

GEAX SAGUARO 2.2 TNT TYRES

DISTRIBUTED BY CYCLE SPORT NEW ZEALAND RRP \$99.95

The Geax Saguario TNT has been around a while now, but I haven't seen it around much, which is a shame as it's a great tyre. The TNT (tube no tube) part refers to the tyre being designed to be run without tubes, or with tubes. The difference compared to a full UST tyre is a lighter weight carcass, as they don't have to have an airtight butyl liner on the inside of the tyre, and while the sealer adds a little weight the overall package is lighter than UST. They also have a reinforced scuff-resistant sidewall. I'm a fan of big volume, tough sidewalled tubeless tyres, and the tread gave me the impression they would be fast rollers too, which means they appeared to tick lots of my boxes.

Using them over the last couple of months in Wellington, the Geax Saguario 2.2 TNT has been superb for most of my riding. The big volume provides ample cushion when run at 30 psi without fear of pinch-flats but still retains enough carcass stability to not produce flex or wandery moments on the front. The multitude of sharp knobs bites into hard, dry ground like few others – I could hear them grrrrripping the trail under hard front braking. And, they roll fast, really fast. The difference between this tyre and some other large volume trail tyres in terms of rolling speed is very noticeable. They're also wearing extremely well with little noticeable wear yet.

Are they perfect? Not quite - when the trail isn't dry, they stop being outstanding. Loamy soil is fine – like it is for most tyres really, but wet soil quickly clogs the multitude of knobs compared to a more open tyre – that's no surprise. Still, I did find they grip better in the wet when cornering than some

other fast rolling trail tyres I've used, and provide a heap more grip than a full-on race tyre. What I didn't know until I fitted them is they have a semi-centre-ridge in that the central strip of knobs is joined together about 1mm below the knobs. That no doubt accounts for some of their outright speed on smooth ground, but I'm also attributing a few 'spin outs' over roots or steps that I wasn't expecting to this semi-ridge. It didn't ever seem to be an issue on the front though, and I'm prepared to deal with it on the back for their sheer speed.

Geax distributors Cycle Sport supplied Geax's own Pitstop sealant with the tyres, it's been trouble free and it's good to know there shouldn't be any compatibility issues between the tyre's carcass and the sealant.

If you're looking for long lasting trail tyres with good comfort, superb grip in the dry, decent grip elsewhere, and you like to go fast with as little effort as possible, these are what you want.

Carl Patton

