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## [Geax Evolution 1.9" 29"er Tire: Out Of The Box- First Impressions](#)

May 25th, 2011 by Guitar Ted

Recently we introduced you to two new Geax tires we have on test here at Twenty Nine Inches. ([See post here](#)) Now I have had a few rides on this commuter oriented tire and have a few measurements to share. Let's take a closer look.....



The Geax Evolution 29" is based off of Geax's 26 inch version of the tire. It features an "XC Casing" which gives the tire a "livelier ride feel", according to Geax. It also is made using Geax's 3D Aramid Compound which means that the casing has Aramid particles dispersed throughout which Geax claims helps hinder punctures. As mentioned in the introduction post, the Evolution has a wire bead. This adds weight, of course, but with these examples weighing 820 and 830 grams each, they are not as "porky" as some 40mm commuter tires that weigh upwards of 1000 grams each. So, while being "heavy" for a 1.9"er, taken in context, (commuter tires), they are not all that bad.



I mounted these Evolutions to some Alex TD-17 rims which are 24mm in width. This yielded a width on the casings of the Evolutions of 49.5mm/1.95", and these were tubed at 40psi/2.8Bar. Nice! A tire that actually exceeds advertised measurements upon mounting. (Did a hot place just freeze? 😊) The resulting tire profile was very rounded. Decent volume too.

Now for some actual riding.

**First Impressions:** My first few rides on these tires was quite a revelation. Normally I am pushing some old, first generation Fast Trak tires on my Karate Monkey, and they are, (being kind), sluggish beyond belief. So, I tempered my enthusiasm with the knowledge that any decent tire I swapped over to on this bike would be a better feeling tire anyway. I rode the tires on three or four occasions just to get the new sensations behind me. Then I re-checked the pressures I had set them up with at first, which were lower than I initially mounted them at. 26psi front/ 30psi rear, (1.8 Bar Frt/ 2.07 Bar Rear), and I realized why I thought the rear tire felt a bit "draggy". Minimum recommended pressure on the tire is 35psi/2.5 Bar! So, I bumped up both tires to 40psi/2.8 Bar and rode them a few more times. The "draggy feeling in the rear disappeared, but a lot of the smoothness remained. I think I'll poke around this area for pressures for a bit, as I like the feeling the tires give at these pressures, and the rolling resistance seems negligible.



Maximum rated pressure for these is 65psi/ 4.5 Bar, but I doubt I would ever go that high in real life usage since I am not carrying a heavy load with this bike, and in all likelihood, the benefits of the ride and rolling resistance would be negated at that end of the pressure spectrum. I will definitely play with some different settings though. Otherwise, the feeling of these tires is excellent. It is a very quiet tire, but this is coming from a guy that rides knobbies daily, so take that with a grain of salt! 😊 Grip seems very good on dry or wet pavement. No other terrain has really been tested with them yet.

I will be going for some “mixed terrain” rides, and I will definitely be doing some gravel grinding with these. Stay tuned for more updates in my Mid-Term Report on these in the coming weeks.

*Geax submitted these tires for test and review at no charge to Twenty Nine Inches. we are not being paid, nor bribed for these reviews and we will strive to offer our honest views and opinions throughout.*

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#### [RSS](#)

1. [1 Kevin](#) on [May 25th, 2011 at 8:50 pm](#)

Cool! Looks like a decent candidate for a DK tire next year. I'd be interested in hearing how it compares to the Schwalbe Marathon Extreme, which while bulletproof is ridiculously expensive stateside & for me felt like there was a lot of drag.

2. [2 Bryan](#) on [May 25th, 2011 at 10:46 pm](#)

Any information on where to pick up some of these for sale as they aren't even listing a 29 version on their website?

3. [3 Guitar Ted](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 7:01 am](#)

@Bryan: It is a very new tire and the set I have were described as "prototypes" on the shipping manifest. That said, these look to be production models. I have not gotten word back from Geax as to when these will be for sale to the general public or at what price these might be. The 26"er version is quite reasonably priced, but tire prices are going up, so I can not venture a guess at this point.

4. [4 Sevo](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 11:42 am](#)

Sounds like a good candidate for monster cross rigs. Would you agree?

5. [5 Bryan](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 11:45 am](#)

awesome, well thanks as always for your reviews. I'll keep my eye open for them to go on sale since I hate burning my knobbies up on asphalt riding.

6. [6 Oderus](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 1:45 pm](#)

If this is made in the TNT casing, I think it would become the go to tire for commuting tubeless. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they make it so.

7. [7 Anand](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 2:59 pm](#)

FWIW, I have mounted standard casing Saguaro tubeless without issue. They have held up for two seasons so far.

8. [8 Kevin](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 3:05 pm](#)

@Abandoned likewise. Since I like NoTubes rims this is the only choice I have with Geax tires.

I've only had one minor sidewall cut that would've sealed up fine if I had remembered to top off my sealant at the beginning of the season.

9. [9 Kevin](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 3:07 pm](#)

Gah, sorry for the name butchering. Autocorrect.

10. [10 Guitar Ted](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 5:00 pm](#)

@Sevo: I think so. If the terrain isn't too technically demanding, the Evolution should find grip. I wouldn't go with it on loose terrain, or somewhere that features kitty litter over hard pack, but smooth dirt trails should be great with this tire. I also think it'll be great on gravel, so we'll see about that soon.

@Bryan: I did finally get a message from my contact at Geax. These are in fact prototypes and one set of only a few in the States right now. The word I got was that these will become available "late 2011" and that they are indeed exactly as the 26"ers as far as

constructions/technologies. The MSRP isn't set yet, but the range should be \$20.00-\$25.00 each.

@Oderus: It is my belief that tubeless technology would be a boon to commuter tires and this tire is a prime candidate for TNT. I agree, Geax should do it.

11. [11 D.](#) on [May 26th, 2011 at 11:54 pm](#)

I agree. I've ridden them, but don't own them. Can't wait to get some. I really think this tire is a home run for gravel and farm road riding.

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