

# ***Leo's Z3 Newsletter***

## **Episode 1: Zee Tires and Rims**

Hi Z Clubbers,

I have methodically been investing in the proven aftermarket items to keep my Z fresh and will share what I have done and learned. A much higher level of driving experience is available to drivers of the "Vintage Z's" on the track or just headed to a Z Club mtg.

So let's start with an easy bolt on upgrade. The early Z3's came with 16x7.5" rims that are tutonic in that they are heavy and narrow, over 41.5 lbs each with the 225/50R 16 tires. BTW, If your tires are over 5-7 years old, they should be replaced anyway due to oxidation and dry rotting of the tires regardless of tread wear or mileage. So, APEX, (modern technology) has provided a flow forged, stronger aluminum alloy rim that is a plus one in diameter (17) and 8.5" wide that accepts tires of the same width only now at a nearly 10% weight savings!

They look factory awesome and accept your BMW center caps, gives your car a wider stance. You will immediately notice gains in acceleration, handling and braking especially if you go with an affordable Hi Performance (wet AND dry) tire like the Firestone Indy Firehawk series available locally at Firestone Centers and through Tire Rack. See the references for APEX, Turner Motorsports, Tire Rack and Firestone Tires at the end of this episode. Turners will drop ship Apex rims for free to your door. Call Firestone on Rt 466 to order yours and Melisa/staff will set you up perfectly! I kept 2 original rims for full size spares! Which brings me to the next bit on tires and rims!!

To continue with the weight shedding theme, when was the last time you actually went through the steps to retrieve your full size spare from below the trunk??? Check it out if you haven't!! Of course it is an engineering marvel that has hung there faithfully but has been surpassed with cans of Fix-A-Flat (carry one!), run flats (too heavy and expensive) and old reliable, AAA! The cradle, tire/rim and mounting hardware are easily another 45 pounds that you don't need to cart around loading up your rear suspension!

Consider removing it in an act of catharsis to liberate your car from the last century and begin your upgrades! All information is for references only and no results are intended to exceed your final assessments!!!

You can e-mail me with any questions, feedback and concerns; specifically what else you would like to read about! Up next: Z3's Corner: Brake options: Rotor/ Caliper kits explained. Planned episodes include: shocks and springs, bushing upgrades, ECU/ power enhancements, Steering wheel, and anything else you request

Keep the shiny side up!! Leo Brancato [ljbrancatojr@gmail.com](mailto:ljbrancatojr@gmail.com)



<https://tiredeets.com/firestone-firehawk-indy-500-review/>

<https://www.apexraceparts.com/shop-by-vehicle/bmw/z3/17x8-5-et40-apex-arc-8-wheel.html>

<https://www.turnermotorsport.com/BMW-Z3>

<https://www.turnermotorsport.com/p-386923-apex-arc-8-17x85-et40-wheel-set/?pdk=AQEB>

<https://www.tirerack.com/tires/tires.jsp?tireMake=Firestone&tire-Model=Firehawk+Indy+500&sidewall=Blackwall&partnum=245WR7FHI5XL&tab=Specs>

<https://www.tirerack.com/wheels/results.jsp?&autoMake=BMW&autoModel=Z3+Roadster+2.8&autoYear=1998&autoModClar=>

<https://www.firestonecompleteautocare.com/tires/search-results-by-size/>

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