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[Geax "AKA" 29"er Tires: Final Review](#)

April 18th, 2011 by Guitar Ted

Catching up with more review work left over from last fall, I have now ridden the Geax AKA tires enough to give my final thoughts on them. The Mid-Term can be found [here](#). First Impressions are [here](#).



The Geax AKA has been a great performer in everything from dry hard pack, sand, tacky dirt, to loamy conditions. I even ran it on some crusty, hard packed snow this past winter, where it held its own. The key to its success in these conditions is the hard, tiny tread blocks. They do not fold over easily, and because of this, they pierce into the dirt, instead of scrubbing over it. This also helps break through finer loose

stuff over hard pack, but I do not have various sizes of "kitty litter" to test my theories about possible lack of grip when things get somewhat marbly.

The second attribute that seems to be working for me here is the rounded casing with the full compliment of knobs that leaves no lean angle wanting for grip. Yes- the casing is typical Geax, meaning stiffer than your average. So, you lower your pressures by at least 5psi, and you are then getting that nice tire performance you are getting with the softer, more supple treads. Geax casings tend not to pinch too easily, so bottoming out on a rim isn't a big concern unless you start to get radical with low pressures. Finally, keep in mind that these impressions are on a 28mm rim and 24mm-ish wide rims. So the AKA works well with wider and narrower rims for 29"ers.



Conclusions: These have fast become some of my favorite dry conditions trail tires. I have been consistently amazed at how well those small blocks can grip the terrain. As long as things don't get too loose, or too moist, the Geax AKA can be counted on for more than their looks would let on. The Geax tubeless ready type casing, or "TNT", as they dub it, is a fairly tough, stiff casing that will demand a lower pressure than other tires to eek out the best from them. Tubeless set up with Geax's own latex sealant is excellent, by the way. (Similar to Stan's)

All is not roses in the AKA world though. These are not wet weather tires, and they do not do well on loose rocks, or marbly gravel. They are not terrible there, but there are far better tires for this. The AKA is also not a racing weight tire. At 700 grams for the folder, these seem to be a bit portly, but there is a lot of rubber in those knobs, and added up, I can perhaps see where the weight is coming from. The real head scratcher for me was that a TNT AKA is only 30 grams heavier. That seems to make the folder a tougher choice, but the good news is both set up tubeless and perform similarly, at least for me. Finally, some folks with Stan's rims may experience a tougher time mounting these in the TNT version, or find it impossible to do so. Geax seems to use a tighter standard for the bead diameter, which tends not to play well with Stan's slightly bigger than normal bead seat diameters.

The AKA is a great addition to anyone's tire arsenal that wants exceptional dry weather traction in various conditions. This tire seems suited best to trail riders with hard tails or full suspension rigs that want great traction, but faster rolling tires that won't wilt at the sight of a rock or two. I wouldn't recommend them for all out XC racing, but I could definitely see these as a good endurance racer's tire. Want one tire for everything from riding to the trail head, commuting, and dirt? Look no further. The AKA has all that covered quite well. Looser trails and wetter trails are

not friendly to the AKA, but if your trails are buff, flowy, and feature some great twisties, you won't find a funner tire to ride on than the AKA.

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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1. [1 professed](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 2:32 am](#)

Thank you for the great review as always GT.

Not having seen every page of your site, have you had the chance to test the Maxxis Ikon?

They seem to have a similar pattern and come with a folding but reinforced casing.

It would be interesting to hear your comments on a comparison between the two as where I am Geax are hard to come by and this looks a perfect xc tyre for me.

2. [2 wunnspeed](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 7:10 am](#)

I just picked up a pair of AKA's and they've quickly become my new favorite tires. They're just replacing my old favorite, the Saguaros but a bit. I too have found that these tires work well in most conditions and have also been surprised how much mud they actually shed for having so much tread.

They mounted perfectly on my FRM 333 rims and I didn't even need a compressor to get them pumped up tubelss.

3. [3 DrDon](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 7:50 am](#)

I like this tire. It's not as heavy as a TNT Saguaro, rolls just as fast and has better grip. The TNT Saguaros are freakin tough tires. The TNT AKAs are not as scary when it's wet. I think that's due to the softer compound and more supple casing relative to the Saguaro.

The AKAs are more manageable when it comes to mounting and removeing them. To me the weight is right. I'm not overly concerned about using this as a fast tubeless TRAIL tire that will fail on me.

4. [4 Oderus](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 2:28 pm](#)

I have this tire mounted front and rear on my Sawyer. I have them mounted on Velocity P35s which pushed them out to 2.3" wide! I've run them as low as 18lbs in the front and 22 in the rear with no issues. They seem perfect for what we have here in Colorado. I find the rolling speed to be excellent and the cornering to be even better. When I wear these out, I

will definitely get another set to throw on. If you're looking for a solid tire, I'd take a serious look at these.

5. [5 megalow maniac](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 3:33 pm](#)

These tires does look promising! Did anyone try to mount them on NoTubes (Flow) rims?

6. [6 D1PHAM](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 4:31 pm](#)

I raced a set of these at this year's Sea Otter Classic. Very fast all around tire in my option. My set actually came in at 660 grams.

7. [7 DrDon](#) on [Apr 19th, 2011 at 9:10 pm](#)

I have one, TNT variant, mounted on the rear of my FS trail bike on a Flow rim. I previously had it on a Edge rim using a split tube so it was a little stretched, I guess. The Saguaros were a major PITA to put on the Edges. The AKA which was on the slightly difficult side of UST tire install, my definition of which is the use of plastic tire irons and under three minutes to pop the tire in place.

8. [8 SS](#) on [Apr 20th, 2011 at 7:13 am](#)

How does this tire compare to the similar Maxxis Ikon?

9. [9 Guitar Ted](#) on [Apr 20th, 2011 at 8:16 am](#)

@SS: That is something we'll be looking into shortly.

10. [10 Ian](#) on [Apr 23rd, 2011 at 1:40 pm](#)

How is the longevity of the tire? I know the Saguaros basically last forever, so I'm wondering what the useful life of these tires is.

11. [11 JT](#) on [Apr 27th, 2011 at 8:13 am](#)

I'm curious too about the comparison of this to the Ikon. I ordered one of each (Ikon and AKA) for my new 29er and after comparing the two (still in packaging) I decided to put the Ikon on my rear wheel – mostly because the triple compound feels softer and I think it will perform better in our wet spring conditions. The rubber of the AKA feels hard, like a Saguaro, which leads me to think that it will not be a great wet-conditions tire, like a Saguaro. I'll mount the AKA as a front tire on my 29er hardtail in a month or two when things have dried out, but at the current time the Ikon has become my new standard for general XC conditions.

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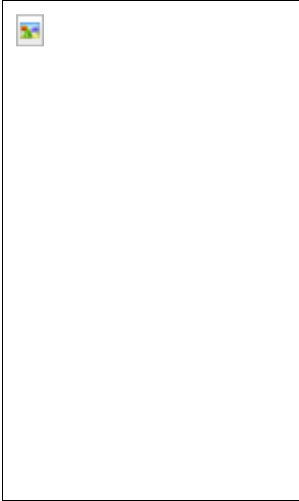
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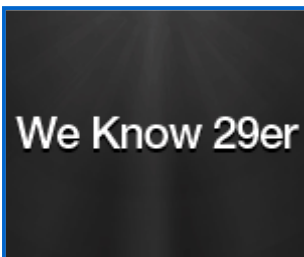
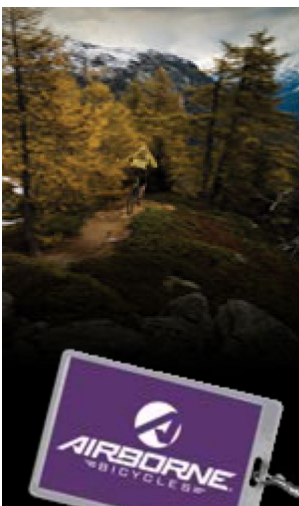
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