



## SUMMER TYRE TEST TEST WINNER

**Nokian Wetproof and 205/55 R 16**







The tyre size 205/55 R16 is the most popular one in compact cars. On a closed test track, the testers determine lateral grip and braking distances among other things.

#### THE TYRES FIT THE FOLLOWING MODELS:

Audi A3 (from 2013)  
BMW 1 Series (from 2011)  
Ford Focus (from 2011)  
Hyundai i30 (from 2012)  
Mercedes-Benz A-Class (from 2012)  
Opel Astra (from 2004)  
Peugeot 308 (from 2007)  
Renault Mégane (from 2003)  
Škoda Octavia (from 2013)  
VW Golf (from 2003)

matter whether it's a VW Golf, an Opel Astra or a Ford Focus; who cares if it's a hatchback or a combi: they have to be spacey and not too expensive!

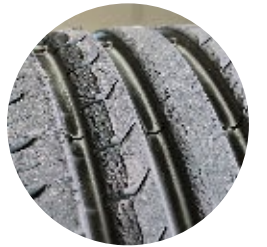
They have something else in common though in addition to these requirements: you can fit the tyre size 205/55 R16 to nearly all of the compact cars (see page 18). This makes the dimension one of the most popular ones on the German market. Based on our search criteria (top speed of 240 km/h, load capacity: 615 kg), more than 350 variants can be found on an online platform.

Together with the GTÜ (German Society for Technical Supervision) and our Austrian partner club ARBÖ, we chose nine models for testing in a price range between

Hankook and Nokian.

The tyre dimension we chose is a "development size" for many tyre manufacturers anyway. This means that it's this size that the tyre engineers keep fiddling about, trying to find the perfect profile and the right mixture. The test drivers then rack up millions of kilometres all over the world.

We couldn't run quite so many test kilometres; however, we still tried to cover all the everyday situations during a busy week. The tyres had to show what they could do in twelve disciplines. Particular attention was paid to their performance on wet roads: this accounted for 80 out of 170 points in the ACE Summer Tyre Test. It's exactly when a heavy rain shower surprises the driver and he or she



No matter whether on a dry or wet surface: the tyres have to stick to the ground as much as possible. Only then the braking distances are short and the car can stop in front of an obstacle in emergency situations. The mixture cannot be too soft either though; otherwise the rubber would be smeary and the tyres would run down after a few rounds in threshold ranges.



## Summer tyres for compact cars

# About grip and feeling

**Tested: Nine current summer tyres having the popular compact car dimension 205/55 R16 with a price lower than 100 euros. The quality of the test tyres is convincing; however, only three models achieved the best rating.**



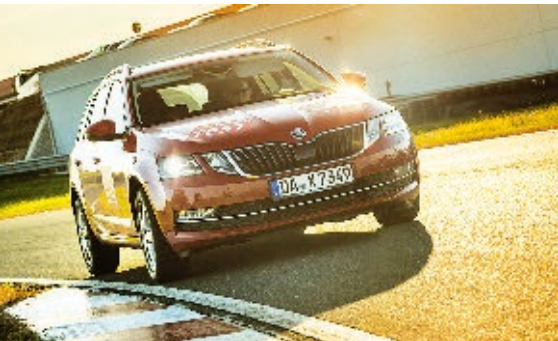
For spectacular images of our tyre tests see our Youtube film at: [www.ace.de/reifentest](http://www.ace.de/reifentest)

Full of great things making our lives better – let's get the weekend feeling...," banged the 1990s yoghurt ad from the TV, leaving an earworm in the heads of many viewers even in these days for sure. What you couldn't see back then was the car of the 1990s. As in spite of the SUV boom compact cars are still popular with families. It doesn't

just under 70 and 100 euros. There are no cheap tyres this time. We had already noticed in earlier tests that the alleged chart climbers couldn't keep pace with high-end products. We decided instead to include tyres by the big market players Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop, Goodyear, Michelin and Pirelli and supplement them with the established but less known brands Falken,

suddenly cannot see anything when things can get dangerous. In these situations, short braking distances can be lifesaving; but they are not everything. What is a short braking distance good for if the tyre starts floating in an aquaplaning situation and the adhesion suddenly gets lost? Or if the tyre is perfect on wet roads but only delivers second-class results on dry ones? Those who want to





This is how different the conditions can be: first a high grip on hot asphalt, then standing water on the track; a good summer tyre has to handle both.



be convincing in everyday situations and in our tests need to manifest good properties in all the disciplines. This year, the quartet of Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop and Nokian was the most successful. There is just a one-point difference between these candidates. A bit surprising is the fact that with their brand new "Wetproof", the Finnish manu-

facturer Nokian managed to produce the by far best rain tyre. In addition to very short braking distances on wet roads, the tyre started floating only late during the aquaplaning test and its wet handling is very convincing thanks to a nearly perfect lateral grip. It is thus really worthy of its name, representing a benchmark on wet roads this year. Even though

the Conti PremiumContact 6 has a similar braking performance, it can't quite keep pace in aquaplaning in curves. This is on the other hand what the Dunlop Sport BluResponse is at home at; however, in braking on wet roads it was clearly outperformed by the other two. The Nokian and Conti tyres need just under 32 meters to stop from 80 km/h; the Dunlop tyres on the other hand need almost one vehicle length more (35.8). Only the Goodyear (37.1) and Falken (37.4) tyres did worse than that. As for the handling course, there are already significant differences in the middle class. An example: the Hankook Ventus Prime3, which is very easily controllable on dry

roads, is extremely challenging on wet roads, switching between understeering and oversteering. As such, it is hard to predict how it would behave in dangerous situations. On wet roads, it is the Bridgestone and Conti tyres which are at the top. It is the Conti which provides sufficient reserves – even if it sometimes goes around the curve faster. It is also easily controllable for less experienced drivers. In threshold ranges it rather has a tendency to understeer, pushing slightly outward over the front axle, always giving a safe feeling though. The differences on dry roads are thus meanwhile only minor. A bit surprising is this year's overall low rating of the two big names: Michelin and Pirelli. Both the tyres



The "side aspects" are increasingly important in tyre development as well: how much noise does the tyre produce and how large is the rolling resistance? We measure both on the test track and in the lab. The values often don't have much in common with the tyre labels.



THIS IS HOW WE TESTED

To perform this summer tyre test, we went to the Bridgestone test track in Italy in the autumn of 2018. Since the conditions on the test track keep constantly changing and could have an impact on the results, we repeated all the tests several times and used reference tyres repeatedly as well. For instance to measure the braking distance on wet roads, the cars were accelerated to 80 km/h ten times, and then full braking was performed with an activated ABS. The average selling prices as of February 2019 were provided by the BRV (Association of German Tyre Retailers). For more information see [www.ace.de/reifentests](http://www.ace.de/reifentests)

Manufacturer Tyre Type	Max. points	Nokian Wetproof	Dunlop Sport BluResponse	Continental PremiumContact 6	Bridgestone Turanza T005	Falken ZIEX ZE310 Ecorun	Goodyear Efficient Grip Performance	Hankook Ventus Prime3	Michelin Primacy 4	Pirelli Cinturato P7
WET SAFETY										
Wet braking	30	28	20	28	20	17	18	22	20	22
Wet handling (measured value)	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3
Wet handling (subjective)	10	8	8	7	8	7	8	6	6	6
Wet circuit	5	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	3	2
Longitudinal aquaplaning	20	15	18	14	16	18	14	13	17	15
Lateral aquaplaning	10	8	10	5	8	10	9	5	7	4
Chapter evaluation	80	66	63	62	60	59	56	51	57	52
DRY SAFETY										
Dry braking	30	26	25	27	27	24	24	26	24	23
Dry handling (measured value)	15	10	12	12	12	12	12	11	9	8
Dry handling (subjective)	15	9	12	12	12	12	9	12	10	9
Chapter evaluation	60	45	49	51	51	48	45	49	43	40
ENVIRONMENT/COST EFFECTIVENESS										
Pass-by noise	10	8	7	7	6	7	8	10	8	7
Rolling resistance	20	17	18	17	18	15	19	16	17	16
Chapter evaluation	30	25	25	24	24	22	27	26	25	23
SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL PROPERTIES										
approx. price for 4 tyres in euros	170	136	137	137	135	129	128	126	125	115
Price rating	20	17	15	14	15	17	15	17	12	15
OVERALL RATING										
Total points	190	153	152	151	150	146	143	143	137	130
RANKING										
RATING		1	2	3	4	5	6	6	8	9
		highly recommended	highly recommended	highly recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended to a limited extent



For more information see [www.ace.de](http://www.ace.de)

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