



Finding good comparative tyre test information

Choosing replacement tyres has been made easier by the compulsory performance labelling but if you want comparative performance information on the top tyres then you need to see the results of recent tyre tests. Here we have looked at two independent comparative tyre tests carried out in by AutoExpress magazine in September 2014 and earlier by the independent consumer organisation, Which?

As soon as you review their reports you see the tests have not unexpectedly been carried out on a popular size of tyre used on modern compact cars like a Skoda or Golf – a 205/55 R16 V – whereas the RV8 usually has a 205/65 R15 V and the MGBGTV8 a 175/88 R14 H.

As the tyres used were 16 inch and 55 profile, in reviewing the results we have several issues to weigh up. First the tyre size for the RV8 is 15 inch and 65 profile and the MGBGTV8 14 inch and 88 profile and second there is inevitably the question of the extent you can carry over the product ratings on tyres carried out on a modern car by these magazines to a classic car like an RV8 as the tyres may perform differently with the older live rear axle suspension set up of an MGV8. That may well be true to some extent but what are the other sources of good quality independent comparative tyre test information which provide an objective comparative assessment of replacement tyres for an MGV8?

What were the test results?

The AutoExpress and Which? magazine recommendations differ a little but the AutoExpress report is the more recent indicating their top tyre is the new **Dunlop Sport BluResponse** launched in 2013 which they say “has a winning performance in all conditions which make this brilliant new 16 inch tyre our champion”. They add the new tyre has “a 30 per cent fuel economy improvement over the model it replaced in Dunlop’s range – the FastResponse.”

Their verdict on the **Continental Premium Contact5** tyre, ranked fifth in their results, is it’s “a decent all-rounder but an example of how quickly tyres are developed – when it was launched early in 2012, this tyre was cutting edge and won tests but two years on it’s been overtaken”. They add “wet braking was 1.5 metres off the best and in the dry

it took an extra two metres to stop. These results do not mean this Continental is sidelined as a choice, finishing in fifth place with a rating only two per cent off the Dunlop tyre as leader in the AutoExpress tests.”

AutoExpress rankings

1. Dunlop Sport BluResponse
2. Goodyear EfficientGrip Performance
3. Pirelli Cinturato P7 Blue
4. Hankook Ventus Prime 2
5. Continental Premium Contact5

Which? rankings

1. Continental Premium Contact5
2. Dunlop SP Sport FastResponse
3. Goodyear OptiGrip
4. Bridgestone Turanza T001
5. Semperit Speed-Life

Typical tyre costs

Looking at the National Tyres website the prices for a set of four tyres, including fitting, tyre disposal, new valves, balancing and VAT, are:

Dunlop Sport BluResponse	£335.60
Continental Premium Contact5	£370.80



Above left Dunlop & above Continental

AutoExpress test ratings

Dunlop Sport BluResponse

Dry handling	99.30%	=3rd
Dry braking	100%	1st
Wet handling	99.00%	=6th
Wet braking	100%	1st
Wet cornering	98.00%	10th
Straight aqua	100%	1st
Curved aqua	99.40%	2nd
Rolling resistance	96.10%	2nd
Cabin noise	99.10%	=5th
Overall	100%	1st

Continental Premium Contact5

Dry handling	99.00%	7th
Dry braking	95.80%	7th
Wet handling	99.30%	=3rd
Wet braking	93.10%	=8th
Wet cornering	98.80%	7th
Straight aqua	97.60%	5th
Curved aqua	98.20%	3rd
Rolling resistance	88.10%	5th
Cabin noise	98.60%	10th
Overall	98.00%	5th