

# GERMANS BUILD 6 WHEELER



There is no rivalry more intense than that between the Germans and Italians in motor sport. It was not long ago that the Italians won a European Championship round in Germany only to find that the organisers managed to make a "mistake" over the scoring system so giving victory to the home team. Eventually this was sorted out and the Germans have never been happy about their treatment at important meetings held in Italy. The latest aggravation has been the affair of the special Sirio tyres which the Germans have tried to get banned on the grounds that they are not commercially available—although the regulations made no such requirement. Perhaps a second string to their bow has been the production of a six wheeled kart similar in concept to the Elf Tyrrell.

As originally conceived the four front wheels could move with a rocking motion which is not permitted by the International Regulation which forbids suspension. With no joints to permit vertical movement there seems nothing in the regulations to forbid such a layout except that section of article 17 which concerns wheelbase. The maximum wheelbase measured from the centre line of the front stub axle to the centre line of the rear axle must be a minimum of 101cm and a maximum of 127 cm. The contentious point is, with a six wheel kart, does the wheelbase measured from the forward front wheels to the rear wheels and the wheelbase from the rearward front wheels to the rear wheels both have to comply with article 17? If both wheelbases have to comply then a little doodling on a piece of paper will show that the maximum distance between the two front stub axles on one side is 26cm and, assuming that all four front tyres have the same diameter, then each front wheel cannot exceed 25cm each by the time you have allowed clearance. Not only are tyres not generally available of such a small diameter but there is also a regulation which limits the minimum diameter of tyres at 22.2cm so there is very little margin to play with. Of course one could have different tracks for the two pairs of front wheels but then one would probably fall foul of the rule that requires the track to be a minimum of two thirds of the wheelbase. The CIK have announced their intention to make karts four wheel vehicles by definition for next year.

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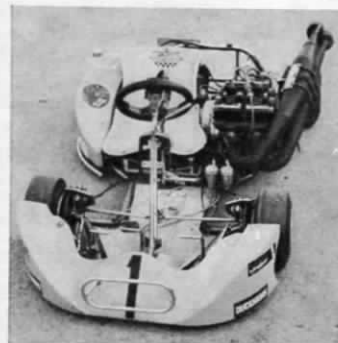
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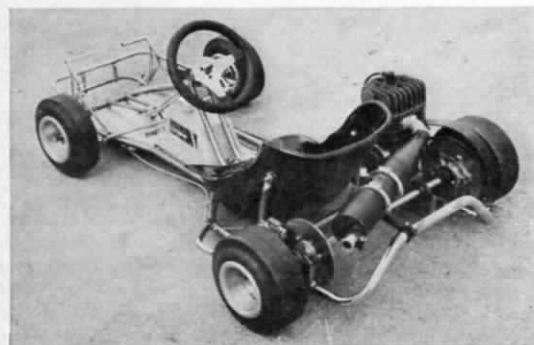
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