

Tire Installation Primer

for

DArts 1/32 Scale Model Slot Car Tires

Thank you for purchasing DArts urethane model slot car tires. These tires will bring your models years of smooth operation. Please take some time to properly install them by following these simple guidelines. Once installed your DArts will need little or no maintenance throughout their running life.

DArts urethane rubber tires are a fantastic replacement for nearly all stock tires. They provide exceptional and consistent grip and performance on both clean and dusty plastic or painted surfaces. DArts are easily installed and require no regular cleaning. Under normal use they will not harden, crack or ooze unlike many stock manufacturer's tires.

Whether you use stock plastic wheels, replacement wheels, run on plastic or painted wood tracks, it is paramount that your wheel and tire combination (especially rear) be as round as possible, or 'true'. A rear tire that does not touch the track surface all of the time will lose its effectiveness.

At this point you may still choose to simply slide DArts onto your existing wheels and begin racing immediately but you are encouraged to follow these simple mounting steps, especially if you have or can borrow the needed tools.

PRE-INSTALLATION

Remove your DArts from their package and inspect them. Your DArts will have a smooth or 'face' sidewall which should be mounted towards the outside of your model. The rough or 'cut' side may be flat, shiny or expose a small amount of 'flashing' (which should be trimmed after mounting) and face the inside of your model. Also inspect the rib hollow within the tire to ensure that there is no excess material. If necessary use a sharp side cutter to remove any material that might compromise fit. Now if you are mounting DArts onto stock plastic wheels examine each wheel and remove any burrs or other excess plastic. (You may also wish to 'true' each plastic wheel with a small file.)

Moisten the inside of each tire and perform a trial mount to ensure proper fit. When you are satisfied with the fit you are ready to glue and 'true'.

GLUING

Gorilla Glue (newest & less expanding) brand is recommended but clear nail polish or various makes of 'superglue' may also be used. These instructions are for Gorilla Glue (hereinafter referred to as 'GG'). You may also forgo gluing if you feel you have a very snug fit but it is recommended that all tires be glued to eliminate slip. Since no release agent is used in the molding process DArts do not require cleaning prior to installation but you still must ensure that your wheels are clean prior to applying GG. If using replacement wheels it is recommended that you fix each wheel to a separate axle for ease of handling during glue application and tire mounting / seating.

Squeeze a small amount of GG onto a piece of paper. Use a toothpick to apply GG first to the top of the wheel rib and then along each side of the rib and all areas of the wheel that will contact the tire. Spin the wheel while holding the toothpick against the rib or rib side or top of wheel to disperse GG evenly and remove excess. Leave space around any set screw holes when gluing. Do not apply GG to the tire itself. A VERY THIN uniform layer of glue is optimal. Moisten inside of tire, including rib hollow. Quickly slide tire, 'cut' side first, onto wheel and over rib so that the 'face' sidewall faces the front of the wheel. Once mounted, use your thumb and forefinger to further seat the tire onto the wheel by repeatedly squeezing lightly on the top and bottom of the tire and then rotating and again squeezing and so on until the full circumference of the tire is done. Remove ALL excess glue, including any glue residue along the wheel flange. Set the wheel/tire aside and allow the GG to dry overnight. Proceed to glue the next tire.

TRUING

Whether you have a single wheel tire truer or a full axle assembly tire truer follow your machine's instructions to fix your wheels or axle assembly in place. You may use a very sharp razor blade or

hobby knife to trim the 'cut' sidewall to any desired width or to clean off excess dried glue. For best trimming results place the point of the blade on the tire and VERY SLOWLY begin pushing the blade into the tire. Remember to take your time. All such cuts should be straight - DO NOT TRY TO PROFILE a sidewall with your blade. It is best to profile your sidewalls last using an emery board or sandpaper. You may or may not wish to trim the 'face' sidewall.

While truing ensure that you do not overheat the tire. Keeping the speed of rotation minimal, removing only small amounts of material at a time and keeping the tire surface damp (using a damp sponge or rag as applicator) are highly recommended.

At minimum remove just enough material to eliminate all valleys or hollow spots. Finish with a fine dry or wet sandpaper or cloth. 1200 grit is recommended. Profile both sidewalls if desired.

If you do not have a tire truer it is still recommended that you use a sanding block. Try to follow the above procedure as closely as possible.

GENERAL TIRE CARE

To ensure the longevity of your DArts use only a damp rag to clean your tires. Cleaning is not necessary during normal use. Avoid storing your tires in UV light.

Please feel free to send any questions or comments via email to: art@darthobbies.com

Happy Racing!

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