

From TVMGOC newsletter 1 January 2017

Changing tyres on MGF/TF

For the recent MoT on Val's TF the rear tyres needed to be changed and having read the MG Motor UK Technical Bulletin (see below) the previous budget tyres on the rear axle were replaced with the recommended TOYO Proxes T1-R tyres. Prior to this change the car had performed perfectly with Nexen Tyres on the front axle and Cooper tyres on the rear axle with no signs of irregular tyre wear indicative of any alignment problems and so the rear tyres were being changed as they were at the minimum (1.6 mm) tread depth for the MoT test.

Having ordered the replacement tyres from our trusted dealer, Ridgeway Tyres in Plympton that we have used for very many years, Val took the car to them a couple of days later and the new TOYO T1-Rs were fitted and balanced. However, Val then got the shock of her life when she joined the A38 and got up to speed. The handling of the car had been transformed and it had developed an aggressive 'weave' at the rear when at A road cruising speed 60 – 70 mph, which was similar to the effect that you feel when a car gets hit by a sudden cross wind.

The car went back to the tyre dealer the next day and on describing the problem the dealer assured me that this effect is not uncommon with mid and rear engine rear wheel drive cars such as Ferraris and Porsche 911s when fitted with new rear tyres only and apparently the MGF & TF fall into the same category. The effect even has a name; 'tread squirm' which when looked up on the Internet is defined as 'the flexibility in the tyre tread between the surface of the tread and the tyre carcass'. It is most apparent when new tyres with deep treads are fitted and further magnified by mid-engine rear wheel drive cars such as the F/TF. Luckily at my return visit the TOYO tyre rep was visiting the dealer at the same time and he confirmed that the TOYO tyre was the correct product for the TF as described in the MG Motor UK Bulletin. He said that the effect can also be magnified by the release agent used to ensure that the new tyres come out of the moulds correctly during tyre manufacture which can make brand new tyres a bit slippery when first used in wet conditions. In his opinion the situation was also probably exacerbated by having tyres from different manufacturers on the front and rear axles and he was so confident in his tyres that he offered to replace the front tyres on the car FREE of charge so that the car would have a matched set all round. They do say timing is everything!!


On fitting the replacement front tyres when they arrived a couple of days later the handling of the car was immediately transformed, the previous weave at speed had reduced to a very slight 'shimmy' which will no doubt reduce to normal once the tyres bed in and the tread depth reduces a little.

So beware when changing tyres on your MGF/TF, only use the directional types recommended in the MG Motor UK Bulletin below and be very wary of mixing tyre manufacturers between the front and rear axles. Remember when it comes to tyres the MGF/TF is in the same category as exotics such as Ferrari and Porsche!!!

Val & Ade

More information can be found at

<http://www.mgf.ultimatemg.com/group2/tyres/>

MG MOTOR UK 

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Date: 05-06-2014	Number: MGTB 0017
Model: MG TF	Issue No: 3
Range: All	MG TF Tyres

Description:

Recommended tyres for MG TF

Action:

If replacing MG TF tyres, those meeting the specifications listed in the below 'Tyre Size' table can be used. MG Motor recommends the tyres specified in the below 'Detail' section.

Detail:

The Goodyear GSD2 tyre is the approved original equipment fitment for MG TF. This tyre (and NOT the GSD3 variant) is still the ONLY fully approved tyre for this vehicle.

However where the GSD2 is unavailable, MG Motor recommends: Falken Zeix ZE914, Falken Ziex ZE912 or the Toyo Proxes TI-R as an acceptable replacement.

Technical details of tyres recommended

Falken Zeix ZE914
Front - Falken Zeix ZE914 195/45 x 16 84V
Rear - Falken Zeix ZE914 215/40 x 16 86W

Falken Ziex ZE912
Front - Falken Ziex ZE912 195/45 R16 84V I0123 Extra Load
Rear - Falken Ziex ZE912 215/40 R16 86W I0123 Extra Load

Toyo Proxes TI-R
Front - Toyo Proxes TI-R 195/45 R16 80V PXTI-R-2 ANH3608
Rear - Toyo Proxes TI-R 215/40 R16 86W PXTI-R-3 ANH3608