

★ **Rated** Tyres

Bridgestone

BT-016 Pro

Pro? In fact Bridgestone's newest sports tyre isn't aimed at just professionals, but everyone

What is it?

Not, as the 'Pro' suffix might imply, a racier trackday version of Bridgestone's three-year-old BT-016 sporty road tyre. Instead it's an evolution of the 016 designed to be better in the wet and to last longer too – giving 'up to' 60% more mileage from the front and 20% extra from the rear.

Where does it fit?

The 016 Pro is Bridgestone's premium sports tyre, but available in only four sizes: a 120/70-17 front, and 180/55, 190/50 and 190/55 rears. The standard 016 remains as a cheaper choice in a wider range of sizes.

What sort of rider is it for?

Anyone with a 600cc+ sportsbike, who rides in all weathers and may venture on track a few times a year.

Any tech breakthroughs?

The 016 Pro uses Bridgestone's 'RC Polymer', debuted on last year's BT-023, which stops the compound's molecules breaking down as the tyre gets hot. This lets Bridgestone use more silica for better wet performance and longer life, which allows softer compounds for better outright grip. The 016 Pros are dual-compound, where a standard 016 rear uses three.

How much does it cost?

Our average surveyed price for a pair of 120/70 and 180/55 is £216 – £20 less than a

set of rival Dunlop Sportsmarts, and only £15 more than the base 016s.

What's it like?

I've been running a set on our Honda CBR600F test bike. With the same profile as the standard 016, the Pros are faster steering than the CBR's original BT-012 sports-touring tyres, without reducing stability. I'm impressed with their wet grip too – they've behaved themselves excellently and given great confidence even in pretty torrential conditions. Riding back from the British Grand Prix on well-drenched roads they gripped hard enough to lift the front rather than spin the rear, even with a cold tyre. Editor Tim also tried BT-016 Pros at a cold Silverstone. 'At fast group trackday pace on a Fireblade I was perfectly happy. It was only when I pushed harder that I started to lose feel from the front in slow corners.'



Verdict

It's early days for the 016 Pro – we've yet to see how the mileage compares – but it seems to work extremely well in a huge range of conditions. The fact they only start to feel out of their depth beyond trackday pace is very impressive for what are primarily road tyres. Back-to-back testing by respected German magazine *Motorrad* rates the 016 Pro the joint best sporty road tyre overall, and best in the wet too.

Words Martin Fitz-Gibbons Photography Chippy Wood



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