

# Tips on Tire, Oil and Light Maintenance

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## Decoding Tire Sizes

DUNLOP TIRE WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE and there is and will be a growing shortage of Dunlop tires. This means many of you will be shopping for other brands. Different tires will vary in construction strength, material composition, warm-up requirements, and ride quality. It is important you selected a suitable replacement for your OEM tire based on the manufacture's specifications and riding style. So before you go shopping know your tires. To help you get started we thought we would take a look at the

tires codes and what they mean. As an example we will use is a Dunlop K591 tire:

160/70 B 17 M/C, 73V Max load 356Kg (805 lbs) at 290 KPA (42 psi) cold

Understanding this series of numbers will tell you all you need to know about the tire if you can decode it all.

160/70 - is a metric description for the size of the tire or the aspect ratio. 160 is the width of the tire in millimeters. The number 70 is the height measurement from the inside rim of the tire to the tread height. The number 70 means that the tire is 70% as tall as it is wide. But not all tires used metric. Some manufactures use alpha codes to designate the width i.e MT90 for 130/90 or MU90 for a 140/90. The letter M designates that the tire is for use on motorcycles, the second letter is the size. Your tire's height and width is important as it will set your ride characteristics. Higher aspect ratios usually translate into a softer, more comfortable ride. Tires with a small aspect ratio typically offer a firmer ride or performance ride characteristics. Bikers Bay web page has a Alpha to metric conversion charts.

The letter B , in the example above, tells you that this is a bias ply tire. An R designates a radial tire. You should not mix a radial and a bias ply tire because the ride characteristics are very different.

The number 17 designates the diameter of the rim in inches or the inside diameter of the tire.

73V is the load and speed index for the tire. The higher the number the higher the load rating. The V is the speed rating of the tire. The speed rating is the maximum speed the tire should be ridden at its recommended load capacity. Speed ratings range from Q starting at 99 mph and go up to Z for a speed rating of 149mph+.

Max. Load 365 kg (805 lbs) is the manufactures maximum weight (loaded bike) when the tire is properly inflated. The combination of these load ratings is the total amount of weight that the tires are capable of supporting.

290 KPA (42psi) cold - Is the recommended tire pressure when the tire is cold. Tires pressure should be checked when cold to assure an accurate reading as hot tires pressure will vary by temperature and give a wide range of readings depending on the tire temperature.

For more and detailed information on tire and factors to consider when selecting a new tire you can go [www.mybikersbay.com](http://www.mybikersbay.com) and click on tires or come into a Bikers Bay locations to discuss your tire needs with one of our staff.

Ride Safe

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