



#TECHTIPTuesday

Matching Your Tires to the Track

Tire Softness/Hardness

It's a common misconception that if you need more bite you need a softer tire, but this is not always the case. The softness of the tire will mostly depend on how soft the track surface is. If the track is wet/spongy/soft, then you will probably need soft tires. As the track surface becomes harder, you will need to change to a harder tires to match the track's surface. Just as a hard tire can and will slide on a soft track... a soft tire will slide on a hard one.

Track Bite

The amount of bite or grip in the track also has an enormous impact on your tire selection. For a track that produces very little bite (slick), your tires will need to produce a lot more grip. On the other hand, for a track that produces higher bite your tires do not need as much grip. On slicker tracks, you have to use tires that will not roll as free because they are fixed more to make bite. However, on a higher bite track you cannot afford to sacrifice this "roll speed." For example, if you were to run the same tires on the higher bite track as you would on the slick track the kart will be slow because it has far too much rolling resistance and your tires can begin to tear, feather, or wear at an excessive rate. Vice versa... if you were to run your harder tires on the slicker track, it would be very difficult to keep the kart under you as it would be sliding all over the track.

Common ways to increase tire grip/bite:

- Newer, fresher tire
- Thicker (more tread depth)
- Less air pressure

For wetter tracks:

- More chemical (prep)
- More aggressive chemical/prep

Common ways to decrease tire grip/bite (reduce rolling resistance):

- Older, "tougher" tire
- Thinner (less tread depth) from either cutting the tire, or wearing the tire by running it
- More air pressure
- Less prep