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WELL SPRUNG: PART 2



TEIN SS-P, Super Street (w/ pillowball upper mount)

TEIN (short for Technical-Innovation) is one of Japan's premier aftermarket suspension manufacturers with a long history based in racing and rallying. TEIN is currently the only manufacturer of an aftermarket semi-active damping adjustment system called the EDFC (Electronic Damping Force Controller.) Now that TEIN's introduced a line of European applications, we too have the option to instantly change damper settings with the push of a button from inside the cabin.



On the track:

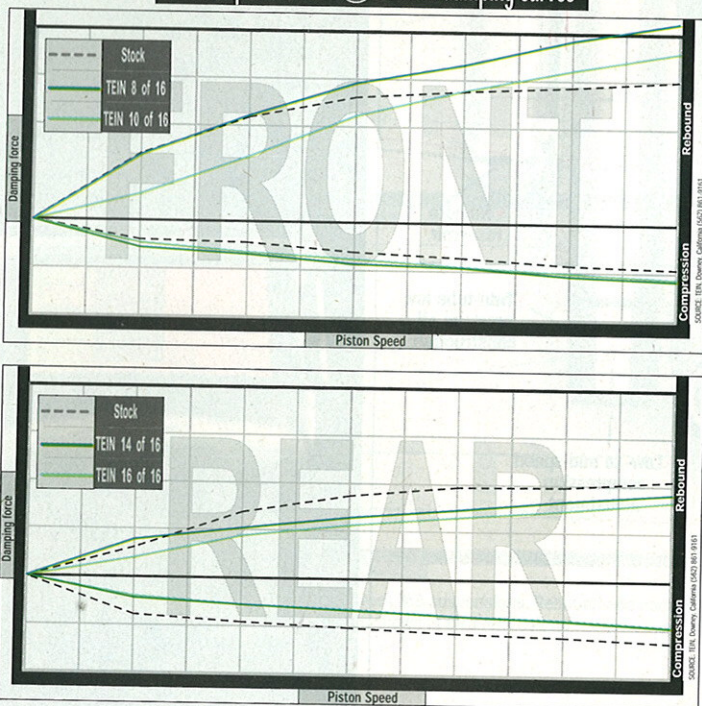
TEIN's use of solid metal monoball upper suspension mounts makes a huge difference in terms of turn-in and feedback. Typical of TEIN, the SS-P aggressive valving inspires a lot of confidence in cornering by reducing excess body motion. On a smooth track, the sensation is that of a well planted car that's easy to drive at nine-tenths the instant you roll onto the track. The drawback is when you are driving at ten-tenths and need the car to be a

little more fidgety and instantaneous in response and rotation. Again, the rear is a little low, but being able to adjust the front and rear damping as you drive really helps. There's a lot more adjustment left in this car to make it faster on the track.

On the street:

TEIN's car was one of the quietest rides on the comfort portion. Not so much on account of the suspension, but just cause its car was in really good condition. With the aggressive valving and pillow-ball metal mounts, the suspension does pick up a lot more small inputs that doesn't result in suspension motion. On a newly paved road this is great, on not-so-well-maintained roads it can be trying. The minimal roll and dive is a nice feel for the street. Noise-wise, the SS-P system does generate a bit more sound at cruise. You can also hear the shocks squish and spring noises when you hit a decent bump.

TEIN Super Street vs. Stock damping curves



Above: Shock damping curves for the TEIN and stock M3 suspensions. Damping curves for street and track settings are shown in different colors.