

A SILENT JOUREY WITH **HANKOOK V12EVO2** W HIGH PROVIDES "ACE" WET GRIP

Photos & text : Vincent Chua

Hankook has out done themselves again with Ventus V12 evo2 aka K120. Balance, it's all about the balance of delivering combined handling and braking in both dry and wet conditions while taking care of maintaining comfort and low noise. The fine art of creating a well balanced tyre carcass in achieving a optimum load transfer but yet supple enough to be quiet and comfortable.

Tyres can be loosely classified into 3 broad categories by the lay man; high grip but noisy for the enthusiast or quiet but hopeless vague grip for the 'Uncle' driver or somewhere in between with no real character for the lost souls. Having used Hankook RS-2, V2, V8, V12 evo & S1 evo on my current ride; V12 evo2 surprisingly doesn't fall into any group. So where does it fit?

Initial impression immediately after installation of these tyres were they are quiet, eerily quiet. In fact too quiet for my personal liking. Quiet tyres has always been associated with a boring less inspiring drive. Hankook has used the 5 pitch very cleverly to reduce road noise rumble, coupled with Stealth Technology of unique wing tip design which reduces noise by incorporating beveled tread block edges to lower unwanted surface impact sound thus reducing airflow turbulence while driving. The Honda Jazz actually was almost Lexus quiet. An eerie silent feeling I wasn't used to.

As if God wanted me to really test these tyres, less than 10kms on the road out from the workshop with wax was still on the tyres; the skies opened up and poured buckets in my path. Maintaining the usual speed in the dry, I immediately noticed these tyres were slicing through water like a hot knife on butter. After several shallow puddles of standing water and still no drama of steering pull due to tyres struggling to cope with water drainage, I pick up the paced gradually to learn the limits of the tyres in the wet. Out of the box great wet grip handling was amazing; lane change in heavy rain was secure with great steering feedback knowing the tyres were going in the path of intended travel. The Aqua Jet design helped in quickly channeling water away from the center of the tyre, a quick check in the rear and wing mirrors proved a huge spray of water ejected to provide maximum contact and grip. Lateral & longitudinal hydroplaning resistance was more than impressive for a quiet tyre. Wet braking was secure even when faced with puddles



Scoring

Noise 9

Dry Handling 8.5

Wet Handling 8.5

Dry Braking 8.5

Wet Braking 8.5

Hydroplaning resistance 9

Cars tested on

Honda Jazz : 195/50/15

Honda Accord : 215/45/17

Jaguar XJF : 245/45/18

Total distance covered

10,000+ kms

With lots of experience in DTM since 2011 as sole tyre supplier, contract has just been extended till end 2016; Hankook has gathered loads of data using DTM profile to design load transfer carcass for V12 evo2 to improve sidewall stiffness and durability. Optimisation for daily road usage in both dry & wet handling whereby the high speed load transfer allowing larger contact patch while the tyre is rolling. With the latest high grip silica compound formulation for street use providing a thread wear of 320.

In the dry grip levels was like any normal street tyre soaking up all the even bumps as roads have become more uneven with endless digging and patching. Push them enthusiastically into the corner and they will squeal progressively warning you the limit is about to be reached. Just pump up the tyres 2 or 3 psi above the normal pressure and the steering response sharpens and tyre squeal is reduced with little impact to comfort.

A useful feature is the Alignment Indicator; these 2 dimples on the outer shoulder block allows the user to quickly check for uneven tyre wear due to geometry misalignment.

V12 evo2 were 500g lighter than S1 evo that came off so you would expect some fuel economy efficiency, we achieved 0.3 to 0.5 km/L improvement over the distance of 10,000+km test period.

The new Ventus V12 evo2 addressed the Achilles heel of V12 evo which was noise & wet braking; while improving on dry braking and overall handling, Hankook brought V12 evo2 to next level with reduced noise and much improve wet braking. V12 evo2 overall sure-footed handling in any conditions means this is a safe tyre for the family who enjoys comfort and low noise to boot.

If you want a quiet, safe and comfortable tyre with good grip in both dry & wet conditions get the Ventus V12 evo2; for the enthusiast driver that wants ultimate performance then Hankook S1 evo2 will be more of your cuppa tea.