

Corners, the natural enemy of vehicles

You could be managing up to 40 tonnes of energy into and around a bend.

Two patches the size of your hands makes this happen. It's a complex event and this will give you an idea;

- You turn the wheel to the right,
- The steering rack moves the wheels
- The tyres twist in the sidewall
- The tread 'catches up' up the road wheel
- The body 'rolls' to the left
- The suspension stabilises the body and car takes the turn.
- Now you have a lateral load (side load)
- The tyres and suspension keep you there (centripetal force)
- If speed is too high, you leave the road in a straight line (vector).
- Reducing power brings you back into the turn and,
- Braking may improve this too.



How to manage a turn

It's critical to follow a consistent method and use some visualisation techniques.

1. Set your position for the bend and start 'wide'.
2. Set your entry speed for the bend (use the signs as a guide, they are conservative)
3. Off the power on the way in or;
 - a. Brake gently (trail the brakes) into the turn.
4. Sustain balance in the bend (be patient)
5. Look out of the bend now
6. As the bend finishes, you can proportionally apply power (downhill this will occur later).

Simple version; Position-Speed-Vision

1. Position wide
2. Speed set
3. Look (uncomfortably early and ahead)
4. Envisage a half full punch bowl in your lap

