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## Geax "AKA" 29"er Tires: Mid-Term

November 18th, 2010 by Guitar Ted

I have been riding the Geax AKA 29"er tires quite a bit of late in both the TNT and folding bead versions. Now it is time to welcome you to my Mid-Term report. The earlier post on the tires can be found [here](#).



First, I want to note that I have the folding bead tires on Duster rims now which are 28mm wide. The AKA measures at 55.4mm casing/55.7mm knob to knob on the Dusters at 40psi/2.8 Bar. This mimics the TNT on the Cole wheels closely. The folders are also on my 2007 El Mariachi single speed.

**Ride Performance:** Okay, with that out of the way I will say that I am very impressed with these tires in everything from dry hard pack to loose over hard, to tacky dirt. Beyond that, I can't say much, since I haven't had the opportunity to run them in big rocks, or in mud, but I will say that since tacky dirt is already showing signs of packing up the tread, I wouldn't think mud will be this tires friend. As it should be expected too. This tire rides really nicely otherwise.



Rigid single speed performance was great. I really didn't see any down side to using this tire on a single speed rig. The AKA has so far shown an uncanny tractability over varied terrain that I did not expect it to show. So, roots and embedded rocks don't seem to be an issue on the rear for climbing. The front isn't a big, pillowy tire, but it isn't harsh at a nice pressure, (35psi/2.5 Bar front as I rode it), and it cornered well, just like it has on the hard tail front suspended bike.

I had the opportunity to ride the TNT AKA on the fine trails of Lebanon Hills in the Twin Cities area. These trails were in primo, dry, fast condition when I rode there. "Leb" features tight, twisty, rock strewn trails with a few fast, flowy, bermed sections that are pump track-ish fun. The AKA was the perfect tire here and railed the hard packed single track as hard as I dared to. The bigger rocks were rolled over just fine as well, but keeping in mind that everything was bone dry. Wet rocks may be a very different story!



Essentially, the AKA is a tire that seems to have more grip than you would expect from such small knobs. There is a bit of a rolling resistance penalty, but not much. These tires also have a distinctive whirring noise on hard packed surfaces that is pretty unique. In terms of turning performance, the AKA is only upset by marbly surfaces and wetter dirt where it will begin to slide out a bit. Otherwise I haven't been brave enough to push it so hard that it gives way on hard pack. I've pushed it further than most other tires need to be to break loose too.

Someone asked about a comparison to a Saguaro, and I would say that the AKA is at once faster and grippier than that tire in many hard packed, dry scenarios. The Saguaro has that blank area in the tread which requires a bit more commitment in a corner to get the tire to bite hard, and sometimes I find that the Saguaro will slide out due to that. The AKA has a full compliment of knobs across its face, so at any lean angle it has working edges hitting the surface which I find to be more my style. Also, the AKA is a bit more rounded in profile than a Saguaro, (speaking in terms of the treaded area, not the casings), and this lends an air of stability, I think, in favor of the AKA on hard pack. That said, the Saguaro has a bit more bite in loamy soil and is better in loose stuff, in my opinion. Just a bit different tires for different settings.

Stay tuned for a final review coming soon.

*Twenty Nine Inches received these tires 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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#### [RSS](#)

1. [1 J dog](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 7:07 am](#)

I have been really impressed so far by this tire. It seems that Geax changed the bead seat dia. These mounted easily on Stan's Flow rims.

Right now I am running the Saguaro up front and the AKA on the rear. This is a super combo.

2. [2 Brian](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 7:57 am](#)

I've been using the TNT version for about a month and have been very pleased. I was running them tubeless with 30-32 psi but found the extra bounce and the lack of grip on rocks a little troubling. I lowered the psi to 26-28 and this tire is now an animal. Had the same experience with the Saguaro on the SS.

It seems that Geax likes lower pressure with their 29er tires regardless if it is a TNT or not.

3. [3 J dog](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 8:51 am](#)

I have found that you can not use traditional PSI as a gauge with geax TNT tires. They simply need to be run at way lower psi.

I ran a wolverine and a Saguaro on the same bike. To get the same feel, the psi is about 10lbs apart.

At 40 psi the Geax tires bounce off everything like a basketball.

I don't even use the gauge on the pump. Basically I drop the PSI till it "Feels" right.

Basically I go lower till I feel the rims bottom out. After that I add a bit more.

4. [4 captain bob](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 10:38 am](#)

Nice pic. Is that at the Scout Camp? Interesting it didn't make you short list of nearby trails.

5. [5 Kosmo](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 10:46 am](#)

Faster and grippier than the Saguaro? That's cake and eating it too. On my short list for a summer rear tire, as a Saguaro replacement, which has been my "go-to" dry, fast tire for several years now.

6. [6 Steve](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 12:12 pm](#)

GT, this is OT, how's the Gun Kote doing on the Mariachi?

Back to the thread:

"The Saguaro has that blank area in the tread which requires a bit more commitment in a corner to get the tire to bite hard, and sometimes I find that the Saguaro will slide out due to that."

Glad to see that it wasn't just me. It will be good to see how the AKA handles some wet rocks and roots too. The Saguaro doesn't excel for me in anything wet. I have the first ones out a couple years ago. Great tires in the dry.

Thanks!

7. [7 Joshua](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 1:02 pm](#)

I noticed you didn't get these tires on rocks. I ride at Cuyuna in MN and its a mix of hardpack, gravel, rocks, and broken slate-like rocks.

I am currently running XDX on a Paragon. Like them save for their wicked habit of having less traction when pushed in corners. Looking at the AKA for a replacement. I noticed that you mentioned, " the AKA is only upset by marbly surfaces and wetter dirt where it will begin to slide out a bit... I haven't been brave enough to push it so hard that it gives way on hard pack." This sounds good for the dirt I ride. How would you compare their grip to the XDX, especially in corners.

p.s. If you don't know about Cuyuna: <http://forums.mtbr.com/showthread.php?t=667051>

8. [8 Guitar Ted](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 2:15 pm](#)

@Captain Bob: No, it isn't The Camp.

@Steve: The Gun Kote is doing great. I did an update on it awhile back you can search for.

Not sure I'd go to wet trails, rocks, roots with the AKA. It may work, but I am not hopeful.

@Joshua: Au Contraire! I rode these on some very large, embedded, glaciated rock in Minnesota. That said, I have also put them on some hardpacked gravel with good results. The space between the knobs isn't much, so getting a grip on loose, busted, marbly, gravel will be a bit problematic.

As for the comment on sliding out on hard pack, I am going so fast now on the AKA that if/when it lets go, it'll be quite the yard sale! 😊

9. [9 Greg](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 4:29 pm](#)

Ok so I have read a few preliminary reports around the web that everyone loves these tires but find that they wear out quickly. One guy on MTBR said he used them for an enduro race and while they performed great, they did not seem to last very long tread wise.. GT or anyone else, can you comment on the "longevity" of these tires?

10. [10 Guitar Ted](#) on [Nov 19th, 2010 at 5:57 pm](#)

@Greg: I've read those reports as well. The common denominator I see through most of those is rocks. I have not noticed anything that would cause me to think the AKA is a fast wearing tire, but other than some odd pavement here and there, I mostly have been on dirt with low rock riding miles. (But as I have stated, there has been some rocks encountered)

11. [11 t0m](#) on [Nov 21st, 2010 at 1:13 pm](#)

So can anyone confirm that these now work on Stan's rims? I run Arches and would mount AKAs asap if they fit. I am a longtime Geax fan from 26ers, it would be nice to try again. If AKAs fit on Flows I'm hopeful.

12. [12 CBike](#) on [Nov 21st, 2010 at 10:57 pm](#)

Mounted a TNT AKA on a ZTR Arch rim today, no problem. A little snugger than average, but not bad at all.

13. [13 Greg](#) on [Nov 22nd, 2010 at 1:44 pm](#)

GT. thanks for the info. Yeah that is what I saw but wanted to make sure. Unfortunately, with the area that I mostly ride in that means that these may not last long for me. Still, I might give them a try and see how things go.

14. [14 t0m](#) on [Nov 22nd, 2010 at 9:38 pm](#)

Thanks CBike! AKAs for the race bike...

15. [15 Nevada 29er](#) on [Nov 23rd, 2010 at 1:39 am](#)

IMO, the Saguro's main weakness is wet conditions, where they slip all over roots and rocks. Sounds like the AKA is not any better in the wet?

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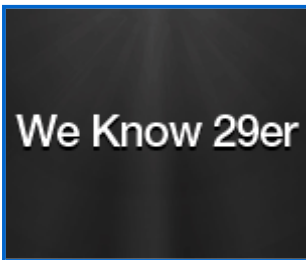
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