

Mustang Times Goes in Pursuit of Replacement 17-inch Performance Tires

Ultra High-Performance 17-Inch Tires For GTs and Cobras

by Tony Garcia

In our continuing series on high-performance tires, we selected a set of BFGoodrich Comp T/A ZR tires in size 245/45ZR17 for our 1994 Mustang GT. We will be offering a performance and mileage comparison in a future issue of this publication, testing the BFGoodrich against the original-equipment Goodyear ZR Gatorbacks.

We contacted Monte Alsup,

manager of NTW at Cobb Place in Kennesaw, Georgia, to provide the expert installation and maintenance of the BFGoodrich rubber, and to keep a watchful eye on the alignment and balancing to ensure maximum wear on our test tires.

As many of you know, Ford Motor Company has selected the BFGoodrich Comp T/A ZR as the exclusive original equipment tire for the Ford Special Vehicle

Team's 1996 and 1997 Mustang Cobra.

The ultra high-performance radial, in a 245/45ZR17 size, was chosen for its superior handling, steering response, and wet traction, as well as comfort and wear.

To satisfy the requirements for the DOHC 4.6 liter, V8 sport coupe, engineers employed exotic material and new techniques to maximize the Comp T/A ZR's performance capabilities.

To improve handling, high speed characteristics, and predictability, engineers shaped the tire's profile by varying the density and tension of the nylon overhead plies, which are key to the tire's ETEC system. In ETEC, which stands for Equal Tension Containment, nylon plies are wrapped in a continuous spiral, eliminating the need for a splice across the face of the tire and thus adding high-speed durability and strength to the tire's belt package.

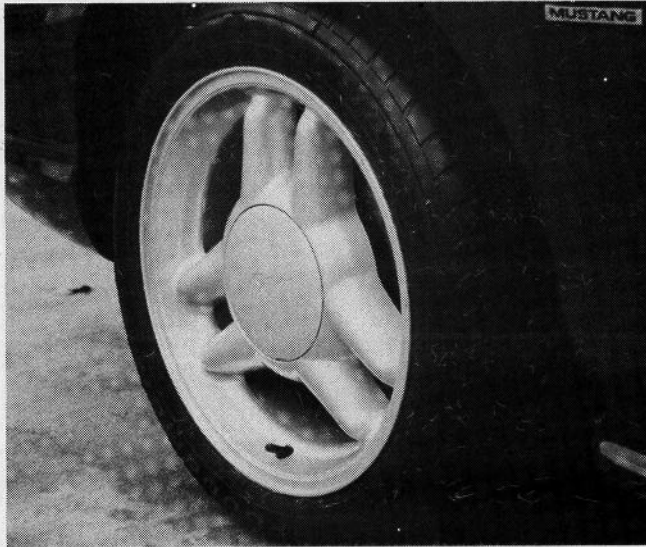
In addition to nylon overheads, the tire consists of two steel belts and polyester body plies specially treated for dimensional stability. Hard rubber bead fillers contribute to the Comp T/A ZR's quick steering response and predictability.

Engineers employed state-of-the-art ingredients for improved traction, particularly in wet and snow condition.

The tire's directional tread pattern is designed for superb wet traction, maximum grip during hard cornering and good wear. Four circumferential grooves channel water from beneath the tread and thereby increase wet traction. Precisely configured tread blocks were placed along the

The unidirectional BFGoodrich Comp T/A ZR tires offer superior handling and traction characteristics for Mustangs equipped with 17-inch wheels. Tread design and state-of-the-art rubber compounds offer improved traction for inclement conditions.





The BFGoodrich tires give an aggressive, meaty, ready-for-action appearance that complements the stock 17-inch Mustang GT wheels like these found on the 1994-95 models. These tires can also be used on the 1996-97 GT wheels, the 17-inch Cobra wheels, and most aftermarket 17-inch versions.

speeds in excess of 149 mph.

In addition to its use on a variety of new vehicles, the Comp T/A ZR is available in a full range of sizes in the replacement market, including 13-, 14-, 15-, 16-, 17-, and 18-inch offerings in 35-, 40-, 50-, and 60-series aspect ratios.

MT

Our Sources:
BFGoodrich Tires
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Greenville, SC 29602-9001

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Cobb Place
820 Ernest Barrett Parkway
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inner and outer rows of the five-rib design to enhance cornering and improve traction, stability and wear. Aided by a computer noise phasing program, engineers shaped and distributed the tread blocks to significantly minimize noise levels.

Finally, a dual compound tread

further improves durability and wear by minimizing heat build up.

The sidewall design features raised black serrated lettering and a distinctive "speedline" graphic. Both sidewalls are identical so that the tire can be dismantled and swapped side-to-side for rotation. The tire is "Z" rated for

As you can see in this side by side comparison, the overall tread design is similar to the stock Goodyear ZR Gatorback (bottom left) and the BFGoodrich Comp T/A ZR (bottom right). Tread compounds and internal construction may be the biggest factors in determining how these tires compare long term.

