

## **A Few Autocross Driving Tips (Stolen From Other Folks)**

- Position first, then speed. You will save more time by having correct position than you will by adding 1 or 2 mph. Same with sweepers (tight line). Same with 90 degree turns (use all of the track). Position is a prerequisite for speed - if you're not positioned correctly, you will not be able to go faster. At least not for long!
- There are fast parts and slow parts. Learn the difference.
- Easier to add speed in a turn than to get rid of it. If you are under the limit, with a slight squeeze of the throttle you can gain speed without bad side effects. However, if you are too fast and the tires have begun to slip, you can only reduce throttle and wait until the tires turn that excess energy into smoke and heat. Don't use your tires as brakes.
- Add power as you unwind the wheel. If you are using all of the tire's traction capacity to corner, there is none left for additional acceleration. At corner exit, as you unwind the wheel, some becomes available. An instructor may tell you "unwind and squeeze."
- Hands follow eyes, car follows hands. Look ahead.
- Scan ahead, don't stare. Keep your eyes moving. Looking ahead is not the same as I staring ahead. You should constantly be looking (glancing) forward, or left, or right.
- Being SMOOTH does not mean you are slow. Fast hand and foot movements can be done smoothly. Applies to steering, braking, shifting, accelerating.
- Know the line you intend to drive. Look for it. If you drive in a manner that forces YOU off that line, you've made a mistake and need to slow down. The line is everything, unless you are wrong about where the line is .... then you need to adjust.
- Most new drivers go into corners too fast. Think "slow in, fast out".
- It is better to corner using the throttle than using the brakes. Get your braking done early and in a straight line and then get back on the throttle as quick as you can.
- Talk out loud as you drive "LOOK AHEAD", "BRAKE TAP", "SLALOM COMING", "STAY TIGHT", "GET OUTSIDE", etc. It reinforces what you are thinking.
- If you get red flagged (stopped) while on course, watch the corner workers for instructions. When a corner worker motions you to resume, do so at about 3/4 race speed and make sure you go through the finish lights. Under no circumstances should you just drive straight to the paddock. Always go through the finish lights.
- Seat time, seat time, and more seat time. Work on your driving, the car is more capable than you are, and will be for some time to come. Don't worry about tweaking your car, tweak the driver!

**Have Fun!! (stolen from Steve Eguina)**