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## GEAX "AKA" 29"er Tires: Out Of The Box/First Impressions

November 1st, 2010 by Guitar Ted

The GEAX 29"er tire line continues to expand with the latest offering being the "AKA" tread design. This tire is going to be available in a standard wire bead, a folding bead, and in GEAX's excellent TNT tubeless ready type. We have the TNT and folding bead tires on hand now for testing. You can see the introductory post [here](#). Here are some numbers and some first impressions on these highly anticipated tires from GEAX.



The "AKA" is a tire that looks similar to some other fast, racing type tires, (Smallblock 8, Bonty XR-1), but is actually designed to be more of an all around tire than those treads with a bent to being fast. Here is what GEAX has to say about this tread design, from their [website](#):

*“The AKA was designed to dominate in situations where the knob must penetrate the ground without digging, and offer exceptional grip without slowing the wheel down. Even adverse terrains like gravel, sand, and grass aren’t a match for this directional, well spaced, small blocked pattern. Gato-derived side knobs round out the profile, providing predictable cornering even when conditions get moist.”*

The tires have a rounded profile with rows of evenly spaced, trapezoidal knobs of lowish height, and small overall size. The tires are directional. Weights of the tires and widths are as follows:

Width: Folding Bead- 54.5mm casing/54mm knob to knob. Weight: Folding Bead- 690/700gm.  
Width: TNT- 55.4mm casing/56.5mm knob to knob. Weight: TNT-730/730gm.

These tires were both mounted to rims with a 23.5mm rim width. The tires mounted without any issues.



**First Impressions:** The GEAX AKA seems at first to be another of the “micro-knob” variants we’ve been testing lately. Rounded profile, lots of small knobs, fast looking. The AKA has some surprises if you also have these notions going in. The AKA first was a bit different feeling on initial roll out the door because it didn’t have that totally fast feel, like a Bontrager XR-1. It wasn’t a slow tire, by any stretch, but it didn’t have a super fast roll, even though it looks like it should have it. Once on dirt, it rolls quite nicely, and accelerates well. Cornering is the next surprise. While many “micro-knobbed” tires don’t exhibit great lateral traction, the AKA does. It sticks far better than I had imagined it would, and as my confidence level rose, I found myself wanting to go faster to find the edge of the traction limits. On the dry, hard packed trails I tested the AKA’s on so far, I didn’t find that edge yet.



There was some softer trail, and on these surfaces the AKA did pierce the soil well, but I couldn't really tell that it slowed me down, if at all. It would seem that GEAX's claims may prove out to be true, but I'll do further riding to make sure. 😊 Climbing up some long slopes embedded with broken limestone and crossed with some roots, I found that the AKA gripped really well. No slipping so far. The service roads at the trail system I hit up during this testing were made up of gravel, big rolling hills, and twisting turns. The AKA was a great tire at speed here and I felt grip in the corners was very good. Very good traction as long as the gravel wasn't like marbles.

My overall impressions so far are that the AKA lives up to Geax's claims so far and that this is much more than a racing tire. With the tougher sidewall construction Geax is noted for, these tires should find their way on to many everyday rigs. I'll be sticking these AKA tires on a full suspension rig and another hard tail set up as a single speed, with a Mid-Term report to come.

*Twenty Nine Inches received these wheels for testing and review at no charge. We are not being paid, nor bribed for this review. We will give our honest thoughts throughout.*

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1. [1 Jim Chapman](#) on [Nov 1st, 2010 at 8:37 pm](#)

thanks for the test. just curious how this tire compares to the saguario. i have many miles on the saguario and have found it to be a great all around tire, just a bit heavy. the weight you have listed for the folding bead tire varies a bit from the website (690 vs 650) was the 690 actual weight?

thanks

2. [2 Dave](#) on [Nov 1st, 2010 at 9:35 pm](#)

Could be an interesting rear tire on a SS rig.

I never thought "Small Block 8" when looking at it.

The first tire I thought it looked like was like that scene out of Young Frankenstein: