Installing TireBalls

SO, YOU'VE FINALLY PULLED THE TRIGGER and bucked-up for those TireBalls you've been dreaming about owning. Sure they're expensive, but if you're a racer, it's hard to argue the fact that they just might be the most innovative invention to hit the industry in years. Once the TireBalls are in your possession for the first time, you might be scratching your head trying to figure out how to stuff fourteen balls into a tire without first wanting to stick a tire iron in your eye. It's not that hard to do it in reality, though. Read on to cash in your ticket to TireBall euphoria!



GET PREPPED. Before getting started, get everything you'll need for the install spread out and prepared. Organize your work area, pick up some heavy-duty rubber gloves, gather some paper towels and rags, and make sure to wear old clothes! TireBalls are a fantastic invention, but they are incredibly messy to install. If the TireBalls are brand-new, it's a much less messy proposition. If they are a used set, being prepared will help keep yourself and your work area much cleaner.



PREP YOUR WHEEL. Clean the inside and outside of the wheel and check for any burrs in the aluminum by rubbing a cloth over it. If the cloth snags, you must de-burr it with a piece of fine-grit sandpaper. Follow up by thoroughly recleaning the wheel. If you miss this step, the TireBalls could end up toasted before you ever get a chance to abuse them. You definitely don't want them to snag or tear themselves on any sharp burrs in the wheel!



PREP THE TIREBALLS. Lay the TireBalls out on a clean, flat surface and place a dab of silicone needle grease on the inflation valve of each TireBall. This will expedite the process of inserting the inflation needle into each one. Also at this time, we partially inflate the balls with a three- to four-second burst of air from the TireBalls' standard inflation regulator. This makes it easier to place them loosely in the tire carcass.



LUBE THE TIRE CARCASS AND TIREBALLS. Spray the inside of the tire liberally with some silicone Ball Lube. Next you'll want to rub the lube into the carcass of the tire, making sure to cover the whole inside of the tire. After that, cover each of the TireBalls with the silicon Ball Lube, making sure not to leave any part of it dry. This is why we mention you'll want to wear old clothes ... this is when the steps start to really get messy!

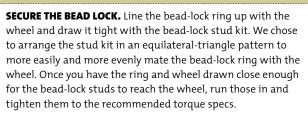




INSTALL THE TIREBALLS. Using a shop clamp as a backstop, stuff each TireBall into the tire with the inflation valves lined up and pointing in the same direction. This will ensure you have access to the valve on each one. Continue adding a small amount of air to each ball until all of the balls have roughly five pounds. It is totally normal for the TireBalls to move around, but make sure the inflation valve always stays exposed. If not, it will be nearly impossible to wrestle them into place later. Generously spray more Ball Lube on the TireBalls. The lubricant is the lifeline that keeps friction-induced heat from destroying them.

MOUNT THE TIRE ON THE WHEEL. Place the outside edge of the tire on the floor of your garage. Lube the backside of the tire with tire bead lubricant. Wedge the front lip of the wheel over the inside bead of the tire. You should be able to work it in by hand by inserting the wheel at an angle and twisting. After the outer lip of the wheel is within the tire, evenly put pressure on the wheel until it falls through the center of the balls. If you can't push it by hand, don't be afraid to stand on the wheel to exert some extra pressure on it.







SEAT THE BEAD. Remove the valve stem core, lube the inside bead of the tire, then inflate the tire until the bead pops onto the wheel. After deflating the tire by letting the air flow back out of the valve stem, we like to put a few squirts of Ball Lube in the valve stem before replacing the core. At this point, you can choose to run the tires with zero pressure or a bit of overpressure within the tire itself. We've seen them run both ways with much success. This step is more of a preference item than anything else. •