

ITP BAJACROSS TIRES

RATING: ★★★★★
PRICE: \$115-170**WHAT IT IS:**

ITP's BajaCross tire was developed specifically to endure the machine-eating monster that is Baja Mexico. Designed from the ground up as a durable, hardpack and loose dirt performer, the BajaCross took the checkered flag in the UTV category at last year's Baja 1000 race. Straight from the race machine to your UTV, the BajaCross you can buy is the same one they entered in the race.

MATERIALS:

The BajaCross is made using an eight-ply construction that makes its carcass very resistant to punctures. This also gives great sidewall stiffness for less tire warp and wobble. The BajaCross is a claimed 25-percent stronger than ITP's next-toughest tire, and is also the longest lasting. The overlapping center tread pattern and stepped side lugs provide a smooth ride on hardpack that won't shake your UTV to bits, and the big side knobs provide good bite in desert terrain or hardpack trails. The BajaCross also features a raised lip near the bead of the wheel to protect the rim from damage caused by rocks!

PERFORMANCE:

We installed a set of ITP's BajaCross 26-inch tires on their SS212 Platinum wheels, and bolted them onto our newly bored-out Rhino. We set up a test loop full of loose dirt, whoops, tighter trails, shale rock hill climbs, and rocky streambeds, and set off



We had our BajaCross tires mounted on beautiful ITP SS212 Platinum wheel for extra bling points. The 14-inch wheels provide a mean look while reducing sidewall flex over a 12-inch wheel.

to test the BajaCross tires. After running for nearly 200 miles, we haven't encountered a single flat, and the tire tread still seems nearly brand-new! The tires handle very well when inflated to the proper pressures; overfill the tires, and the narrower fronts start to push. We installed them on a set of 14-inch wheels, so the slightly smaller sidewall gives a more responsive steering feel. On rocky terrain, the tires don't get chewed up quickly like softer-compound rubber does, and when aired down, they provide a good footprint in sand to provide great traction. The BajaCross works well in every type of terrain we could throw at it, and wasn't

loud or overtly rough over choppy soil.

THE VERDICT:

We love the tires, and they look as good as they perform. Our one gripe? The price. The BajaCross is available in 25x8R-12, 25x10R-12, 26x10R-14, 26x11R-14, 26x9R-12 and 26x11R-12 sizes, and pricing starts around \$115 each online for a 25x8R-12, and range upward of \$170 for the larger sizes. If this is in your price range for tires, and you ride in Baja-like terrain, you will be very pleased with the results. □

CONTACT: ITP Tires; www.itptires.com or your local dealership



As you can see here, the BajaCross has an overlapping center lug pattern that makes for a smooth, tractable ride on hardpack. The side lugs work wonders in sand and rocks.



The BajaCross tires improved the handling of the For the Win Motorsports Rhino tremendously, with less front-end push and rear-end squirm than the OEM rubber.