It is looking to make the first deliveries of the ITC system this spring. The company says the product will be rugged so that it can be used in all weather conditions and will be flexible in that it can be integrated into any database or tool management system. No tool need ever be lost again.

Boxes of tricks

When Coplan first invested in Zeroshift, the gearbox company was focused on a simple mechanical shift system. However, in developing the concept, it has acquired a range of skills in electronics and control systems. So, when Coplan wanted to develop its Intelligent Tool Control it was pleased to find the necessary capability within its own group. This is not the only outlet Zeroshift is seeking for its broader abilities and expects outlets for its technologies.



Bill Martin of Zeroshift and Coplan's Roy King

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C'est la Vee!

Formula Vees are often derided as being slow and ugly, but their continued popularity says otherwise. **Racecar** looks at the world's most prolific racing class

Words	Sam Collins; Mike Pye
Photos	Bill Bonow; Isadora Poggi

Many see Formula BMW as an innovative new racing series and the first rung on the proverbial ladder to grand prix racing. Introduced a few years ago, it consists of a number of national championships in various countries run to the same regulations. Once a year the top drivers from each championship meet somewhere and have a world final (last year it was held in Dubai). True, it's a great concept and has the potential to launch the careers of a few drivers, but it's certainly not a new idea.

Whilst the idea of single-seater racecars is hardly the first thing that jumps to mind when you mention the VW Beetle, the humble people's car's racing pedigree stretches back further than you

might think. All the way back to 1959 in fact, and to a Florida-based businessman called Hubert Brundage. Brundage owned a hardware shop and was participating in sports car races with a car he'd built himself using mainly VW Beetle components. In 1952 he finished 11th at the Sebring 12 hours in his single seater 'special', which brought him to the attention of one Wil van de Kamp of Volkswagen AG. So impressed was the

**“POSSIBLY THE
WORLD'S FIRST
CONTROL
FORMULA”**

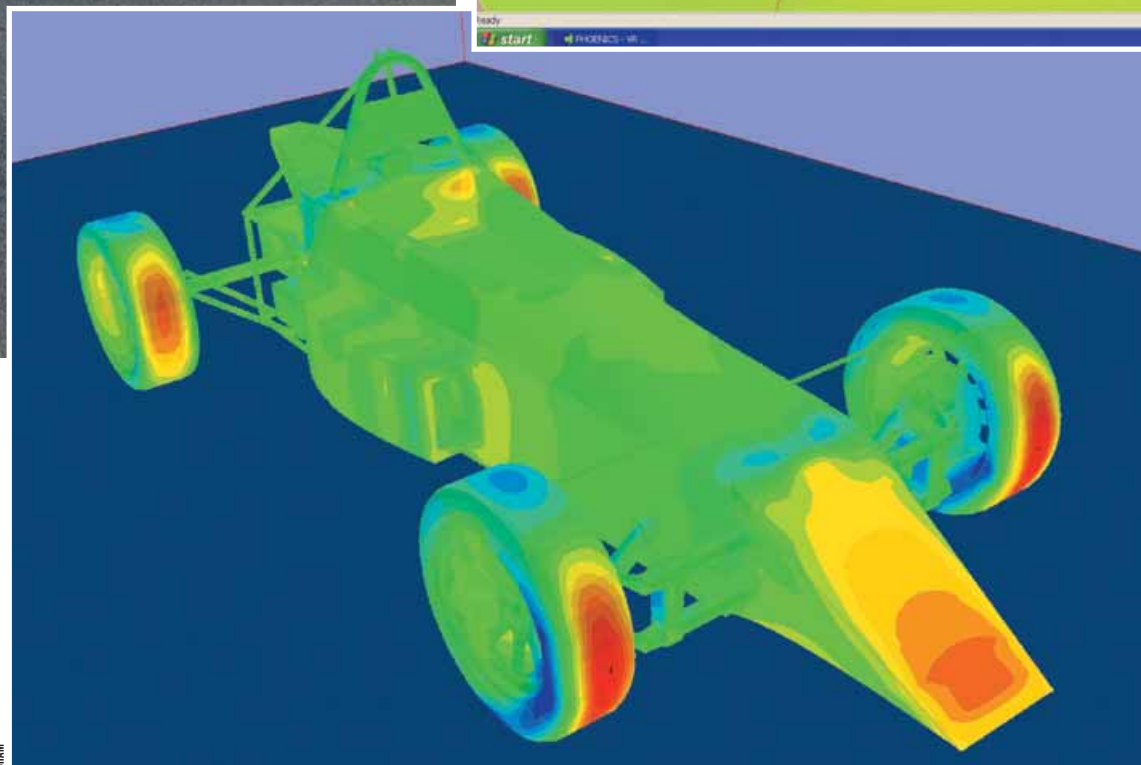
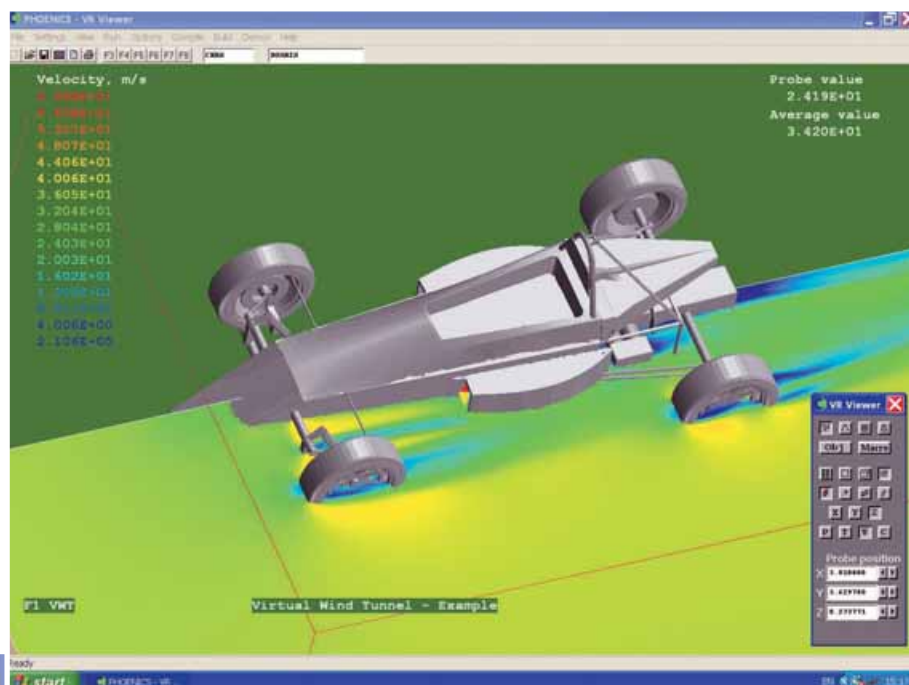
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man from VW with Brundage's performance, he offered him a VW dealership, which went on to become Brundage Motors Inc – the distributor for Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, and later the well known Porsche dealership, Brumos, in the southern states of America. A visit in the early '60s to Italy brought him into contact with Enrico Nardi – the man behind the Nardi steering wheel brand. Nardi was also a racecar engineer and was familiar with the Volkswagen so Brundage commissioned him to build a VW based, single-seater racecar. This aluminium-bodied car was the first ever Formula Vee racer.

The idea caught on and, by the early 1960s, other manufacturers saw the opportunity for a cheap, accessible racecar based on the proven



UK-spec Formula Vees are amongst the most developed in the world. Pictured here is the latest AHS and a re-worked GAC at Snetterton



Formula Vee is reliant on aerodynamics to gain an advantage but serious development work is rare. British firm CHAM did some work on a Sheane-shaped car which highlighted a few clear problem areas, such as the obvious flow separation just behind the nose

CHAM

CHAM

mechanics of the Beetle. The first to manufacture cars in numbers was Formcar (short for formula racing car) – a concern headed up by George Smith and Bill Duckworth and based in Orlando, Florida. The regulations at one point even stated that all cars must be Formcars built to an identical spec, making the series quite probably the world's first control formula, though that idea didn't last.

A second company, Beach, followed and, in 1963, the Formula Vee race series was officially recognised by the Sports Car Club of America.

While Beetles had been competing successfully in rallying, trials, autocross and circuit racing in the UK, Ireland and Europe since the early '50s, they were always handicapped on tarmac circuits by their high centre of gravity and swing axle rear

“IT'S POPULAR BECAUSE IT'S CHEAP AND FUN”

suspension, but the tuning potential of both the engine and chassis was already well established. The answer to really unleashing the handling capability of the simple VW suspension design, however, lay in ridding the car of its ungainly bodysell and moving all the weight much closer to ground level. And the only way to do this effectively was to scrap the VW floorpan as well, replacing it with a basic but rigid tube chassis,

with coilover rear dampers and 'hairpin' trailing arms in place of the standard spring plates and a centralised driving and steering position. At around 375kg, even with a stock 1200cc Beetle engine, gearbox and drum brakes this made for a fun, fast and competitive racecar.

Chassis design was effectively free and aerodynamics were restricted. The final paragraph in the 1963 regulations read, 'it is by no means intended that these specifications should provide a proving ground for engineering ingenuity and experimentation... Any interpretation of these specifications should be made within this spirit.' In short, this was to be a low cost, control formula for enthusiasts to compete upon equal terms. →

Formula Vee rear suspension

'Any suspension will work if you don't let it,' or so Colin Chapman is reputed to have said. In the case of Formula Vee it's a case of making the best of a bad job. At the front the parallel trailing arm geometry is reasonably benign, but the rear has vices that have caused decades of head scratching for Vee racers.

Its worst crime is a tendency to jack up. That is when the short swing axle starts to ride up over the contact patch lifting the rear of the car and pushing the outer wheel into extreme positive camber. All suspensions have a jacking element but the problems occur when it exceeds the vertical loading and the roll force. This usually happens under braking when

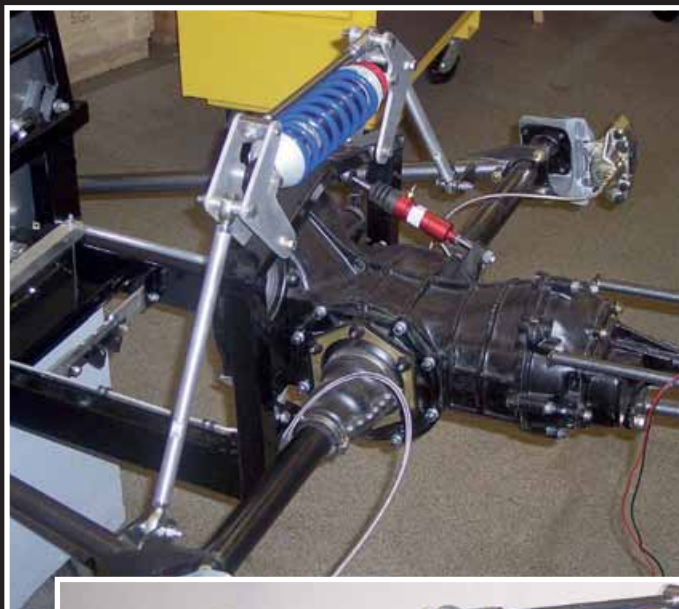
weight is transferred to the front from the back allowing the rear end to rise, taking the roll centre up with it, increasing the jacking moment and reducing the roll moment.

Volkswagen's rear suspension is particularly susceptible to this, particularly in a Formula Vee with its lower centre of gravity and it needs to be avoided at all costs if the handling is not to become demonic.

The simplest solution is a droop limiter (a device marketed since the '60s as a 'camber compensator') – a transverse spring that restrains the swing axles if they start to drop too far below horizontal. A more sophisticated alternative is a Z bar (introduced by VW on its 1500cc Beetle models in 1967), which works

like an anti-roll bar in reverse, or as a roll promoter. When the outside wheel starts jacking, this device lifts the inside wheel transferring more weight to the outside suspension and resisting the jacking forces.

An even more ingenious solution is the system termed zero roll. This has become very popular among US Vee racers, being fitted to around 99 per cent of cars built in the last 25 years. As can be seen from the picture, connecting the tops of the two sides of the suspension is a droop limiter that can compress but not extend and, as such, prevents the driveshafts drooping, in turn preventing jacking. However, if fitted to conventional suspension, this zero droop configuration would experience rapid weight transfer on the track, resulting in savage and unpredictable handling. To prevent this, the system is designed without any roll stiffness at all, achieved by



US-specification 'zero roll' cars use a clever rear suspension layout with a single, inboard, push-rod activated damper and a droop limiter

“ITS WORST CRIME IS A TENDENCY TO JACK UP”

having a single spring damper unit connecting the two sides of the rear suspension as the only springing medium. It takes the squat and two-wheel bump loads but allows the chassis to roll freely, ensuring the rear wheels are always firmly planted on the road with equal loads. It is good for traction but the only thing that stops it falling over is the roll stiffness of the springs and anti-roll bars on the front end. Consequently, the car can be described as a tricycle as it corners on three wheels, the two rears and the outside front.

Curiously, chassis stiffness on these cars has become an irrelevance to the handling and, as can be seen, the rear part of the chassis is reduced to a pair of tubes with no attempt to create a triangulated structure. CA-W



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Rise and fall

Soon the series was being replicated around the world – Finland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Britain and Ireland all ran Vee to roughly the same rules. And as a result of the series' early success, other manufacturers joined the fray, including Porsche with the Salzburg-built Austros, which went on to become class leaders in the field.

Eventually, Volkswagen's interest turned to water-cooled cars and it dropped its support of Formula Vee, which was increasingly seen as a slow, unreliable, oil-spilling anachronism of a racing series with ugly and outdated cars. Formula Ford was now the stepping stone to stardom and Vee grids were rapidly dwindling.

By the mid-1980s the global series had diversified, many switching to later engines from within the Beetle range, the most popular being the later 1192cc and 1584cc variants in various degrees of tune, though some had even turned to using water-cooled engines from VW's range. Grids in Britain at least were at a critical level, regularly attracting only around 12 entrants for each event. It was apparently the end of the road for these funny little racecars.

But last year the 750 Motor Club Formula Vee championship had more point scoring competitors in it than any other open-wheel series in Britain, and sometimes as many as 60 entries for one meeting. Ireland, South Africa and Australia are buoyant again, too, making Vee one of the world's biggest racing classes. So what happened? 'Scarab, a company founded by Stuart Rolt, started making cars again,' explains former British National Coal Board Museum curator and

Formula Vee world engine specifications

UK	1300cc air cooled VW, full race engines
Ireland	1600cc air cooled VW, mildly tuned
Australia	1200 and 1600cc air cooled VW
USA (Formula First)	1600cc air cooled VW
New Zealand (Formula First)	1200cc air cooled VW
South Africa	1400cc water cooled VW
Canada	1200cc air cooled VW

Vee stalwart Andy Storer. 'There had previously been no new cars on the market, so everyone had old nails. Myself and others bought these cars and started hiring them out.' The rental car scheme, which is still very much active with other teams,

but re-branded themselves as Formula First for marketing reasons.

Formula Vee today

Today, Vee is growing rapidly again, with a large number of manufacturers producing cars and many of them renting out works cars to new competitors. 'It's popular because it's cheap and fun,' explains Alan Harding, owner of one of the biggest Vee teams in the world – AHS. 'All a driver needs to do is pay around £500 per meeting to a team for usage of a car. For that he gets everything: fuel, tyres, mechanics and engineers, the full works team. On top of the rental fee he has to pay the club his entry fee and that's it.'

Of course it's cheaper for a competitor to run his own car in true club racing style, and some do, but in this age of inflated land prices and long hours at work not everyone has the time, energy and know-how to do it. That doesn't stop people owning their own cars though and a number of teams offer owner/driver packages. 'For around £250 per event we transport the car from our factory to the track, run it for the driver, →

“ONE OF THE LAST BASTIONS OF TECHNOLOGICAL FREE THINKING IN MOTORSPORT”

along with some subtle rule changes, slowly revitalised the series. A control tyre deal was struck with Dunlop in the UK, which has lasted 25 years, and gearboxes had to be standard VW units with fixed ratios.

Outside of the UK other series had also quietly kept going, changing their rules to the demands of the situation, whilst others fell by the wayside. The US and New Zealand series continued, too,



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Under the skin of a Formula Vee, here a US-spec Evo chassis. Note the lack of triangulation. Unusually for Formula Vee, the US series uses slick tyres

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maintain and look after it. We can even offer storage for it, at a cost,' reveals Harding.

Vee is also one of the last bastions of technological free thinking and engineering in motorsport. Beyond the control components pretty much anything goes within (and sometimes under) the weight limit. Most chassis are still steel spaceframes, but aluminium and even carbon monocoques have been experimented with – the latter being banned on safety grounds. Organisers could not determine whether the tubs were sound after accidents at a reasonable cost, and amateur maintenance was not easy.

This situation could be seen as a dark cloud over the long-term prosperity of the current glut of one-make racecars. What will happen to Formula BMW, for example, when the Munich marque decides to do something different? It certainly doesn't appear to have the potential to last as long as Vee has. And while Vee may seem like motorsport engineering's lost world, where prehistoric creations roam freely, remember that the VW Beetle – the world's best selling car – only officially went out of production a couple of years ago, so parts are still plentiful and cheap.

In Vee today there are countless manufacturers building cars, and each year more new cars come onto the market, many of them pushing the rules and discovering new avenues to research. What sets Vee aside is that much conventional racecar



Many Vee manufacturers employ high noses and a splitter to try and create an aerodynamic gain, though little wind tunnel research has been done to justify this. Pictured is a South African-built Lantis chassis

know-how does not apply – the Beetle-derived suspension and air-cooled engines see to that – and admittedly, a lot of the components used date back to 1930's Germany, but this has perhaps contributed to the series' longevity. All teams still strive to gain more power from the same old engine, an engine that has had as much tuning and development work done to it over its lifespan

as probably any other engine in the world. The UK-spec 1300cc unit originally put out just 40bhp but now some of them are rumoured to be getting in excess of 100bhp, reliably. The flat four lends itself to modification, one only need look at the advertising in *Racecar's* sister title *VolksWorld* to realise that. One team is even reputed to have had its engine running at 11,500rpm on a dyno, though it was admitted 'it didn't do it much good.' Exact engine specifications and modifications are closely guarded secrets in the UK series, though the nature of the series means it's sometimes hard to hide developments.

“MUCH CONVENTIONAL RACECAR KNOW-HOW DOES NOT APPLY”

One thing common in all the Vee series →



Formula Vee racing has always been close and action packed and British spectators regularly claim that Vees are the most entertaining formula of all to watch. Here, cars in the South African series battle for position. These cars do not use the Beetle's air-cooled engine, instead water-cooled, 1400cc VW units are fitted.

though is the battle against drag. Despite a ban on wings, everyone is trying to make their car pass through the air a little bit more efficiently than everyone else. Of course, with the sport's low-cost ethos, wind tunnel time is usually out of the question and those with good CFD knowledge are rare – nearly as rare as an accurate 3D model of a Vee. UK CFD firm CHAM did undertake some work on an Irish-bodied, UK-spec car in 2004 (see RE V14 N11) but the work was only to verify and promote its Phoenix virtual wind tunnel.

Pushing the boundaries

In the US series, competitors have been known to shroud their front beams to reduce the drag but

“PARTS ARE STILL PLENTIFUL AND CHEAP”

there does not seem to be much real benefit to this. In the UK the Jenvey family racing team (of Jenvey Dynamics fame) tried to slip various floor shapes through that might act as diffusers, creating drag but also increasing grip. A rules clarification soon prevented that.

Others have tried to use sheer power to overcome the drag, UK Vee engine builder, AHS, developing a 'side-draft' engine with modified cylinder heads. With the carburetors directly in the airflow around the rear of the car, it gave very good power but proved to be an aerodynamic disaster. This engine configuration was banned in 2004 on the grounds of cost. Though few of these 'developments' make it past the watchful eyes of the scrutineers, rules are still pushed, bent and sometimes even broken – the sign of a true racecar engineers' formula.



Formula Vee was reborn recently in the USA as Formula First, but is essentially the same series, employing 1600cc air cooled VW engines. Interestingly, the cars are much shorter than their European counterparts

Most of the Vee series active around the world still use the venerable air cooled, flat four engine, with the notable exception of the South African cars, which instead use a 1400cc water cooled VW Polo engine. The air-cooled engines mean that thermal dissipation is important, as well as drag reduction. Jacer, an Australian constructor, recorded a peak oil temperature of 118degC in late 2005, which was significantly cooler than had been recorded in its previous models. Its new F2K6 model, whilst still reliant on ram air to cool the engine, has been designed with modern techniques to improve the flow around the car. A raised nose allows air to flow under the front beams and out either side of the cars' underside. It also has a 25 per cent reduction in frontal area over its predecessor the V2K.

Raised noses in Vee are becoming increasingly popular, Jacer now being joined by a number of constructors from around the world, all using similar under-nose shapes. Most of them have slight dishing under the nosecone, or similar devices to separate the flow to each side of the car. However there is little clear evidence that this arrangement actually works, and the noses of many more conventional Vee manufacturers stay resolutely drooped. Whilst there is little definitive

“QUITE POSSIBLY THE WORLD'S MOST PROLIFIC RACING CLASS”



Storm is one of the newest manufacturers in Formula Vee, though currently only produces UK-spec cars. An Irish version is likely to follow soon. In the background, a Leystone and modified Sheane pursue the Storm

evidence either way, as with the beam fairings, anecdotal reports claim a faster straight-line speed for the high-nose cars.

And it's not just enthusiasts keeping the flag flying, Vee is good business, too. With more drivers than cars, companies struggle to meet demand, so it should be no surprise to hear that there are more active racecar constructors in Formula Vee than in any other class of motor racing, worldwide. In fact, the British Formula Vee championship is the nation's largest single-seater series; larger even than any of the Formula Ford series, and Vee is quite possibly the world's most prolific racing class.

With this sort of heritage, the other similar series have got some way to go to catch up. It will be interesting to see if Formula BMW will survive the test of time and continue on to become the new Formula Vee.

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Be in control



Much more than just a way of soaking up the bumps, selecting the correct damper is crucial to optimising the performance of a racecar

Words	Dave Hancock
Photos	LAT

This month in Essentials we look at one of the more critical aspects of a racecar chassis and provide an overview of the science behind the complex art of damping. Understanding how you want dampers to perform is the first step toward making the right choice at buying time

Those of you with qualifications in vehicle dynamics will know there's a lot of complex mathematics involved in this area of racecar engineering, but equation crunching is not the focus of this series. Instead, we're concentrating on the 'need to know' information – for those of you disposed to be better race engineers.

Most physical systems are damped one way or other: a pendulum doesn't swing for ever, sound is damped in air and so on. Essentially, damping is a force generated in resistance to oscillation dependant on velocity. On a racecar, it is the motion of the suspension relative to the chassis that needs to be damped, and this is done by forcing fluid through an orifice or orifices – in other words, a damper. So far, so easy.

Now we need to think about the motions of a racecar. Racecars are frequently considered as a rigid chassis suspended with damped springs on four hubs (the so-called unsprung masses), all suspended on four tyres, each also having spring rates and damping. We have five 'bodies', each of which has three translational and three rotational degrees of freedom, giving a total of 30 degrees of freedom. With most of the mechanical components being non-linear, then even allowing for some of these degrees of freedom being fairly well constrained, we have some very complicated

mathematics going on!

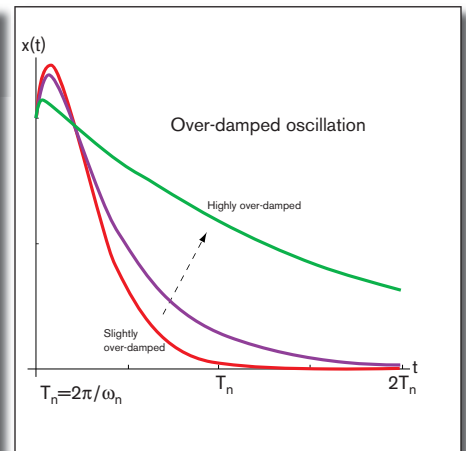
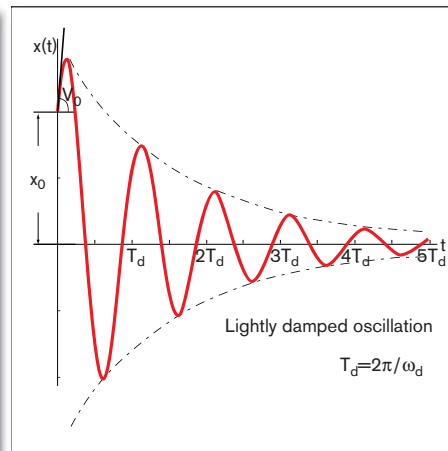
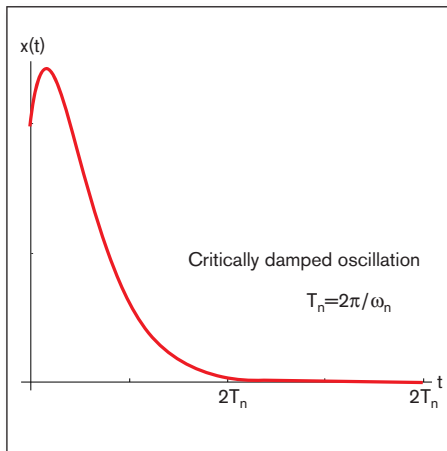
But we can begin to digest damping if we stick to manageable chunks and make some sweeping, if technically incorrect, simplifications.

Now think about a single 'corner' model of a racecar and the vertical position of the chassis after the wheel has hit a bump. The corner will oscillate, at a frequency called the natural frequency (see sidebar). If there is friction or damping present, the amplitude will decrease gradually until it comes to rest. Reduce the damping and it will take longer to come to rest. Increase the damping sufficiently and a point will be reached where the chassis won't oscillate at all but instead settle straight back to its starting point. This condition is known as critical damping. Increase the damping further and the chassis will take, theoretically, forever to get back to its original position. Note that we are assuming solid tyres here!

The equations for critical damping give us a mathematical way to calculate what is just enough damping to eliminate the oscillations and remove the energy from the system as fast as possible. Figures 1-3 show graphs that illustrate the oscillations that occur under different damping conditions. A good physics text book will give you the relevant equations.

The calculations for natural frequency and

“FORCES AT LOW VELOCITIES TEND TO BE DOMINATED BY FRICTION”



Figures 1, 2 and 3: representations of critically damped, lightly damped and over damped oscillation curves

Natural frequency

The natural frequency of a vehicle in heave, or ride frequency as it becomes in vehicle dynamics terms, is based mainly on the mass, spring rate and motion ratio. The ride frequency itself is an important number as it determines the speed of response to an input and can be used as a 'normalised' spring rate to allow comparison between different vehicles.

critical damping are simple and widely available (see TD Gillespie, *Fundamentals of Vehicle Dynamics*, ISBN 1-56091-199-9 for example), you just have to be careful with the units. A simple utility program from Multimatic can be downloaded free from www.dynamicsuspensions.com/downloads.

Figure 4 is a simple force vs velocity diagram for a damper – in this case a theoretically 'ideal' linear example. On the x-axis, we have the velocity of a damper (usually expressed in mm/sec or inch/sec) and on the y-axis, the force generated by the damper (usually Newtons or pounds force). The top right quarter represents the damper being compressed (bump) and the bottom left the damper extending (rebound). Therefore, our straight line on this very simple graph would represent unsophisticated damping proportional to velocity (ironically, quite hard to achieve in a conventional damper because of fluid dynamics). In practice, most force/velocity diagrams look more like figure 5, right.

To save space, the rebound damping can be mirrored about the y-axis and placed in the bottom right-hand quarter of the graph (as represented in figure 6, right).

In both bump and rebound, a higher damping rate is usually required at low damper

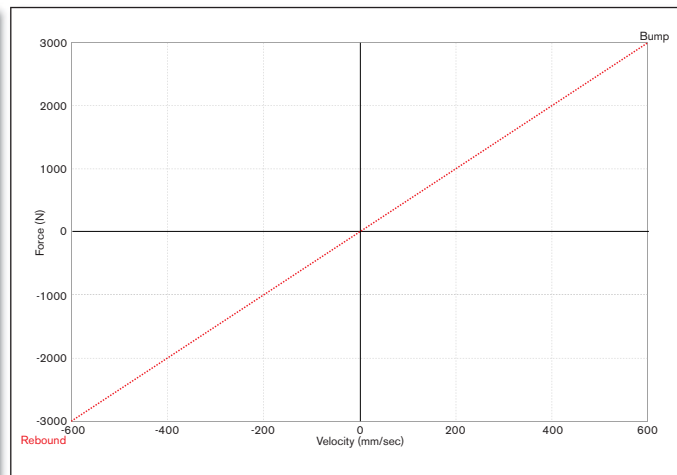


Fig 4: force/velocity graph with theoretical 'ideal' straight line plot

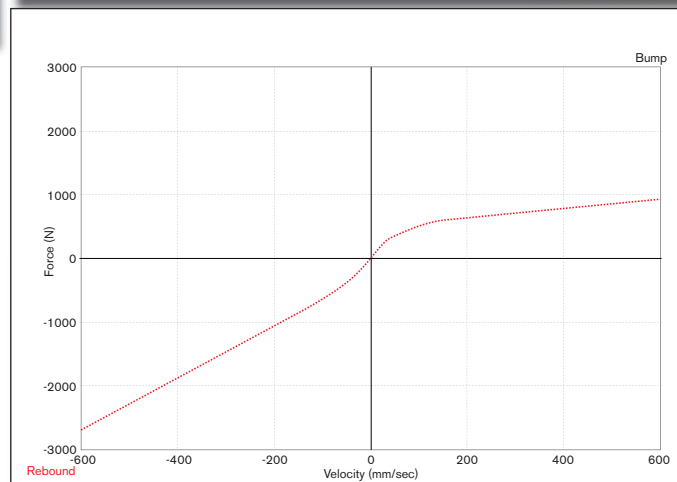


Fig 5: force/velocity graph with digressive damping plots

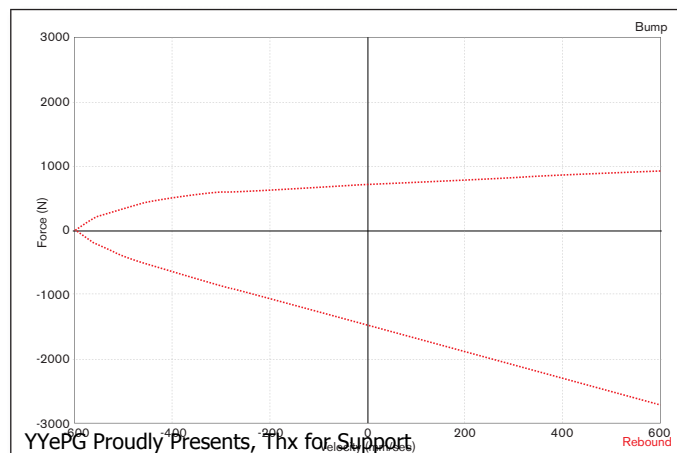


Fig 6: graph showing bump and rebound characteristics

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velocities and less at higher velocities.

The forces at very low velocities tend to be dominated by friction. Velocities to, say, 50mm/s (eg roll) have great influence on drivers' 'feel' of the car, while velocities up to around 400mm/s result from primary forces through the hubs (ie bumps) and velocities over, say, 400mm/s are only seen over kerbs or sharp edges on the track. Of course these velocities are dependant on vehicle stiffness and on the track in question. Figure 7 (right) shows this in diagrammatic format.

Traditionally, especially for road cars, less damping overall is used for bump (in an attempt to reduce the transmission of road inputs to the driver) than rebound. However, if there is too large a ratio between bump and rebound damping, jacking can occur and a succession of disturbances will have the racecar jacking down, rather than returning to its starting point. Modern racecar dampers are often set up with nearly as much damping in bump as in rebound.

We're beginning to build up a picture and we now have a graph that looks familiar – one that is typical of the shape produced by a damper dyno for a racecar damper. This is important because we are going to need to match the characteristics of the dampers available as closely as we can to the damping requirements of the vehicle, and the results obtained from a damper dyno are a good way to do it.

To learn more about the input of the damper supplier, *Racecarspoke* with Dr Rob Williamson, technical director of Multimatic Technical Centre Europe (MTCe), manufacturers of the Dynamic Suspensions brand of dampers and test

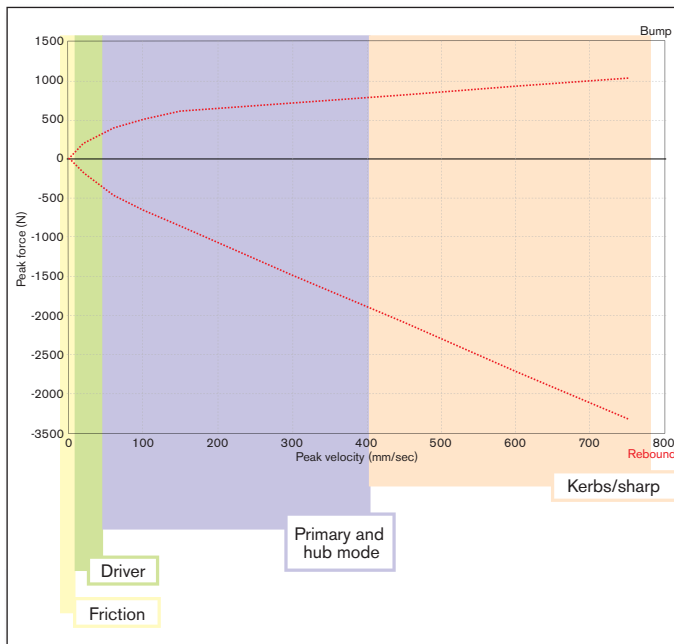


Fig 7: bump and rebound characteristics shown with changes in forces as felt by the driver as velocity increases

“RACECAR DAMPERS ARE OFTEN SET UP WITH NEARLY AS MUCH DAMPING IN BUMP AS IN REBOUND”

equipment. Dynamic Suspensions dampers are exclusively manufactured for motorsport and high performance road cars and the company supplies its products to many of the world's leading motorsport teams.

Williamson discussed graphs (shown in figure 8, below) showing four different ways of looking at a single set of damper test data. Plot A shows

force against displacement – a legacy from when these were the only measurements available – but still a common and useful way of looking at the data. Force/displacement only has meaning when we know that the test was performed with a sine wave at constant stroke. We then know the velocity for any displacement. Plot B shows the force/velocity plot discussed above. Plot C →

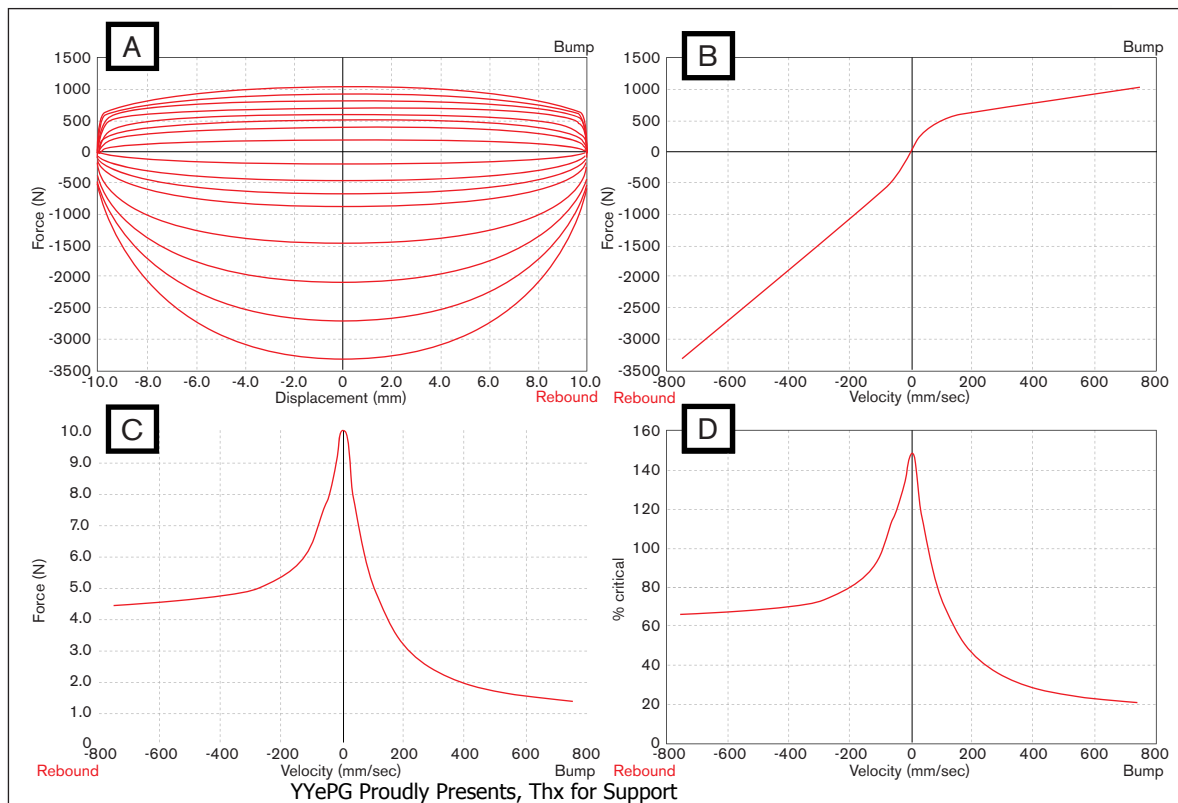


Figure 8: four different graphical representations of the same damper test data:
A – force vs displacement
B – force vs velocity
C – force / velocity
D – instantaneous damping coefficient / critical damping coefficient

shows the force data divided by the velocity to give an instantaneous damping coefficient. Plot D shows this coefficient divided by the critical damping coefficient and expressed as percentage critical damping.

Plot D, showing percentage critical damping against velocity gives us a way to compare different vehicles, allowing for differences in weight, spring rate and motion ratio. The critical figure calculated is only for one corner of a vehicle, and neglects the key effects of installation and tyre stiffness. Therefore it is a massive oversimplification. Nevertheless, it provides a way to try to transfer some of the 'feel' of one vehicle to another. The graph also lets us see how well damped the car is at different suspension velocities, compared to the critical damping figure. It is very common for the figure to exceed 100 per cent at low velocities.

This high damping at low velocities is due to a combination of factors: a fixed level of friction has a larger effect at low velocities; most damper valves have physical limitations which lead to a digressive curve and to a high low-speed damping coefficient; drivers often prefer the 'taut feel' of a vehicle with high low-speed damping.

From Williamson's experience, and making assumptions about tyre stiffness and so on, for most vehicles the maximum practical damping over a wide velocity range is less than 60 per cent

Motion ratio

We need to be very careful about the effects of the motion ratio between our wheels, springs and dampers. All vehicle dynamics calculations are done 'at the wheel' so the spring and damper forces and displacements and velocities have to be compensated appropriately.

The important thing is to remember that spring rates and damper coefficients scale with the motion ratio squared. And of course to be very clear whether the motion ratio is quoted wheel/damper or damper/wheel!

graphs you require. Now you will be sourcing dampers that match the force/velocity profiles you have. This article is not a review of what is available but here are a few guidelines: for most racecar applications, four-way adjustable dampers are the norm these days and, for convenience, many race engineers prefer external adjusters. In other words, they will have a range of damping adjustment for low and high

shaft velocities for both bump and rebound. You want a useable range of adjustment across the softest to stiffest settings. For larger changes in damping, most racecar dampers can be stripped and rebuilt with different internal components.

Dampers should be closely matched left to right and, obviously, lightweight. More expensive dampers are likely to have less internal friction, to be less temperature sensitive and to offer wider ranges of valving and adjustability.

Across their range of adjustment, four-way adjustable dampers will typically generate force/velocity graphs as shown in figure 10 when tested on a damper dyno.

MTCe often uses a corner-based critical damping approach as the first step towards specifying dampers. When time allows, a full vehicle model is used which allows for induced pitching due to unequal front and rear natural frequencies, and allows maximisation of damping for tyre rates and installation stiffnesses when known. The next step used is to test the racecar on a four-post rig. Not only are the test procedures repeatable but also installation stiffness, non-linear springs and/or motion ratio, friction and damper hysteresis and the damping of the whole car is taken into account. This should be followed by on-track testing – aided by the racecar's data acquisition system.

“YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW SPRING RATES, MOTION RATIOS AND SPRUNG AND UNSPRUNG MASSES”

of the critical damping figure. Indeed, Williamson plotted for us the percentage of critical damping against rebound and bump damper velocities for a high performance road car and a racecar – see figure 9, right. Note the similarities.

At this stage, you would usually involve your damper supplier. They should have the necessary experience and be able to make the correct assumptions to supply you with dampers that are in the right ballpark. Then it's a question of a session or sessions on a four-post rig and track testing to fine-tune the dampers.

Using this information, you can make a giant step towards the actual damping requirements, and hence the specifications of dampers. You will need to know spring rates, motion ratios and sprung and unsprung masses. MTCe has software that will produce the force/velocity damper

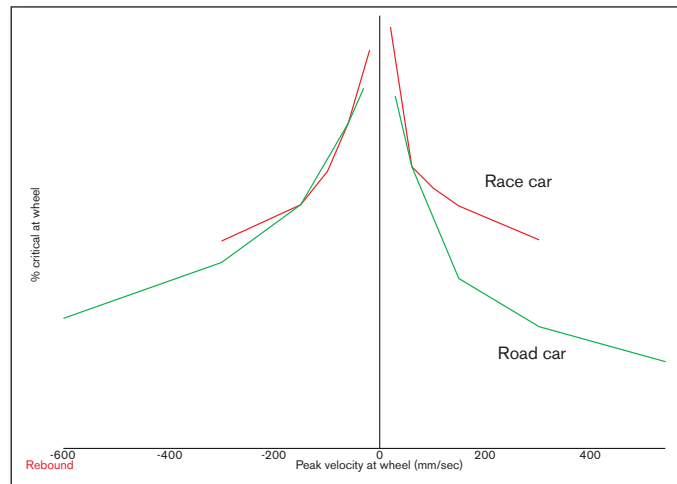


Figure 9: percentage critical damping/velocity graph with typical plots for high performance car and racecar

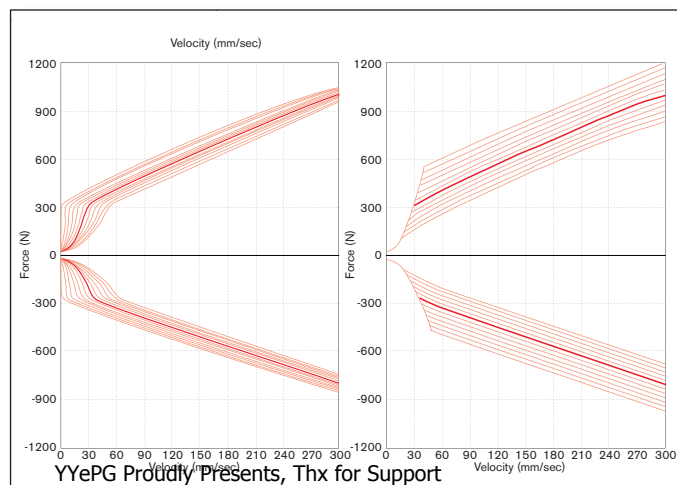


Figure 10: force/velocity graph with plots for range of high and low speed adjustments

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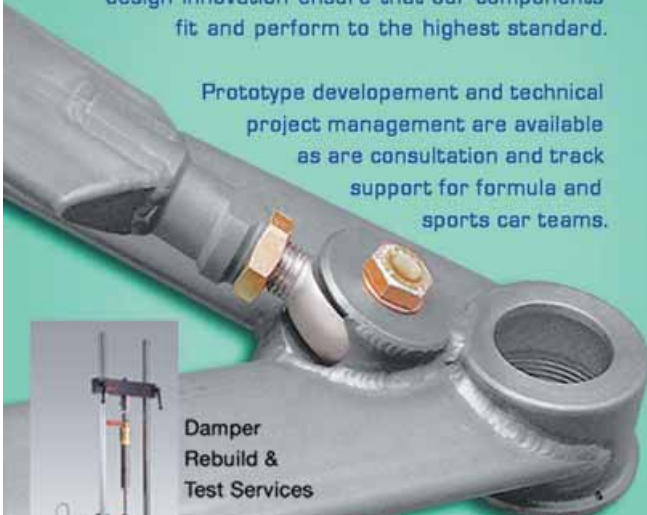
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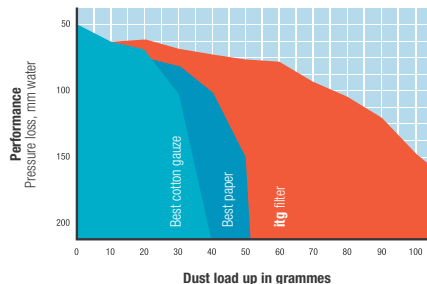
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Gauze and effect

Air filter technology is far more complex than it might seem, as this round-up of the latest advances in the motorsport marketplace shows

Words | Ian Wagstaff

Above: Green filters by Chronosport use multi layer, cotton gauze technology

Despite the huge market for effective air filtration devices on road cars, the motorsport sector is, as Ramair supplier David Baker points out, 'a very niche market.' The paper used as a filtration material in conventional road use tends to be just too restrictive for the airflow required in racing.

Indeed, ITG points out that when it comes to the higher levels of motorsport it is generating a new product for each individual team order. Founded in 1987 it has become a long-term supplier to Formula 1, its customers encompassing three different engine manufacturers and four

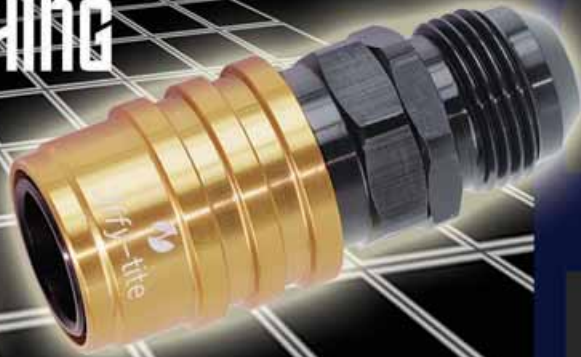
“RETICULATED POLYESTER FOAM IS SAID TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE”

teams. At the same time it provides for all forms of motorsport from endurance racing, where, for example, it supplies air filters for AER and Judd-engined cars to sprint and midget racing in the USA and Formula 2 'stock cars' in the UK. Last season it was able to point specifically to success in such as the British Touring Car Championship with Team Dynamics (in the process taking the work from Ramair, which supplied →

ITG uses a 'Tri-foam' system in its filters, said to allow maximum airflow with no significant pressure loss



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ITG prides itself on its ability to manufacture bespoke air filters for all motorsport applications, such as this Audi Cosworth RS6 unit

the 2002, 2003 and 2004 championship-winning Vauxhall team), as well as the Daytona 24 Hours-winning Riley-Pontiac.

In the field of historic racing ITG can provide product for most historic Formula 1 cars, particularly those using DFV/DFL engines, and has recently been able to supply a unique filter for the BRM V12 engine, as used in the P126. ITG's heritage is built on the supply of one-off product and this is an area it is continuing to expand.

The company believes that it was probably the first to manufacture what it describes as 'truly durable', high performance, foam-based production air filters. Compared to paper or other filter technologies, reticulated polyester foam is said to achieve optimum performance in three areas. Maximum airflow is maintained because of the foam's ability to allow air to pass through without causing a large drop in pressure. It is said to be more efficient in cleaning because of its capability to arrest a high proportion of airborne dust while feeding the engine clean air. It also has the capability to absorb a large amount of dust without reducing air flow capacity.

ITG uses what it describes as its 'tri-foam system', which features various thicknesses of finer or coarser foams depending upon the application. Tri-foam is said to give the company the flexibility to produce filters to exact specifications and, where high flow rates are possible, it claims to be able to tailor filters to arrest even the slightest dust traces. Other advantages claimed for ITG filters include a significant reduction in noise and, because of the use of the latest adhesives to bond the foam layers, a resistance to water, fumes, oils and fuels, including exotic racing fuels.

Pipercross has been manufacturing high performance air filters for over 27 years and, like ITG, is able to produce one-off, bespoke product. It also has customers in Formula 1, three teams using its product as well as a couple, including M-Sport, in the World Rally Championship. At the other end of the scale it provides product for Citroën 2CV competition cars. At Autosport International, Pipercross launched its new VForce intake system, which had been tested in extreme conditions at the Dubai Autodrome in the UAE by the Total Motorsport Solutions Honda Civic team. It was also announced that the China Dragon touring car squad currently racing in China will use the product in its Civic Type Rs. The company describes VForce as a 'totally different design' that has been 'designed from the ground up.' It believes it has re-written the rules and currently sees VForce as a showcase product, demonstrating what it can achieve. Its present costs put it firmly in the top end of the market.

VForce is said to feature a more free flowing foam than those used in traditional filters. The foam, a replaceable dual layer pre-impregnated reticulated polyurethane material, is the same grade as that used in Formula 1 applications. It is used in a high flow T304 stainless steel support system with the foam surrounded by carbon fibre directional vanes. These vector intake charges to the centre of the air filter base, apparently reducing turbulence and increasing air velocity. Through a combination of sourcing air from the coolest area of the engine bay and shielding the intake charge from under-bonnet heat, VForce achieves a typical temperature reduction of 5degC or more.

Pipercross also points out the lifespan advantages of foam as a filtration material. By combining multiple layers of foam, pre-impregnated with a dirt retention additive and with varying degrees of porosity to each layer, the life of the filter is vastly extended beyond cotton-gauze rivals, and even that of paper systems.

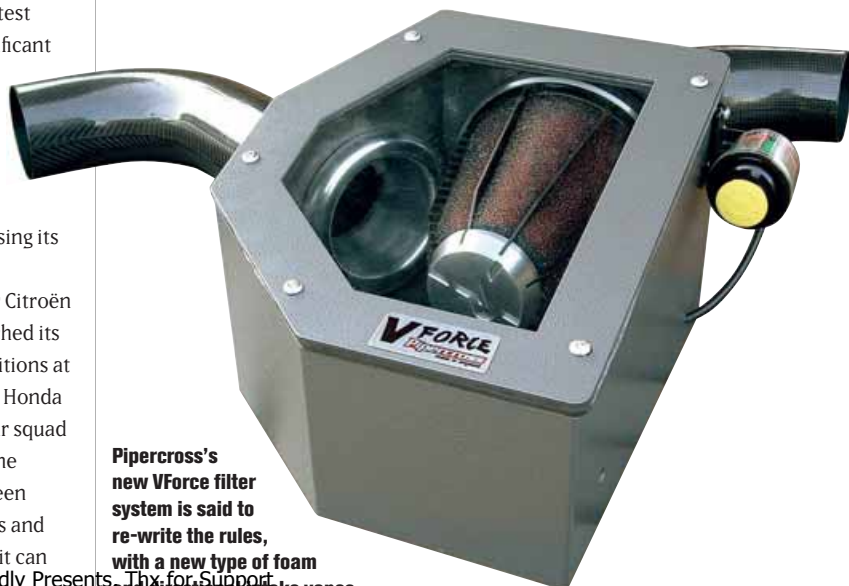
The VForce system became available on the market in February for the Civic Type R and also for the Renault Clio 182.

The Ramair brand is still available for motorsport applications through Raid UK Ltd. The road performance filtration market has been dramatically affected in Germany by the need to pass very stringent and expensive TÜV legislation for car-specific kits. The German government wants to reduce automotive gas emissions and, together with Spain, are trying to convince other EEC members to follow suit. This has led to a move towards universal filters. As a result, the market is now seeing the huge increase in filters manufactured in the Far East, which are aggressively priced and not tested for the application.

The manufacturing plant for Ramair is now owned by David Baker in Leicestershire, UK. Mindful of the need to honour long-standing agreements his company has had to diversify to maintain the life of the company. As far as motorsport specific applications are concerned though, the company still manufactures a range of bespoke filters for the racing world – mainly for use in Formula 3 and overseas Touring Cars.

Raid UK now manufactures both the Ramair and Raidhp air filters, often tailored to a specific purpose. It is able to create filters with anything up to five different stages of filtration. Different lamination of high, medium and low densities of foam are also offered to maximise power with open cell or closed cell foam to increase cleaner air into the engine body. The latter can be important for middle-of-the-pack runners who are usually in dirty air. →

“A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN NOISE”



Pipercross's new VForce filter system is said to re-write the rules, with a new type of foam and directional intake vanes

Air filters



Ramair offers filters with up to five different stages of filtration and with either open or closed cell foam, the latter said to be particularly effective in dirty air

The company also points out that race series often travels to different countries meaning that there is a need to change filter foam laminates to accommodate more hazardous conditions, such as sand or dust. Raid UK's advanced polymer treatment can also be applied to a filter as an additional layer of defence against fine dust. The company can provide a specially formulated cleaner to use when the filter appears dirty, after which the treatment can be re-applied.

K&N points out that its products are essentially not that different to that which it supplies for performance road use, though its offerings for Europe tend to be very different from that in the USA. It launched eight new round air filters for NASCAR use in February, for example.

The latest product that is exclusive to this side of the Atlantic is its Apollo Closed Intake System (CIS). This has been created to handle over

“DEEP PLEATS ARE SAID TO ENSURE A 10-20 PER CENT INCREASE IN SURFACE AREA”

300bhp which, says the company, makes it suitable for a bespoke intake application or for the updating of existing induction kits that have already been fitted to the vehicle. Apollo CIS is a complete cold air system that incorporates one of K&N's cotton gauze filters. The housing is manufactured from co-polymer and black K resin, which resists heat build-up, keeping the intake charge cool. The system is supplied with a 70mm cold air feed hose and is intended for universal fitment. It has a 70mm intake neck as standard, with a range of stepped adaptors available to allow fitment to other intake sizes. It comes with the now familiar K&N million-mile warranty.



Green filters are currently used on all WRCs, except Citroën. Here a Mitsubishi



K&N's Apollo CIS (above) is a complete cold air system incorporating a cotton gauze filter

K&N NASCAR filters are traditional, deep pleat versions, not dissimilar to its road car units



Green air filters are manufactured in France, by Chronosport, so it is not surprising that they have been found for some years in Henri Pescarolo's Le Mans contenders. The company also supplies to all of the current WRC factory teams (with the exception of Citroën), as well as a wide variety of other motorsport formulae down to such as the French Clio Cup. The company was formed in 1995 to design and manufacture premium cotton air filters for motorsport. It now claims to be Europe's largest cotton air filter manufacturer.

The deep pleats in a Green filter's cotton gauze are said to ensure that there is a 10-20 per cent increase in surface area to draw more into the engine. The cotton gauze is made up of a medium and fine layer to trap and hold dirt, dust and moisture particles as small as 0.50 microns. The filters can also be custom made with a different number of layers to suit a variety of conditions. The gauze is held in place by a fine alloy mesh.

It seems air filters are far from being an afterthought.

RE



The French manufacturer also supplies product to Pescarolo for its prototypes

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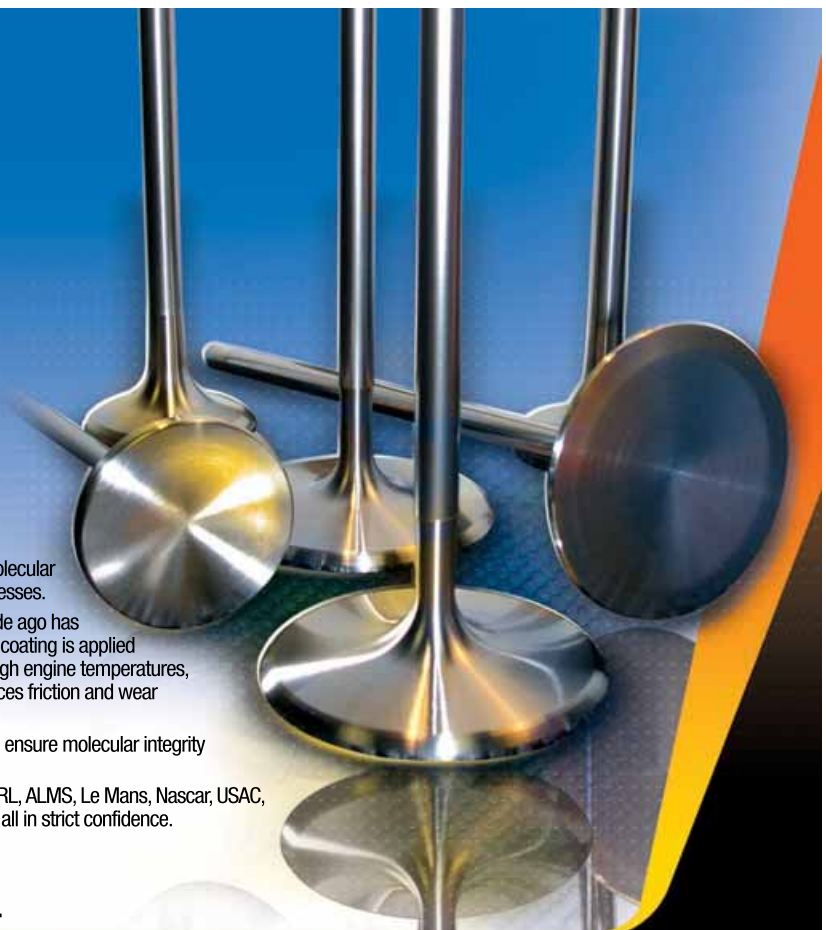
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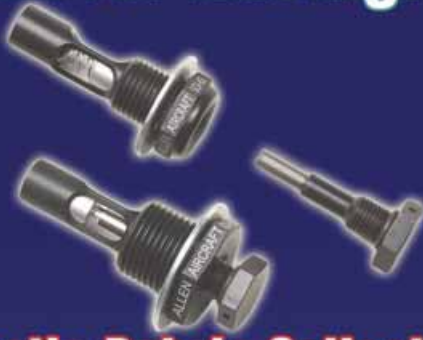
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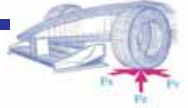
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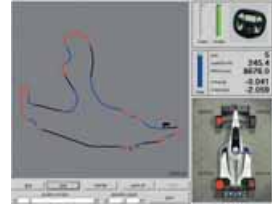
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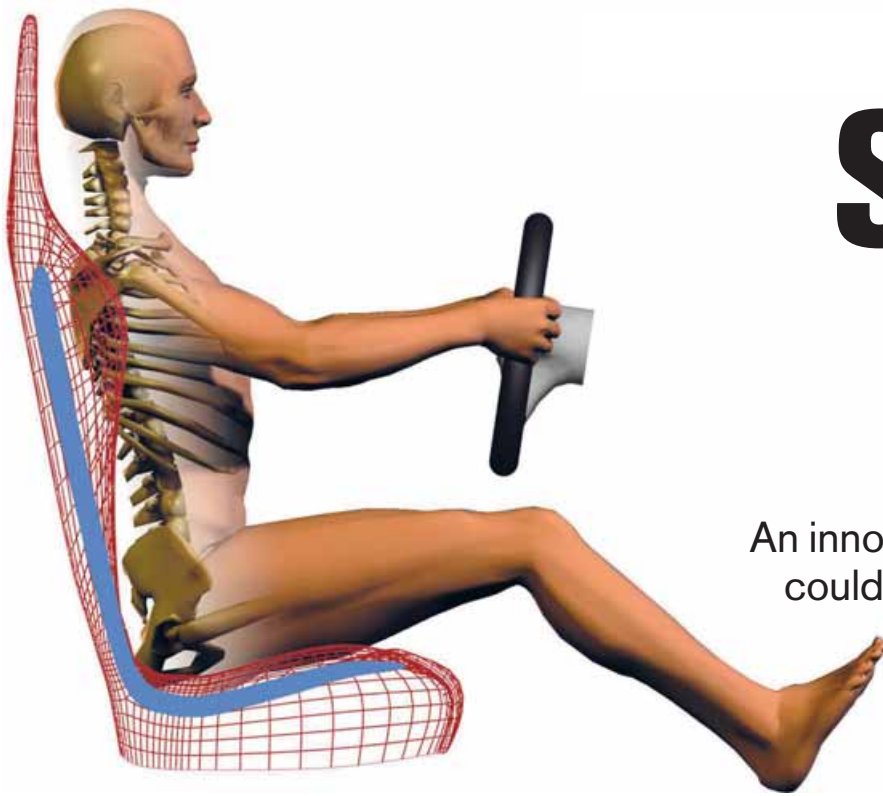
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Sensible seating

An innovative new seat technology that could pay long term dividends for the health and safety of drivers

Words Charles Clarke



The key to successful seating is in proper spinal support. As well as improved comfort, the ProBax seat allows increased bloodflow around the body

So far NuBax's new seat has only been tested by private individuals but Lotus (right) has already seen its advantages and is currently fitting it to its 2006 Elise and Exige models

In an effort to improve driver comfort in its Elise and Exige models, Lotus will be fitting new ProBax™ seats as standard in all its MY 2006 cars.

Donna Jackson, founder and director of product development, NuBax Ltd (the makers of the ProBax seat) has been in the prosthetics industry for 25 years and sees Lotus as an ideal partner through which to promote its exciting new product.

By changing the way the body is supported in the seat it is possible to get considerably more benefits than just straightforward comfort. Enhanced bloodflow leads to a corresponding increase in the transmission of oxygen to the body and brain, increasing alertness and muscle strength. This is critical in any car, but is particularly pertinent in racecars, especially those used in endurance events where racers fatigue more from poor seating and poor circulation than any kind of muscular discomfort. This increase in bloodflow has been confirmed by comparative laboratory measurements using regular and ProBax seats.

The underlying idea of the ProBax seat is to maintain the spine in its normal curvature so that it can support the body's weight more naturally. After all, the spine is meant to carry the body weight not the muscles. What NuBax has done is to create a standing attitude of the spine while you're sitting.

In the Lotus application, the ProBax seat uses the same seat frame as the standard Lotus seat, but a different covering material and the unique ProBax seat insert which does the orthopaedic 'tuning'. The old inflatable lumbar support devices are eliminated and the new seat actually weighs slightly less than the previous one – something that fits nicely with the Lotus design ethos.

The first sensation you experience when sitting in the ProBax seat is that it supports the spine from the base all the way up with no interruptions. This is initially a strange sensation as it is unlike most



traditional car seats, but it negates the need for the complex series of motors, pulleys, levers and slides modern seat engineers employ to perform infinite adjustments to seating posture and position. This infinite adjustment in fact just over complicates the situation and it is easy for one adjustment to negate the therapeutic benefits of another unless you know exactly what you are doing. The beauty of the ProBax insert is that it is fixed and helps the body adjust its posture naturally.

Currently there is no ProBax-equipped racing seat available on the market but, having tried the Lotus ourselves, we'd like to see someone get behind the idea and license this innovative product so others can benefit from its clear advantages. RE

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The Nitty-Gritty

Details of a new weld cleaning and marking system has been announced by Orbimatic (UK) Ltd, manufacturers of high technology Orbital TIG-welding equipment.

The Nitty-Gritty Clinox.ECO system removes oxides left behind after TIG welding stainless steel, but can also be used for localised electro-polishing and for marking metal surfaces.

The machine, being inverter-based, is lightweight, portable and energy efficient. It has three cleaning settings and a polishing setting. Two permanent marking modes, DC and AC, permit various marking styles to be produced and marking screens can be supplied according to customer needs. An optional label printer is available to produce unique marking screens.

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High torque spanners

UK-based tool manufacturer, Britool, has released a new ratcheting combination spanner (wrench) set designed to withstand high torque levels.

Manufactured from chrome vanadium steel, then heat treated and nickel plated for protection, the set consists of 12 spanners sized between 8mm and 19mm, all of which feature a sturdy 72-tooth ratchet device with a five-degree arc. Each has a 15-degree offset head and a thin profile, making them ideal for working in tight, confined spaces.

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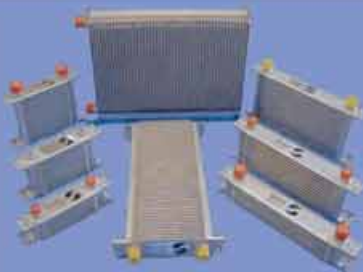
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Guyson International, specialists in surface finishing machinery, has released a larger capacity bead blasting system for use in reconditioning, engineering and maintenance workshops.

The new Formula 2000 has a large chamber measuring 1165mm (46in) wide by 760mm (30in) deep. For ease of use the entire top of the cabinet can be flipped open so heavy or awkward components can be lowered directly onto the steel reinforced chamber floor.

The Formula 2000 comes equipped as standard with a Guyson 400 high performance suction fed blast gun and a continuous dust collection system. Fluorescent interior lighting and a large viewing window are designed for optimal working conditions.

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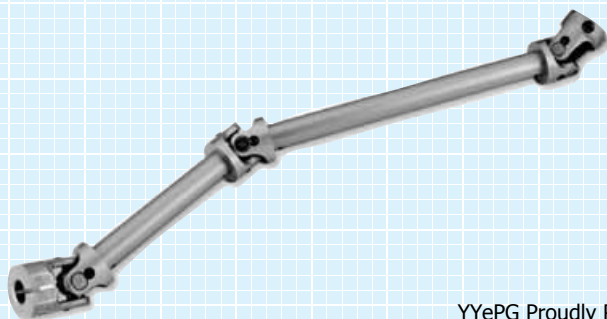


Racing joints

US-based universal joint manufacturer, Belden Inc, already provides a wide range of universal joints and driveshaft assemblies for various steering and gear change linkage applications but has now developed a series of linkages for the racing industry that focus on the cross and needle bearing design,

Preferred by many racecar engineers, this design has firm axial strength for push or pull loads and incorporates high strength alloy steel yokes with permanently sealed drawn cup needle bearings and a forged cross. Joints are available in a variety of materials including alloy, stainless steel or aluminium.

● For more information in the UK call +44 (0) 1926 452747 or in the US +1 708 344 4600. Alternatively, visit www.beldenuniversal.com



Short circuit oil

UK-based independent lubricant manufacturer, Millers Oils, has developed a new, synthetic, fortified oil specifically formulated for oval and short circuit racing.

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COR 20W-50 has been set with a RRP of £19.50 (\$33.84) for five litres (1.32 gallons) making it competitive both on performance and on price.

● For more information call 0845 6455377 from the UK or +44 (0) 1484 713201. Alternatively, visit www.millersoils.co.uk



Ignition doctor

Agriemach has found a way to diagnose all ignition problems with its new spark plug firing indicator.

Within just a few seconds the indicator can determine if any individual plugs are not firing or if any are fouled or eroded. It can also detect plug wire damage and is said to be useful for diagnosing DIS coil problems.

Priced at £9.99 including VAT (\$17.34) the spring-mounted spark plug indicator comes with detailed instructions. To order reference part no PM-3030.

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SteelHead storage

US-based SteelHead Design Inc has announced a new inventive shop storage and workspace solution.

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● For more information visit www.samcosport.com

Composite courses



A new range of composite courses are being run by Dark Matter Composites Ltd to help enlighten the hobbyist or enthusiast.

Based at the company's workshop in Harpenden, England, the courses are being run throughout the week and at weekends by trade specialist Rodney Hansen. Covering topics such as wet lay-up laminating and composite repair, the courses are designed for all levels and use simple theory, demonstrations and practical application to aid understanding.

There are plans to add other courses in the near future, including pattern making, mould making, resin infusion laminating and pre-preg laminating.

● Information about all the courses can be downloaded from the company's website: www.darkmattercomposites.co.uk. Alternatively, call +44 (0) 1582 469069.

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Section 1 lists manufacturers of Brand-Name Racecars.

Sections 2-3 list component manufacturers. Section 2 is dedicated to Chassis Components, Section 3 to Engine and Transmission Components

Sections 4-5-6 list equipment manufacturers. Section 4 is dedicated to Factory Equipment. Section 5 to Circuit Equipment. Sections 6 to Driver Equipment

Sections 7-8-9-10 list companies that supply services. Section 7 is devoted to Chassis Engineering Services, Section 8 to Engine / Transmission / Suspension Services. Section 9 to Testing Services. Section 10 to Non-Engineering Services

To get your company listed in the racecar database please contact Andy King - 0208 726 8329 andy_kings@ipcmedia.com

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BREDA	Italy (39) 049 9001895 Fax (39) 049 900 2821 Breda Racing s.r.l. via Buonarroti 10a, 35035 Mestrino, PD, Italy
BRYTEC	Tel 01772 786500 Fax 01772 786500 Lower College, Hotherhall Lane, Longridge, Preston, Lancashire PR3 2XB
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CHEETAH	USA (1) 408 492 1331 Fax USA (1) 408 492 1333 Omni Fab, 380 Martin Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
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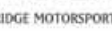
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SPA DESIGN 01827 288328
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McCLAREN ELECTRONICS 01483 261400
THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666
VARIOHM 01217 351004

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SPA DESIGN 01827 288328

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CHEVRON RACING 01965 773795
LOLA Tel: 01480 451301
Tel: 01480 456722
TILTON USA (t) 805 688 2353
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PROFLEX UK 01200 442345
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FASTENER FACTORY 01217 310188
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QINETIQ 08700 100942

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GOLDLINE BEARINGS Tel: 01932 292401
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GROUND CONTROL USA (t) 916 638 7888
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PERFORMANCE SPRINGS 01253 716900
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BREMBO Italy (39) 035 605511
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GKN SQUEEZEFORM USA (4) 803 222 2141
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PROFESSIONAL M/SPORTS 08700 100942
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ATE 020 8054 8836
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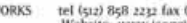
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Tel: +44 (0)1844 202850 / Fax:(0)1844 202833
Email: info@goodfab.com www.goodfab.com
Unit 3a, Drakes Farm, Drakes Drive, Long Crendon,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP88 9SA England
USA (t) 606 461 4113

FLOWMASTER USA (t) 606 461 4113



ICENGINEWORKS tel (512) 858 2232 fax (512) 858 2282
Website: www.icengineworks.com
Email: info@icengineworks.com
3996 Hwy 290E, Suite C, Dripping Springs, TX 78620 USA
JEXEX EXHAUSTS 01789 298989
MARK ORTIZ USA (t) 715 835 1292
PIPER CAMS 01233 500200
SPECIALISED EXHAUST 0208 648 4786

FUEL FILTERS
AN MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320
CONNAUGHT UK 01795 843802
EARL'S PERFORMANCE UK 01327 858221
Fax 01327 858473

Unit 17 Silverstone Circuit, Towcester,
Northamptonshire NN12 8TL, England
USA 808 785 6740
01803 866464
01753 233080
USA (t) 217 324 3737
FRAM EUROPE 01413 233090
KINSLER USA (t) 248 362 1145
LEE PRODUCTS 01753 886664
SPV RACING Australia (61) 2 791 9899
THINK AUTOMOTIVE 0208 568 1172
TJ FILTERS 01752 667675
WEBCON 01932 287100

FUEL INJECTION

AC ROCHESTER USA (t) 716 359 6361
ASNU Tel 0208 420 4494
BGC MOTORSPORT 0208 880 4205
BOSCH Germany (49) 711 8111 USA (t) 312 865 5200
01795 843802
CONNAUGHT 0208 391 0121
SBD MOTORSPORT Tel (t) 314 291 7223
FUELSYSTEMS 01635 582255
GENESIS ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS 02476 305386
INDUCTION TECHNOLOGY 01746 268810
JENVEY DYNAMICS 01455 239576
JOHN WILCOX COMPETITION 01455 239576



KINSLER FUEL INJECTION Tel: USA (t) 248 362 1145
Fax: USA (t) 248 362 1032
Website: www.kinsler.com
LINGENFELTER USA (t) 219 724 2552
MAGNETI MARELLI Italy (39) 2 688 331
MM COMPETITION SYSTEMS 08707 444666
MARREN USA (t) 203 732 4585
MILLINGTON 01746 789268
MOTEC Australia (61) 3 9761 5050
MOTEC (EUROPE) UK 08700 119100
MOTEC JAPAN Japan (81) 489 46 7734
MOTEC SYSTEMS USA USA (t) 714 897 6804
NIPPON DENSO Japan (81) 56 625 5511
UK 0208 591 7700
+44 (0)1954 253610
(714) 446 9473
USA (t) 805 967 9478

PETROL CONTROL SYSTEMS
SAKATA MOTORSPORT ELEC. INC. USA (t) 419 238 1190
SWINDON RACING ENGINES 01793 531321

FUEL LINES

AERQUIP USA (t) 419 238 1190
AN MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320



ATL USA (t) 201 825 1400
Fax (t) 201 825 1960
Aero Tec Laboratories Inc, Spear Road Industrial Park,

Ramsley, NJ 07446-1221, USA

ATL UK 01908 357700 / Fax 01908 357570
Aero Tec Laboratories Ltd (Europe), 1 Patriot Drive,
Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8PU

BROWN AND MILLER UK 01753 553610
USA 704 793 4319
01795 843802
CONNAUGHT 01803 866464
EXACT ENGINEERING USA 317 243 3092
FAE MACHINE 01684 891898
FLEXOLITE UK 01795 541955
FUEL SAFE USA (t) 714 841 2311
USA (t) 310 533 1924
USA (t) 317 244 1000
USA (t) 704 662 9095

GOODRIDGE CA Tel 01392 369090 / Fax 01392 447780
GOODRIDGE INDY Exeter Airport Business Park, Exeter, EX5 2TP
GOODRIDGE EAST USA (t) 410 535 3142
Tel 0121 525 7733



GOODRIDGE UK Tel 01392 369090 / Fax 01392 447780
HENRY'S ENG USA (t) 410 535 3142
JLS MOTORSPORT Tel 0121 525 7733



KRONTEC MASCHINENBAU GmbH
Fitting & Hose Systems
Pommernstraße 33 93073 Neutraubling
Tel: 09401 54195-0
Fax: 09401 5453-10
Germany (49) 2271 41905
France (33) 320 99 75 10
01803 866671
Australia (61) 2 791 9899
0208 568 1172
01684 891898
01392 369090
France 33 3 20995750
01327 359512
USA (t) 218 232 2282

KS MOTORSPORTS
PRONAL'S 01803 866671
SPECIALTY FASTENERS Australia (61) 2 791 9899
SPV RACING 0208 568 1172
THINK AUTOMOTIVE 01684 891898
FLEXOLITE 01392 369090
GOODRIDGE France 33 3 20995750
PRONAL'S 01327 359512
RACETECH USA (t) 218 232 2282
WELDON RACING PUMPS



XRP INC Tel USA (t) 562 861 4765
FAX USA (t) 562 861 5503
5630 Imperial Highway, South Gate, CA 90280, USA

FUEL VALVES

AN MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320
ATL USA (t) 201 825 1400
UK 01908 357700
01803 866464

EXACT ENG USA (t) 248 362 1145
KINSLER France 33 3 20 997510
PRONAL'S 01803 866671
SPECIALTY FASTENERS

HOSES & HOSE-ENDS

AERQUIP USA (t) 419 238 1190
AN MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320



BROWN AND MILLER UK Tel: 01753 553610
Fax: 01753 574777
Unit 7-7A, Langley House, Middle Green Trading Estate,
Langley, SL3 6DF USA Tel: 704 793 4319
Fax: 704 793 4319
4005 Dearborn Place NW, Concord, NC 28027

DELPHI BRAKES SYSTEMS 01926 474772
EARL'S USA (t) 310 609 1602
EXACT ENG 01803 866464
FASTENER FACTORY 01327 311018
FHS MOTOR RACING 01753 570865
FLUID CONTROL PRODUCTS INC USA (t) 217 324 3737
Fax (t) 217 324 3717
01392 369090
USA (t) 310 533 1924
USA (t) 317 244 1000
USA (t) 704 662 9095
01282 41932
USA (t) 410 135 4142
0121 525 7733
USA (t) 248 362 1145
01443 238464

GOODRIDGE UK 01392 369090
GOODRIDGE CA USA (t) 410 535 3142
GOODRIDGE INDY USA (t) 317 244 1000
GOODRIDGE EAST USA (t) 704 662 9095
HCL FASTENERS 01282 41932
HENRY'S ENG USA (t) 410 135 4142
JLS MOTORSPORT 0121 525 7733
KINSLER USA (t) 248 362 1145
SAMCO SPORT 01443 238464



SPS PERFORMANCE Tel: 01582 488040
Fax: 01582 412277
Website: www.spsperformance.co.uk
Unit E Kingsway Industrial Estate, Kingsway
Luton LU1 1LP
SPECIALTY FASTENERS 01803 866671
SPEED FLOW 0208 530 6664
THINK AUTOMOTIVE 0208 568 1172
UNCLIP AUTOMOTIVE 01932 355777
XRP INC USA (t) 562 861 4765

INTERCOOLERS

AH FABRICATIONS 01432 354704
ALLARD MOTOR CO 01425 500 333
FLUID CONTROL PRODUCTS INC USA (t) 217 324 3737
Fax (t) 217 324 3717
01440 760960
0208 965 2151
01582 412 697

PAPE PRODUCTS 01440 760960
SERCK MARSTON 0208 965 2151
SPS PERFORMANCE 01582 412 697

OIL COOLERS

AERQUIP USA (t) 419 238 1190
CV PRODUCTS USA (t) 910 883 4096
DOCKING & CO 01712 857614
EARL'S USA (t) 310 609 1602
EXACT ENGINEERING 01803 866464
FAE MACHINE USA 317 243 3092
FLUID CONTROL PRODUCTS INC USA (t) 217 324 3737
Fax (t) 217 324 3717
01392 369090
GOODRIDGE UK USA (t) 310 533 1924
GOODRIDGE CA USA (t) 317 244 1000
GOODRIDGE INDY USA (t) 310 533 1924
GOODRIDGE EAST USA (t) 704 662 9095
LAMINOVA Sweden (46) 85 907 4045
PROCOMP 0121 550 3258
SECAN France (33) 14 790 6512
020 8965 2151
SERCK MARSTON Sweden (46) 40 158080
SETRAB 01803 866671
SPECIALTY FASTENERS Australia (61) 2 791 9899
SPV RACING 020 8968 1172
THINK AUTOMOTIVE 01547 530289
TREVO MORRIS ENG

OIL FILTERS

AN MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320
COSWORTH 01604 752444
USA (t) 310 534 1390
USA (t) 310 609 1602
USA 818 785 6740
01803 866464
01753 570863
01443 223000
USA (t) 248 362 1145

OIL PUMPS

ED PINK RACING ENGINES USA 818 785 6740
KENT CAMS 01303 248666
PAGE PRODUCTS 01440 760960
PACET 01628 520754
SPV RACING Australia (61) 2 791 9899
SWINDON RACING ENGINES 01793 531321
TITAN MOTORSPORT 01480 474402

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OLD HALL PERFORMANCE LTD +44 (0) 24 7671 7100
Fax +44 (0) 24 7671 7400
email sales@redlineoil-europe.com
www.redlineoil-europe.com

OIL SEALS

RACE-TEC NAK 02380 246986
PIONEER WESTON (WYKO) 0161 703 2011

OIL SUMPS

AH FABRICATIONS 01432 354704

ARE RACING ENGINE SYSTEMS

A.R.E DRY SUMP SYSTEMS USA: (t) 916 987 7629
www.drysump.com
01795 843802
01746 768810
USA (t) 808 497 1211
01440 760960
0208 853 4548
01793 531321
01480 474402
01547 530289

CONNAUGHT 01803 866671
JENVEY DYNAMICS 01793 531321
KINSLER USA (t) 248 362 1145
LINGENFELTER USA (t) 219 724 2552
LUMINITION 01793 531321
SWINDON RACING ENGINES 01793 531321
TITAN MOTORSPORT 01480 474402
TREVO MORRIS ENG 01547 530289

OIL TANKS

BS ENGINEERING 09208 618080
GARTRAC 01428 682261
GOMM METAL DEVELOPMENTS 01481 764876
KS MOTORSPORT Germany (49) 2271 44905
LOWES METALCRAFT 01931 355512
PAGE PRODUCTS 01440 760960
THINK AUTOMOTIVE 020 8968 1172

RUBBER & ELASTOMERIC COMPONENTS

BUTSER RUBBER LTD Tel: 01730 894034

STARTER MOTORS

ARK RACING 01785 715234
EARL'S USA (t) 310 609 1602
RTRAC Germany (49) 9725 5075
STARTLINE UK LTD 01933 665752

THROTTLE BODIES

JENVEY DYNAMICS 01746 768810
KINSLER USA (t) 248 362 1145
LINGENFELTER USA (t) 219 724 2552
LUMINITION 0207 401 4314
SWINDON RACING ENGINES 01793 531321
TWM INDUCTION USA (t) 805 967 9478

THROTTLE VALVES

JENVEY DYNAMICS 01746 768810
KINSLER USA (t) 248 362 1145
LUMINITION 0207 401 4314
TREVO MORRIS ENG 01547 530289
TWM INDUCTION USA (t) 805 967 9478

TURBOCHARGERS

GARRETT AUTOMOTIVE 01695 22391
HOSET ENG 01481 422244
INTERPRO ENGINEERING 01454 412777
QUINETO 08700 100942
TURBO TECHNIQS 01604 764905
ALLARD MOTOR CO 01425 500 333

WATER COOLERS

AH FABRICATIONS 01432 354704
DOCKING & CO 01327 857614
DENSO MARSTON 01274 582266
NIPPON DENSO Japan (81) 56 625 5511
UK 0208 591 7700
01440 760960
0208 965 2151
PAGE PRODUCTS 01440 760960
SERCK MARSTON 0208 965 2151

WATER INJECTION

ERI 01273 580077

WATER PUMPS

DAVIES, CRAIG Australia (61) 39 499 7433
ED PINK RACING ENGINES USA 818 785 6740
EDELBROCK USA (t) 213 781 2

3.3 Engine Electronics

COMPUTER SUPPLIERS

ACES 01206 395224
 ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE 01753 642019
 COMPETITION DATA USA (0) 716 631 2880
 FUELTRONICS Australia (61) 985 21299
 PAD RACING New Zealand (64) 3 3386 2881
 PERFORMANCE TRENDS USA (0) 248 473 9230
 RACELOGIC 01280 812803

DATA-ACQUISITION

ACTIVE SENSORS Tel 0202 480620
 ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE Fax 0120 2480664
 B&G RACING 01753 642019
 BOSCH USA (0) 602 274 2537
 01895 834466
 Germany (49) 711 8111
 USA (0) 312 865 5200
 USA (0) 716 631 2880
 USA 800 870 8383
 01905 796900
 USA (0) 311 761 1545
 Germany (49) 721 944850
 0208 463 9222
 01908 261655
 Canada (0) 604 984 9437
 USA (0) 404 448 9550

Intercomp

INTERCOMP USA Tel (0) 763 476 2531
 Fax (0) 763 476 2643
 14465 23rd Avenue N, Minneapolis, MN 55447, USA
 ISAAC INSTRUMENTS INC. Tel: (450) 658 7520
 Fax: (450) 658 3322
 Email: isaac@isaac.ca
 Website: www.isaac.ca
 25 Robert, Chamby, Quebec, Canada J3L 1S2

LONGACRE USA (0) 425 485 0620
 01483 261000
 MM COMPETITION SYSTEMS 08707 441666
 MOTEC Australia (61) 3 9761 5050
 MOTEC (EUROPE) UK 08700 191010
 MOTEC JAPAN Japan (81) 489 46 1734
 MOTEC SYSTEMS USA USA (0) 714 897 6804
 MOTEC USA (0) 804 973 1399
 MOTOR SPORT ELEC Australia (61) 7 3290 1309
 MOTORSPORTS INTERFACE 0127 31011
 MTS Powertrain Tech Tel 01932 351516
 Fax 01932 351517

7 Glen Court, Canada Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7JL
 NIPPON DENSO Japan (81) 50 625 9051
 PECTEL CONTROL SYSTEMS +44 (0)1924 253610
 PENNY & GILES 01202 409409
 PERFORMANCE TRENDS USA (0) 248 473 9230
 PI RESEARCH 01954 253600
 POLY LOGIC 01462 620666
 QINETIQ 08700 100102
 QUANTUM SUSPENSION 01241 865950
 RACE DATA ENGINEERING USA (0) 714 449 1445
 SAKATA MOTORSPORT ELEC. INC. (714) 446 9473
 STACK Tel 01869 240404
 Fax 01869 245500
 email: sales@stackfwd.com

Wedgewood Road, Bicester Oxfordshire, OX6 4JL
 STEVE BUNKHALL 01223 301025
 VARIOHM 01327 351004

ENGINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE 01753 642019
 ASNU 0208 420 4494
 BOSCH 01895 834466
 Germany (49) 711 8111
 USA (0) 312 865 5200
 01795 843802
 0208 463 9229
 0208 391 0121
 01483 261000
 08707 444666



MOTEC PTY LTD Aus Tel: 613 9761 9090
 Aus Fax: 613 9761 5021
 Japan +81 489 461 734
 12 Merringdale Drive
 Croyston South Victoria Australia
 UK +44 8700 191000
 USA +1 714 895 7001
 +44 (0)1924 253610
 USA (0) 248 474 3060
 (714) 446 9473
 01869 240404
 01280 812803
 01606 574254
 WALBRO ENGINE MANAGEMENT USA (0) 939 872 7091
 ZYTEK SYSTEMS 0121 323 2323

PECTEL CONTROL SYSTEMS
 PRECISION RACE SERVICES
 SAKATA MOTORSPORT ELEC. INC.
 STACK 01869 240404
 SUPERCHIPS 01280 812803
 TERRY SHEPHERD TUNING 01606 574254
 WALBRO ENGINE MANAGEMENT USA (0) 939 872 7091
 ZYTEK SYSTEMS 0121 323 2323

ENGINE SENSORS

ACTIVE SENSORS Tel 01202 480620
 Fax 0120 2480664
 Unit 12, Wilberly Rd, Chischurch, Dorset, B121 3BU England
 (49) 6134 7179-0
 AVL DEUTSCHLAND
 GmbH Germany
 DATASPARCS 0208 463 9229
 ENTRAN 01921 803 999
 KESTLER INSTRUMENTS 01420 544477



KULITE SENSORS Tel 01256 466646
 Kulite House, Stroudley Road, Denismole, RG24 0UG, England

MAGCANICA INC USA 858 454 8950
 McCLAREN ELECTRONICS 01483 261000
 THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 0256 320666
 VARIOHM 01327 351004

REV-LIMITERS

LUCAS ELECTRICAL 0121 536 5050
 LUMINATION 020 7403 4344
 MM COMPETITION 08707 444666

3.4 Transmission Components

CLUTCHES

ALCON Tel +44 (0) 1827 723700
 Tel +44 (0) 1827 723701
 Email info@alcon.co.uk
 www.alcon.co.uk
 Apollo, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7JN



AP RACING

(0)24 7663 9595
 Fax (0) 24 7663 9599
 Wheeler Road, Coventry, CV3 4LB
 0208 654 8835
 01392 369090
 Tel 01480 451301
 Fax 01480 450722
 QUARTER MASTER USA (0) 847 540 8999
 Fax (0) 847 540 0526
 510 Teleser Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047, USA
 UK 01926 812136
 Germany (49) 925 5075



SACHS RACE ENGINEERING GmbH

Tel +49 9721-984300
 Fax +49 9721-984299
 Email service.sr@alcon.de
 Website www.sachs-race-engineering.de
 Ernst-Sachs-Strasse 62, 97424 Schweinfurt, Germany
 SACHS BOGE UK 01988 821253
 TILTON ENGINEERING USA (0) 805 688 2353
 Fax (0) 805 688 2745
 25 Easy Street, Buellton, CA 93427 USA
 Fax (0) 805 388 4938
 USA (0) 805 388 1168
 416 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012, USA

COMPLETE TRANSMISSIONS

RICARDO MIDLANDS TECHNICAL CENTRE
 Tel: 01926 447152
 Fax: 01926 393122
 Email: latin.wght@ricardo.com
 Website: www.ricardo.com
 Southam Road, Radford Semele,
 Leamington Spa CV31 1FQ

CWP'S

DAVID BROWN 01484 422800
 DTS USA (0) 313 778 0540
 JCM TRANSALES USA (0) 303 695 6093
 MARK BAILEY RACING 01380 850130
 XTRAC LTD 01635 293800

DIFFERENTIALS

AJEC INDUSTRIES 01242 222739
 GEARACE LIMITED 01869 277563
 GKN AXLES 0207 930 2424
 HEWLAND ENG 01628 827600
 JCM TRANSALES USA (0) 303 695 6093
 MARK BAILEY RACING 01380 850130
 QUAFIE ENGINEERING 01732 741444
 RICARDO 01273 455601
 RICARDO MIDLANDS TECHNICAL CENTRE 01926 393999
 TOM'S DIFFERENTIALS USA (0) 310 634 8431
 TRAN-X GEARS LTD 02476 659061
 XTRAC LTD 01635 293800
 ZEXEL-GLEASON USA (0) 716 464 5000

DRIVESHAFTS

TORQLINE Composite Driveshafts Products
 CTG Tel: +44 (0)1295 220130
 Fax: +44 (0)1295 220138
 Email: motorsport@ctg.co.uk
 www.ctg.co.uk
 Thorpe Park, Thorpe Way, Banbury, Oxfordshire
 OX16 4SU United Kingdom



GKN MOTOR SPORT

Tel 0121 313 1664
 Fax 0121 313 2074
 Unit 5, Kingsbury Business Park,
 Kingsbury Road, Minworth, Sutton Coldfield,
 Birmingham B76 9DL, England

METALORE USA (0) 310 643 0360
 PANKL 0043 3862 33999
 TEX RACING USA (0) 910 428 9522
 TRAN-X GEARS LTD 02476 659061

GEARS

BGM 001 888 882 6422
 www.bmraceng.com
 Chatsworth CA 9311 USA
 COLLEGE & MORLEY 02476 463238
 COMPTECH USA USA (0) 916 933 1060
 DAVID BROWN 01484 422800
 GEARACE LIMITED 01869 277563
 HEWLAND ENG 01628 827600
 JCM TRANSALES USA (0) 303 695 6093
 KERSCHBAUMER Ger (49) 6074 47 6661
 MARK BAILEY RACING 01380 850130
 PANKL 0043 3862 33999
 TEX RACING USA (0) 910 428 9522
 RICARDO MIDLANDS TECHNICAL CENTRE 01926 393999
 TRAN-X GEARS LTD 02476 659061
 XTRAC LTD 01635 293800

UNIVERSAL JOINTS

FLAMING RIVER USA (0) 440 826 4488
 GEARACE LIMITED 01869 277563

Database 4 FACTORY EQUIPMENT

4.1 Factory Hardware

AIR LINES & FITTINGS

A.N. MOTORSPORT DESIGN 01628 776320
 EARL'S UK 01327 858221
 EXACT ENGINEERING 01803 866464
 Fhs Motor Racing Ltd 01753 513080
 GOODRIDGE UK 01392 369090
 GOODRIDGE CA USA (0) 310 531 1924
 GOODRIDGE INDY USA (0) 317 244 1000
 GOODRIDGE EAST USA (0) 704 662 9095
 INGERSOLL RAND 01204 609600
 JLS MOTORSPORT 0121 555 7733
 KRONTEC Germany (49) 9401 203062
 REGENT 01908 612602
 ROTOTEST Sweden 46 8532 52890
 THINK AUTOMOTIVE 0208 568 1722

AIR TOOLS

DESOUTTER AUTOMOTIVE 0208 205 4884



DINO PAOLI S.R.L.

Tel: +39 522 300828
 Fax: +39 522 304864
 Email: info@dinopaoli.com
 Website: www.dinopaoli.com
 Via Guido Dorso, 54200, Reggio Emilia, Italy

FACOM

INGERSOLL RAND 01932 566099
 JLS MOTORSPORT 01204 609600
 0121 525 7733

CNC MACHINING CENTRES

ABSOLUTE MACHINE TOOL USA (0) 440 324 5133
 BOSTON DIGITAL USA (0) 508 473 4561
 BRIDGEPORT MACHINE USA (0) 248 299 1750
 DEREK ROBINSON 0116 266 2222
 DEWCO USA (0) 765 462 7201
 MGB TOOLS 0151 4236455
 MACHINERY SALES USA (0) 510 490 4000
 MAKING USA (0) 800 552 3288
 MEDDINGS MACHINES 01752 893277
 MILLS ENGINEERING 01603 745531
 MILLSITE ENGINEERING USA (0) 304 273 5351
 RGS PERFORMANCE USA (0) 716 434 2509
 RMT MECHATRONICS 01905 232215
 SERDI 01895 232215
 SOUTHWESTERN IND USA (0) 310 608 4422
 SPA AEROFOLDS LTD 01827 260626
 T&S USA (0) 940 668 1002
 TOYODA EUROPE 02476 547200

CRACK DETECTION

ABS PRODUCTS USA (0) 714 671 0728
 DCM TECH USA (0) 800 533 5319
 KRAUTKRAMER BRANSON USA (0) 717 242 0327

CRYOGENIC TEMPERING

FROZEN SOLID 01449 674914

DUST EXTRACTION EQUIP

DENCER 01789 470098

DYNAMOMETERS: CHASSIS

FROUDE CONSOLE 01905 856800
 International Dynamometers LTD/Dynapack
 001 559 292 3800 New Zealand 64 4587 0484
 USA (0) 603 329 5645
 LAND & SEA UK 01842 795744
 KISTLER Instruments Ltd 01420 544477
 ROTOTEST Sweden (46) 8 532 55890
 SUPERFLOW USA (0) 800 471 7701
 Belgium 325 216300
 UNICO (UK) LTD 01908 260000

DYNAMOMETERS: DAMPER

BEHRENS SPEED CENTER USA (0) 914 651 7389
 CZECH MATE USA (0) 800 809 2223
 DYNAMIC SUSPENSIONS Can (0) 905 470 8778
 UK 01842 795744
 ND TECH SHOCK DYNOS USA (0) 520 624 3897
 SCHMITT EUROPE UK 02476 607942
 SPA DESIGN 01827 260626
 SPA TECHNIQUE USA (0) 317 271 7941
 TAT Germany (49) 7352 84258

DYNAMOMETERS: ENGINE

AVL Germany (49) 61 34 71 790
 DSP TECHNOLOGY 0932 351516
 DYNAMIC TEST SYSTEMS 01842 755744
 ENGINE & DYNAMOMETER 01708 857108
 FROUDE CONSOLE 01905 856800
 JRM AUTOMOTIVE USA (0) 508 966 2531
 LAND & SEA USA (0) 603 329 5645
 LOTUS ENGINEERING 01953 608000
 MOTORSPORTS INTERFACE 01788 800412
 TAT Germany (49) 7352 84258

DYNAMOMETER INSTRUMENTATION

ACQUIRED DATA SYSTEMS USA (0) 810 596 0131
 DEPAQ DYNO SYSTEMS USA (0) 395 339 1265
 DYNOLAB USA (0) 206 243 8897
 FROUDE CONSOLE 01905 856800
 LAND & SEA USA (0) 603 329 5645
 KISTLER Instruments Ltd 01420 544477
 PERFORMANCE TRENDS USA (0) 248 473 9230
 QUADRANT SCIENTIFIC USA (0) 303 666 8414
 ROEHRIG ENGINEERING USA (0) 336 431 1827
 SUPERFLOW USA (0) 800 471 7701
 Belgium 325 216300
 TAT Germany (49) 7352 84258

ENGINE BALANCING EQUIP

ABS PRODUCTS USA (0) 714 671 0728
 BC GEROLYMI USA (0) 916 638 9008
 POWERHOUSE PRODUCTS USA 800 872 2223
 SCHMITT EUROPE 02476 607942
 SUNNEN PRODUCTS USA (0) 800 732 2878
 WINONA VAN Canada (0) 800 833 4870

ENGINE HOISTS

MR GASKET PERFORMANCE USA (0) 216 398 8300
 SILVER SEAL USA (0) 800 521 2936

ENGINE STANDS

ABS PRODUCTS USA (0) 714 671 0728
 BLUEBIRD USA (0) 800 808 2473
 C-LINE USA (0) 800 645 7697
 DYNAMIC TEST SYSTEMS USA (0) 800 243 3966
 GOODSON USA (0) 507 452 1830
 JEGS USA (0) 614 294 5451
 MOROSO PERFORMANCE USA (0) 201 453 6571
 MR GASKET PERFORMANCE USA (0) 216 398 8300
 RACER COMPONENTS USA (0) 901 581 9976
 SCRIBNER USA (0) 916 638 1935

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ASNU 0208 420 4494
 AUDIE TECHNOLOGY USA (0) 610 630 5805
 CV PRODUCTS USA (0) 800 448 1223
 CLO-FLOW South Africa (27) 11 963128
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 MITSUBISHI-YAMAZEN 0208 749 9161
 RGS PERFORMANCE USA (t) 716 434 2509
 TOYODA 02476 542700

LATHES
 RMT MECHATRONICS 01565 650411
 LOCK-N-STITCH USA (t) 800 736 8264
 MAGNAFLUX USA (t) 847 657 5300
THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666

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 CRP TECHNOLOGY Italy (39) 059 821355
 3D SYSTEMS UK 04442 282600

TOOL CABINETS
 DURA 01205 712800



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 Fax: 01403 276434
 Email: sales@gwsystems.co.uk
 Website: gwsystems.co.uk

Units 10-12 Horsham Court, City Business Centre, 6
 Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5BA
 LISTA 01908 223333
 MAC TOOLS USA (t) 614 755 7000

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 AMILLER ELECTRIC MFG USA (t) 800 426 4553

4.2 Factory Software

CAD & CAM SOFTWARE

BRIDGEPORT MACHINE USA (t) 248 299 1750
 DASSAULT SYSTEMS USA (t) 888 673 2134
 DELCAM 0121 766 5544
 EXA USA (t) 781 676 8551
 MITUTOYO UK 01264 353123
 PARAMETRIC TECHNOLOGY 01252 817000
 QimacIQ 08700 100942

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 LIFECHECK 01285 720665
 KINETIC RACING TECHNOLOGIES USA (t) 248 245 2330
 NOSKECOMP Australia 07 32 88 3195

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 PI RESEARCH 01954 253600
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 RICARDO USA (t) 734 197 6666
 SERVOTEST 0208 707 1400
 VEHICLE DYNAMICS PERFORMANCE USA (t) 512 450 1035

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CIRCUIT EQUIPMENT

5.1 Pits Equipment

AIR COMPRESSORS

COMPAIR UK 01494 465000
 COMPAIR UK 01473 602222
 ROTOTEST Sweden 46 8532 55 890

AIR LINES & FITTINGS

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 FHS Motor Racing Ltd 01753 513080
 GOODRIDGE UK 01392 369090
 GOODRIDGE CA USA (t) 310 533 1924
 GOODRIDGE INDY USA (t) 317 244 1000
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 RACING CAR COMPUTERS 01279 812496
 STACK 08169 240404

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 LONGACRE RACING USA (t) 206 885 3823
 NOVATECH 0124 852744
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
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 ROEHRIG ENGINEERING USA (t) 313 344 8120
 SERVOTEST LTD 020 8907 1400
 SPA DESIGN 0127 288328
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REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500

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ENGINE HOISTS

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 FACOM UK 01932 566099

ENGINE STANDS

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 SPA TECHNIQUE 01827 288328
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 INGERSOLL RAND 01204 690690

HAND PUMPS

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 FACOM 01932 566099
 SILVERSTONE RACE SERVICES 01327 858411
 SNAP-ON USA (t) 414 656 5372
 0161 969 0126
 0208 310 6666

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 ESSEX RACING USA (t) 404 889 4096
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 DEMON TWEETS 01978 664466
 DUNLOP AUTOMOTIVE 02476 667738
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 KS MOTORSPORT 01255 850800
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 MARDI GRAS MOTORSPORTS 01327 858 006
 MECHANIX WEAR USA (t) 661 257 0474
 RALLY DESIGN 01795 531871
 SILVERSTONE RACE SERVICES 01327 858411

NOISE METERS

CIRRUS RESEARCH 01723 891655

PIT BARRIERS

KAISER & KRAFT 01923 233312
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PIT BOARDS

ACTIVE ENGINEERING USA 001 714 637 1155
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PIT CANOPIES

PIT BITS 01727 858297

PIT LANE MARKERS

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PIT TROLLEYS

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 AUTOTEL RACE RADIO 01508 528837
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 GRAND PRIX PROMOTIONS 01474 879524
 JAYBRAND 0733 68247
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500

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 EXACT ENGINEERING 01803 866464
 GTC COMPETITION 01483 272151
 KRONTEC Germany (49) 9401 703062
 PREMIER FUEL SYSTEMS 01332 850515
THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666

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 GTC COMPETITION 01483 272 151
 PREMIER FUEL SYSTEMS 01332 850515
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 SPA DESIGN 01827 288328
 THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666

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 4-PATCH 01376 342463
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 ME MOTORSPORT 01884 253070
 RML 01933 402440
THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666
 SPA AEROFOLDS LTD 01827 260026
 UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE 01707 284270

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 DEMON TWEETS 01978 664466
 HLONGACRE RACING USA (t) 206 885 3823
 ME MOTORSPORT 01884 253070

REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666

SPACE HEATERS

FASTENER FACTORY 01327 31018

STOPWATCHES

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 DEMON TWEETS 01978 664466
 GRAND PRIX RACEWEAR 020 8987 5500
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REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
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 POLSTORE STORAGE 01403 750000
 PRONALS France (33) 3201 997510

TAPE

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 CLARENDON 01455 841200
 DRC RACE CAR USA (t) 609 397 4455
 FASTENER FACTORY 01327 31018
 KS MOTORSPORT Germany (49) 2271 44905
 RALLY DESIGN 01795 531871
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
 TRIDENT 01327 857822

TIMING SYSTEMS

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 CONTINENTAL SPORT USA (t) 513 459 8888
 ME MOTORSPORT 01884 253070
 MOTEC Australia (61) 3 9761 5050
 MOTEC (EUROPE) UK 08700 119100
 MOTEC JAPAN Japan (81) 489 46 1734
 MOTEC SYSTEMS USA USA (t) 714 897 6804
 MST SPORTS TIMING 01884 573479
 PI RESEARCH 01954 251600
 PIT BITS 01727 858297
 STACK 01869 240404
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 VULCAN ENTERPRISES USA (t) 602 759 7926

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 KAISER & KRAFT 01923 233312
 POLSTORE STORAGE 01403 750000
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 GMD COMPUTRACK Austr (61) 2 9644 1946
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
 THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666

TYRE PRESSURE GAUGES

BERU Fi SYSTEMS 01379 646200
 GRAND PRIX RACEWEAR 0208 987 5500
 THE STRAIN GAUGING CO 01256 320666
 TRIDENT 01327 857822

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OMS RACING 01132 575956

TYRE WARMERS

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 DEMON TWEETS 01978 664466
 GRAND PRIX RACEWEAR 020 8987 5500
 JAYBRAND 0733 68247
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500
 SEEKERS 0151 524 0919

5.2 Paddock Equipment

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 ALFORSFORD TECTONICS 01962 736166
 AWNING COMPANY 01204 363463
 BARKERS 020 8653 1988
 DEANS AWNINGS 01942 241399
 MAYFLOWER 01494 712131
 PIT BITS 01727 858297
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 DAVID WILSON'S TRAILERS 01825 740696
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 WESTCROFT AMERICAN 01902 731324



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6.1 Driver's Equipment

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GRAND PRIX RACEWEAR Tel 0208 987 5500
Tel 0208 744 8999
Power Road, Chiswick, London, W4 5PY, England



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Tel 01606 737683
E-mail info@redlinemotorsport.co.uk

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GRAND PRIX RACEWEAR 0208 987 5500
MECHANIXWEAR USA (0) 805 257 0474
REDLINE MOTORSPORT Tel 01606 737500

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www.QinetiQ.com
Cody Technology Park,
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Database 7

CHASSIS ENGINEERING SERVICES

7.1 Chassis Services

BODYWORK SPECIALISTS

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ADVANCED COMPOSITES 01773 763441
ANDY ROUSE ENGINEERING 02476 635882
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CEB CONSULTANTS AERODYNAMICS (0) 1202 679666
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CROPREY BRIDGE GARAGE 02095 758444
DEREK PALMER ENGINEERING 01555 893315
DON FOSTER France (33) 470 580308
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FIBRESPORTS 01268 527331
GRAHAM HATHAWAY RACING 01621 856926
GTC COMPETITION 01481 272151
GTI ENGINEERING 01280 700800
HAMLYN MOTOR SERVICES 01582 841284
HEDDINGTON COACHWORKS 01380 850988
INTAPORSCH 01273 831241
LOTUS ENGINEERING 01953 608000
LYNX MOTORS 01424 852777
MERLIN BODYCRAFT 01280 709526
MITCHELL NZ (64) 78230888
PODIUM DESIGN 07000 761486
SPA COMPOSITES 01543 432904

COMPOSITES SPECIALISTS

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ACTIVA TECHNOLOGY 020 8974 1615
AELIUS TECHNOLOGY USA (0) 970 472 1288
AERODINE COMPOSITES USA (0) 377 271 1207
APPLIED FIBREGLASS 08142 765339
ASTEC 01332 875451
BEK RESINS 0208 464 7734
CEB CONSULTANT AERODYNAMICS (0) 1202 679666
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CARBONE INDUSTRIE France (33) 14 972 2305
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COMPOSITE DESIGN USA (0) 727 539 0605
COMPOSITE WINGS 01953 885478

Cranfield UNIVERSITY

CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY Tel 01234 754902
Tel 01234 756761
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www.motorsport.cranfield.ac.uk
motorsport@cranfield.ac.uk

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DU PONT UK 01481 273 0000
Switzerland (41) 22 717 3111
USA (0) 302 774 1000

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MIRA 0247 6355 000
NERO 01254 202085
PANKL Austria (43) 3862 512500
PODIUM DESIGN 07000 761486
PRONAL'S France (33) 120 99 75 10
QINETIQ 08700 100942
RICHARD HINTON RACING 01279 776607
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SCOTT BADER 01933 661000
SPA COMPOSITES 01543 432904
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TECHNICAL RESIN BONDERS 01480 52388
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TURBO HEAT 01535 664091
UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE 01707 284270
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DESIGN AND ANALYSIS

LOLA Tel 01480 451301
Fax 01480 457622



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FABRICATION

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A-MAC FABRICATION USA (0) 408 773 0388
ANDY ROUSE ENGINEERING 02476 635882
ANEX SYSTEMS 01809 345038



AUTOMOTIVE FABRICATION Tel/Fax 001 214 745 1148
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1027 Levee Street Dallas, Texas 75207

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AZTEK 01509 261299
B&W 01481 222 713
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BSS PARTS 01772 606062
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COLMET PRECISION 01296 681628
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DJ RACECARS 06661 734511
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EUROTECH MOTORSPORT 0121 3314944
FOXCRIFT ENGINEERING 01241 541992
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GOMM METAL DEVELOPMENTS 01621 856926
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JAGO DEVELOPMENTS 01243 789366
KRONTAC MASCHINENBAU (49) 9401 700352

LOTUS ENGINEERING 01953 608000
LYNX MOTORS 01424 852777
MACDONALD RACE ENG 0208 859 1633
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QinetiQ 08700 100942
RACEPREP 1001 01903 734499
RBS 01788 541094
RETRO TRACK & AIR UK 01453 545360
RICARDO MIDLANDS TECHNICAL CENTRE Tel: 01926 477522
Fax: 01926 319352
Email: iain.wight@ricardo.com

RILEY & SCOTT

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www.protechcomposites.co.uk
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Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9GF, UK

ROSS COURTNEY 01384 291919
STARTLINE UK LTD 01933 665752
SECART ENGINEERING 001 203 798 6698

SPACEFRAME DESIGN

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ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES LTD 01983 550483
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DRIVETRAIN & SUSPENSION ENGINEERING SERVICES

8.1 Engine Services

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ANDY ROUSE ENGINEERING 02476 635882
AUTOKRAFT 0121 777 2083
AZTEK 01509 261299
BJ MOTOR ENGINEERS 0161 748 8663
BKR MOTORSPORT 01926 451545
DAVE CROSS MOTOR SERVICES 01246 477566
SBD MOTORSPORT 02028 391 0121
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CONCEPT MOTORSPORT USA (0) 513 459 8888
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Oldham Lancashire, 014 7LE
DJ RACECARS 01661 734511
DTM POWER 01865 497726
DUNNELL ENGINES 01449 677726
EARS MOTORSPORT 01625 413773
EDS 01708 857108
ELABORAZIONE COLASUNO 0207 738 8311
ENGINE DATA ANALYSIS 01977 516622
ENGINE SHOP 01280 812099
FISCHER ENGINEERING USA (0) 808 767 8840
FORWARD ENGINEERING 06676 532526
GEMINI ENGINEERING 01474 534779
GEOFF RICHARDSON ENGINEERING 01480 861999
GP BECK MOTORSPORT PREPARATION 06626 621814
GOLDFLOW 01491 875554

GOODMAN RACING ENGINES 01237 300422
GRAHAM HATHAWAY RACING 01621 856926
GRIFFIN MOTORSPORT 07931 771802
HARRPERS PERFORMANCE 01642 818888
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HT RACING 01474 872888
IRMSCHER 01543 414466
IVAN DUTTON 01923 816277
JANSPED MOTORSPORT 0722 321833
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JOHN WILCOX COMPETITION ENG 01455 230526
JONDEL 01933 410919
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KREMER RACING Germany (49) 221 171025
LE SPORT France (33) 14 582 4400
LIGHTNING PERFORMANCE USA (0) 904 439 5283
LINGENFELTER USA (0) 219 724 2552
MARDI GRAS MOTORSPORTS 01237 858 006
MATHWALL ENGINEERING 01252 703191
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MAXSYM ENGINE TECH 01608 681555
MERLIN DEVELOPMENTS 0281 51181
MILLINGTON 01746 782628
MINERVA MOTORSPORT 01509 231970
MINISTER RACING ENGINES 01634 682527
MOTOR RACING USA (0) 714 796 0073
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MOUNTUNE RACE ENGINES 01621 854029
NEIL BROWN ENGINEERING 01775 723052
PHIL JONES ENGINE DEV 01454 310936
PHIL MARKS ENGINE DEV 01564 824869
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PRIMA RACING 0159 941903
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SCARBOROUGH Canada (0) 416 759 9309
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SWAYMAR 01932 868377
SWINDON RACING ENGINES 01793 513121
TECNO 01268 764047
TERRY SHEPHERD TUNING 01695 524454
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Fax 0208 847 5338
Email matt@thinkauto.co.uk

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ZYTEK ENGINEERING 01332 48974
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8.2 Engine Services

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ANEX SYSTEMS 01869 345038
BTR PREPARATIONS 01977 523148
EARS MOTORSPORT 01625 433773
GTC COMPETITION 01483 272151
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 CAMCOAT PERFORMANCE COATINGS 01925 445001
 COMPAIR AUTOPOWER 01494 465000
 HANKOE MOTORSPORT 01751 527799
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 SWAYMAR CASTING 01932 868377
 AEROMET 01795 415000
 GM DESIGN 017 985 9904
 GRIFFITHS ENGINEERING 01953 608000
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 JENVEY DYNAMICS 01746 768800
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 PANKL Austria (43) 3862 512500
 QUAIFFE ENGINEERING 0732 741444
 QDF COMPONENTS 01312 760260
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 AVONBAR 01912 8140058
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 DATUM ENGINEERING 01312 864900
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8.5 Race Preparation

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 ANEX SYSTEMS 01869 345018
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Database 9
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9.1 Chassis Testing

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 TORQUE FAST CALIBRATION 01782 744212
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 CCA DATA SYSTEMS 01252 378938
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 LONGACRE USA (1) 425 485 0620
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 FROUDE CONSOLE 01905 856800
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9.2 Engine Testing

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 DYNAMIC TEST USA (0) 800 241 3966
 DYNOMITE USA (0) 603 329 5645
ENGINE & DYNAMOMETER
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 LOTUS ENGINEERING 01953 608000
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 MOTORSPORTS INTERFACE 01788 890412
 Ricardo Inc USA (0) 734 397 6666
 ROTOTEST Sweden (46) 8 532 55890
 SUPERFLOW USA (0) 719 471 1746
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Rear wing details

Pressures and flows around the rear wing

Continuing with the aerodynamics of an entire single seater, this month we look at pressure patterns around the dual-element rear wing of a 2001 Reynard Champ Car. Although the regulations on wing dimensions and configuration are unique to the category, once more some of the generalities apply to other applications.

Figure 1 shows the static pressures around the rear of the car, and clearly the rear wing develops high static pressure on its top surfaces and low static pressure on its lower surfaces. The pressure differential integrated over the wing's plan area results in about a third of the car's total downforce in this configuration. A rear wing develops significant drag too, and this type of wing might be expected to have a lift-to-drag ratio of around 3:1. Some of that drag arises from the static pressure differential between the forward and rearward facing surfaces ('pressure drag'). With a powerful wing like this though a significant proportion of its drag arises from the formation of vortices from the tips – once called 'induced drag' but now usually referred to as 'vortex drag'. The creation of these tip vortices induces additional static pressure reduction behind the wing, leading to further drag.

Figures 2 to 6 show vertical slices through the length of the car and the air around it. At the top of each plot is static pressure, showing where aerodynamic forces are being generated. The lower half of each plot shows total pressure, a measure of the energy in the airflow. As air passes over the body it loses energy due to skin friction, viscous shear forces and flow separations. Total pressure remains high where these effects have not 'stolen' energy, but where energy losses occur, total pressure decreases.

Figure 2 shows a slice along the car's centreline. Concentrating on the vicinity of the rear wing, the static pressures can again be seen to be high above and low below the wing, and this view illustrates how far off the wing surface the pressure changes are felt. Clearly the reduced static pressure region extends well below the wing to interact with the rear underbody. The total pressure plot also shows the influence of the wing on the airflow coming towards it as well as leaving it. Although the wake of the pop-off valve on top of the engine (and the roll hoop) extends well downstream towards the centre of the wing, the downwash induced by the wing ahead of itself brings higher energy air onto its leading edge. Aft of the wing, the upwash deflects the airflow up at quite an angle, and clearly also drags the core of the car's wake upwards, too.

Moving 350mm outboard (figure 3), the environment around the rear wing is rather different. The total pressure plot shows cleaner 'onset flow', with more high-energy airflow approaching the wing and passing under it as well

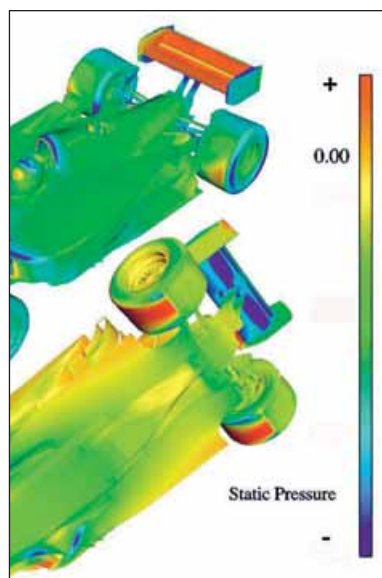


Figure 1 (left): the static pressure differential between the top and bottom surfaces of the rear wing enable it to generate almost a third of the car's downforce in this configuration

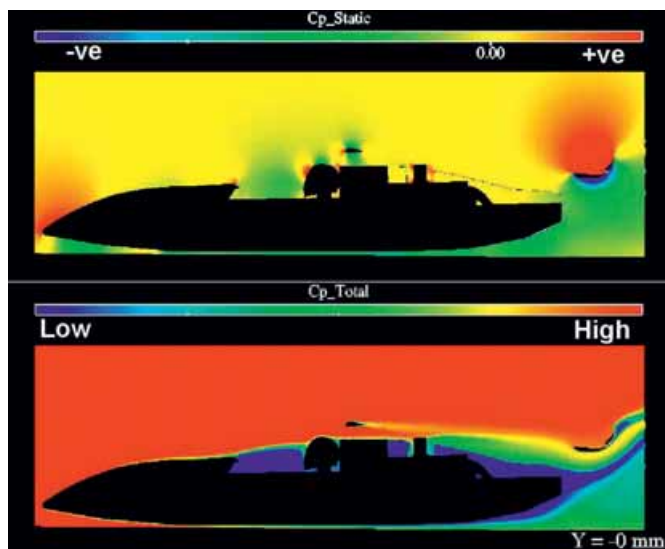


Figure 2 (below): a slice at the car's centreline shows the static pressure differential, and the total pressure plot shows how the wing influences the airflow

Illustrations courtesy: Advantage CFD

as over it. This portion of the wing works most effectively, generating the lowest pressure coefficients of the whole span under the suction surface.

Another 100mm further outboard (figure 4) and the onset flow is different again, as shown by the total pressure plot. Well upstream of the rear wing the driver's mirror can be seen to generate a wake, and just ahead of the wing the influence of the details on the rear of the sidepod and the rear wheel can also be seen. These effects combine to reduce the total pressure of the airflow passing beneath the wing, although again the wing's downwash brings more energetic airflow down towards its leading edge.

Y = 525mm (figure 5) is in line with the inside face of the rear wing end →

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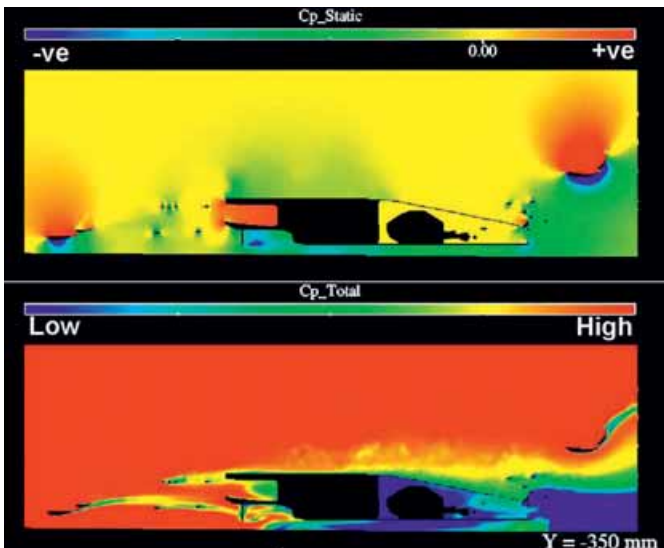


Figure 3: 350mm outboard of the centreline the onset airflow is at its best, and the rear wing is working at its best

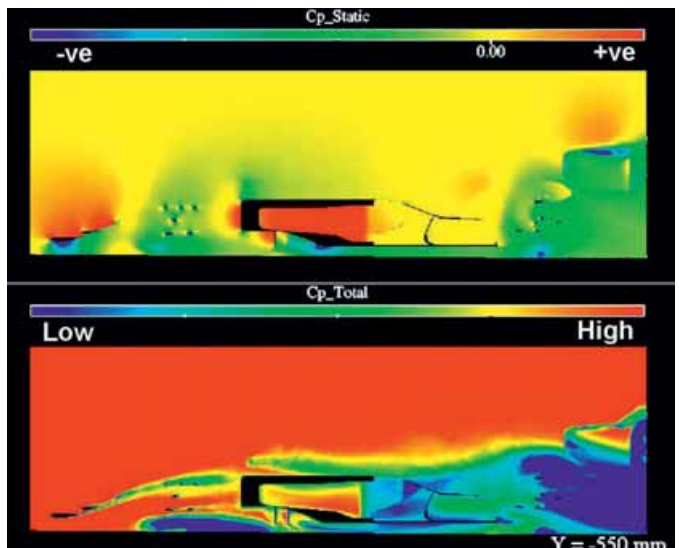


Figure 6: 550mm from the centreline and the rear end plate outline can be seen via its influence on both plots

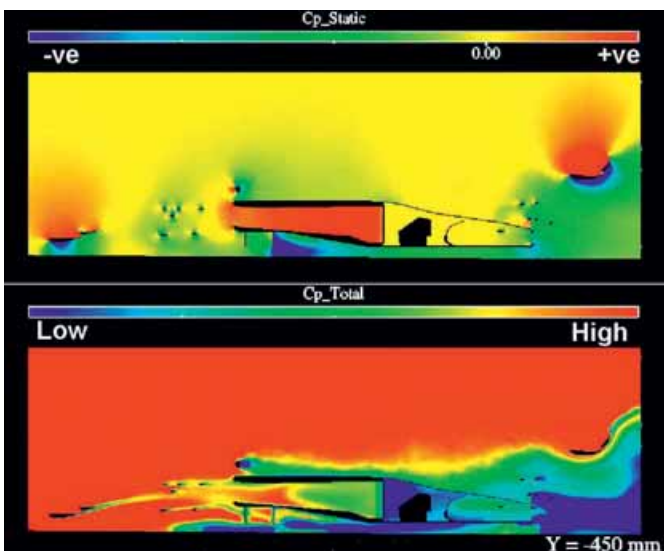


Figure 4: 450mm from the centreline and upstream components are taking their toll on the quality of the onset airflow

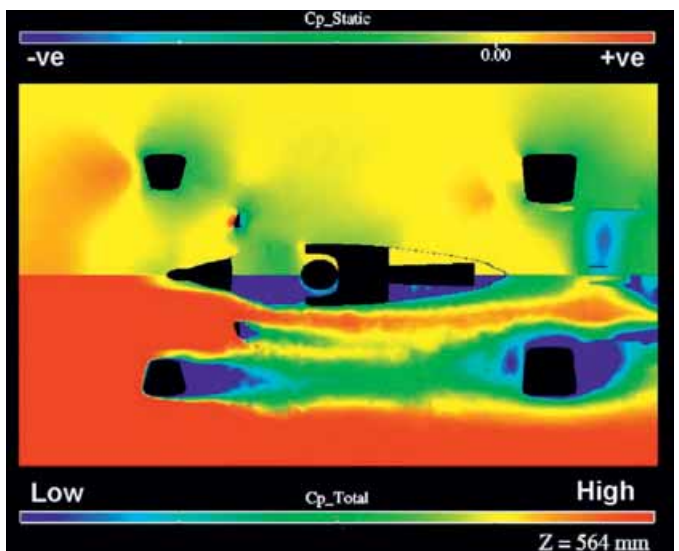


Figure 7: this horizontal slice just below the rear mainplane shows how the wing works at its best where the total pressure in the onset flow is at its highest. Notice how the wheel wake is pushed outboard of the end plate

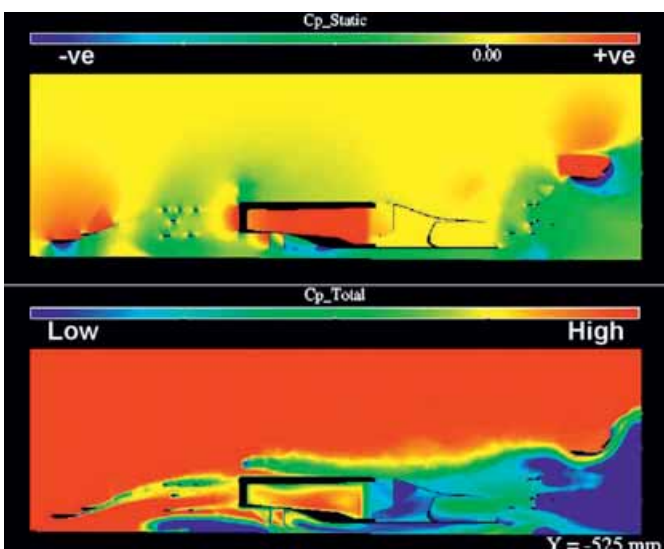


Figure 5: in line with the inside of the rear end plate and the disturbance from the wheel is trying to make its presence felt

plate. The total pressure plot shows less energetic flow reaching the wing, and the disturbance caused by the rear wheel is more apparent. The static pressure plot looks rather different here, the end plate delineating the high

static pressure region above the wing. The lower tip vortex core (shown in dark blue) can just be made out in line with the bottom of the end plate.

The slice at $Y = 550\text{mm}$ (figure 6) is taken just outboard of the end plate, the shape of which is visible in both plots here. In the static pressure plot the end plate outline is made apparent by the upper tip vortex core (dark blue) forming on the top edge, and the small strip of raised static pressure (yellow) forming ahead of the Gurney on the outboard rear edge. In the total pressure plot there are losses from the end plate's leading edge that trail back and down with the prevailing airflow direction. And the low total pressure (dark blue) immediately behind the vertical Gurney is also visible.

Figure 7 is looking from above at a horizontal slice just below the rear wing mainplane. The lower half of the plot shows total pressure, and the narrow band of high-energy airflow (red) approaching the wing part way across its span is evident. The static pressure plot in the upper half of the plot shows the low static pressure region below the mainplane is at its broadest (front to rear) in line with where the total pressure in the onset flow is at its highest (a third way across the span). Note also how the end plate seems to segregate the wheel wake from the flow under the wing.

So although the rear wing exerts considerable influence on the approaching airflow and the regions around it, clearly its performance is in large part governed by the 'quality' of the onset airflow.



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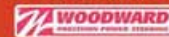
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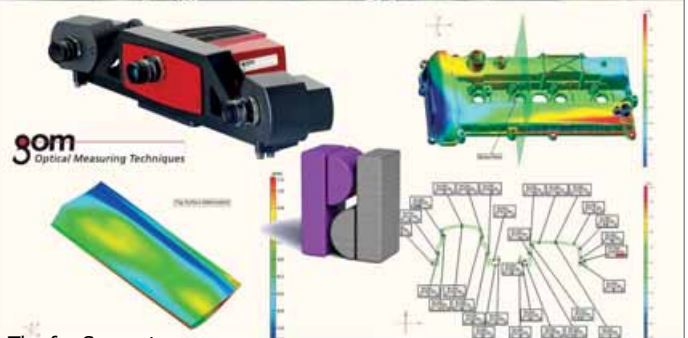
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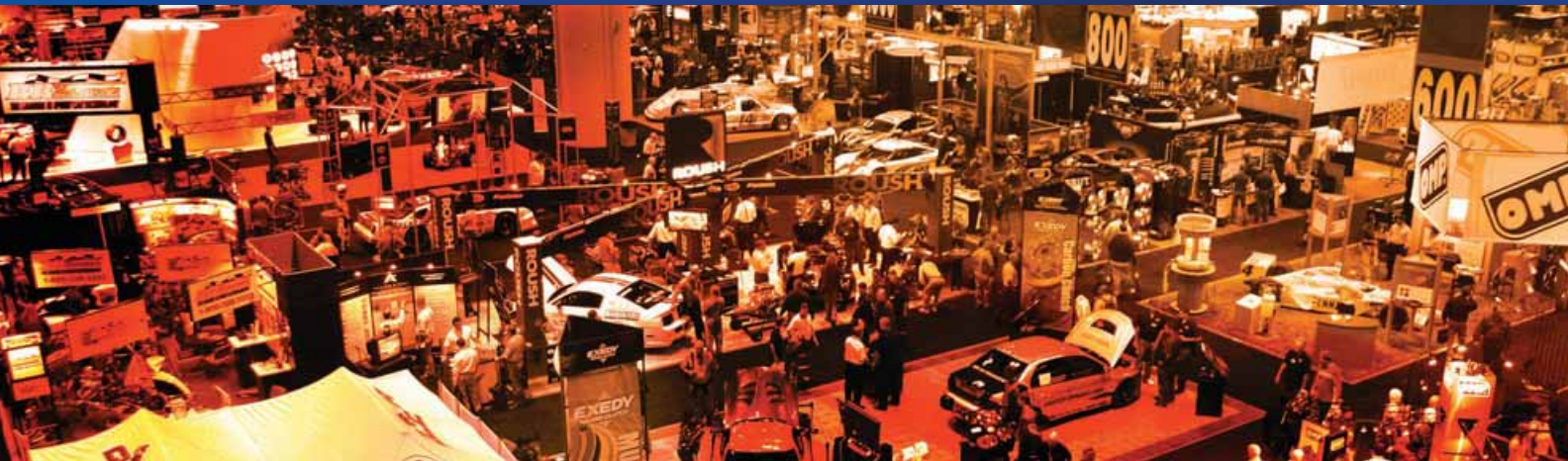
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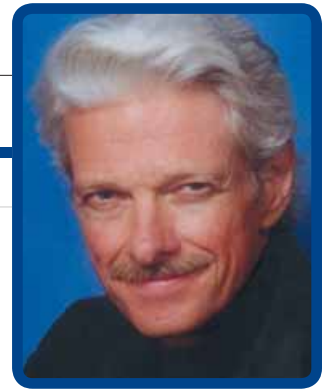
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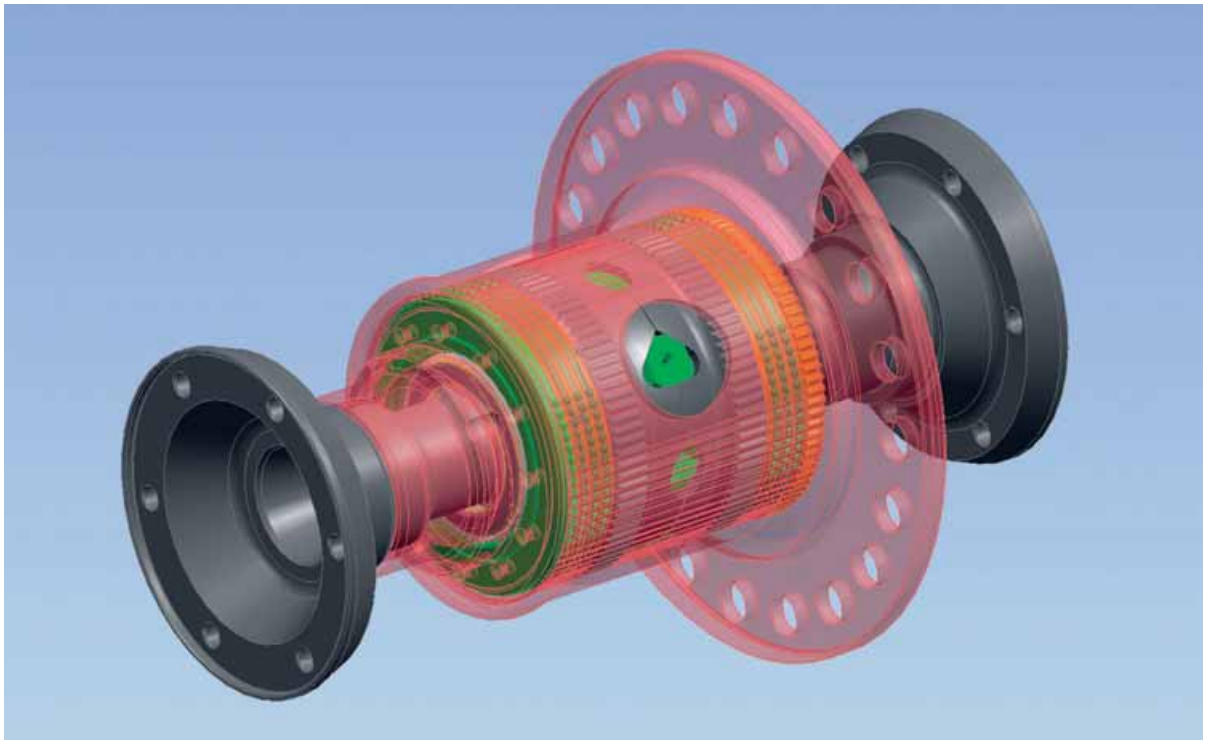
Mark Ortiz is

THE CONSULTANT



Diff differences

The plate-type differential is generally favoured in motorsport arenas where active diffs aren't allowed, due to its greater tuneability and resistance to wear



CAD illustrations courtesy of Atrac

Q Which differential would be best for road racing in my 300bhp Porsche? The question arises because a supplier suggests that a plate-type limited slip is better suited to road racing than a worm gear-style torque bias diff. I have used both and found I liked the torque bias diff and, from what I read, I thought it was a better design. The supplier states that the LSD will be better in corner entry and exit. What is your opinion?

A Clearly, both worm gear and clutch pack differentials have their adherents, and both are used successfully in various types of motorsport. You say you have personal experience with both types of final drives, and have already formed a preference, so the most obvious answer would be that you've answered your own question and don't need my advice.

However, the situation is actually a bit murkier, because the behaviour of both types of differential can vary according to design and tuning details. Both types are similar in that they generate a locking torque in response to

the total torque being transmitted. In both types, the locking torque depends on pressure angles. In a ZF-style clutch pack design, the angles are those of the ramps on the spider shaft and the housing halves. In a worm gear design, it's primarily the helix angle on the gear teeth themselves, and secondarily the pressure angle of the tooth profile. Lubricant choice also influences behaviour.

Consequently, all clutch pack diffs don't act like and neither do all worm gear diffs. A lot depends on how a specific example is tuned.

That said, the clutch pack design probably offers a greater range of tuning

Mark Ortiz Automotive is a chassis consulting service primarily serving oval track and road racers. In these pages Mark answers your queries on chassis set-up and handling. If you have a question to put to him, email to markortiz@vnet.net, call 704-933-8876 or write to **Mark Ortiz, 155 Wankel Dr., Kannapolis, NC 28083-8200 USA**

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“BOTH CLUTCH PACK AND WORM GEAR DIFFS RELY ON COULOMB FRICTION”

options, and probably greater wear resistance. With the worm gear designs, we are trying to make gear teeth act as a friction device. Clutch discs are designed to be a friction device, whereas gear teeth can be made to act as a friction device, but they are less comfortable in that role. This affects the →

ability of the differential to maintain consistent properties through time, and the unit's longevity, too.

The pressure angles determine how rapidly locking torque builds as transmitted torque increases. The pre-load in the diff determines how much locking torque there is when no torque is being transmitted. A clutch pack is easily pre-loaded, and it maintains its pre-load relatively well, especially if the pre-load is applied by springs or some other compliant system such as dished clutch plates. Worm gears can similarly be pre-loaded, but because they are not very compliant, the pre-load rapidly goes away as the teeth wear.

One limitation in worm gears is that the pressure angle is generally the same for forward torque and rearward torque (as when engine braking, or when transmitting brake torque from a single rear brake, as seen in FSAE cars). In a clutch pack diff, it is possible to use different ramp angles for power and deceleration.

Another peculiarity of worm gear designs is that because power and deceleration apply force to opposite sides of the gear teeth, pre-load doesn't have identical effects in both directions. If we pre-load the gears in the direction they're reloaded under power, what happens under deceleration is that we have diminishing friction with increasing reverse torque, until the pre-load is overcome, at which point locking torque is zero. As reverse torque increases beyond that point, locking torque builds again. With a clutch pack, pre-load has similar effect in both drive and deceleration modes.

This means that we can make a worm gear diff act differently in



A worm gear diff is well illustrated by this ATB (automatic torque biasing) unit from Quaife

Courtesy of Quaife

drive and deceleration, but not in a manner that's independent of pre-load.

One interesting, though uncommon, trick we can use in a worm gear diff is to use plain thrust washers to absorb the thrust of the worm gears in one direction, and needle thrust bearings to absorb the forces in the other direction. This can afford us a limited measure of difference in friction depending on torque direction.

Last year's North Carolina State University FSAE car had a diff like this. It will be clear, however, that using these tricks is not as straight-forward as varying the ramp angles in a clutch pack diff.

Finally, neither option is ideal, because neither is speed sensitive. Both clutch

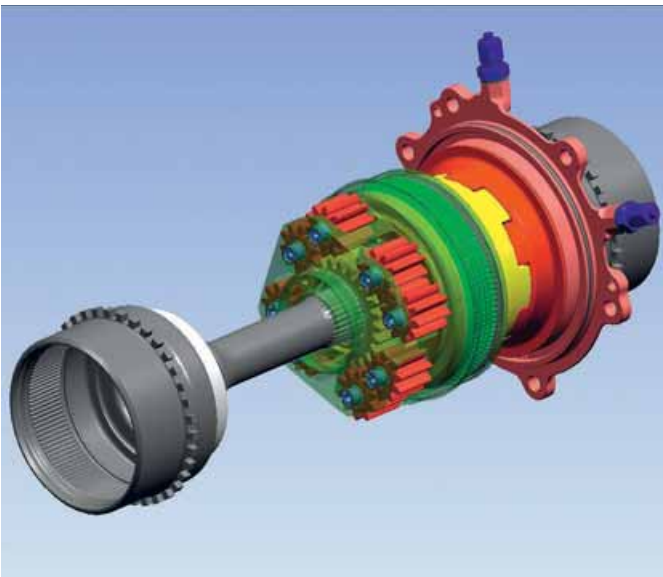
pack and worm gear diffs rely on Coulomb friction, which is largely dependent on normal force and not speed. We would rather have the locking torque vary with the speed difference between the wheels, either entirely or at least in part. This argues for either a pure viscous limited slip, or a design that uses a pump, driven by relative output shaft rotation, to load a clutch pack, or one that combines viscous effects with a clutch pack.

Cliff Hawkins of Xtrac adds:

My preference would be VCP (viscous combined plate), then a plate diff, then a worm diff. The worm differentials don't have the tuneability for motorsport though, as pointed out above, which probably explains why Xtrac has never fitted one in a racing gearbox. Without pre-load

neither of the two differentials mentioned here will cope well with mixed surfaces, a fact which lends more weight to your speed sensitive argument. RE

“NEITHER OPTION IS IDEAL BECAUSE NEITHER IS SPEED SENSITIVE”



Viscous effect adds control to a plate-type diff in a viscous combined plate unit. Xtrac 247 heavy-duty unit is an adjustable plate diff, also available with viscous

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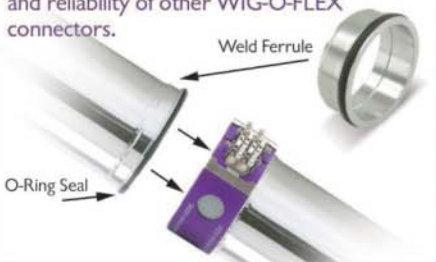
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