Zero Friction Cycling

Main test protocol - Understanding the ZFC benchmark test and data.

	our chain is at 0.5% elongation wear. This is the benchmark used in the zfc main test.
	les. Thus 2.0 would mean 2 chains would have been worn to 0.5% replacement mark by this point etc.
	the better performing the lubricant. In real riding, the lower chain wear WILL = lower cassette and chainring wear as well.
	r can have a huge impact on your running costs - especially for higher end components.
	ricant protecting your drivetrain from a lot of wear will have a significant impact on your drivetrain performance,
pecially towards the end of its tenure - keeping it much lower our chain and its lubricant work EXTREMELY hard. Your chain h	friction, better shifting, reduced chance of chain drop, reduced chance of chain failure. All very good things. Ias many moving parts per link, and they need lubrication under thousands fo PSI pressure load, with high contamination exposure. Your humble bicycle
ain, at the heart of propelling you forwards, is actually quite a	as many norms parts for any norms need to be associated to their cost.
	A pretty bonkers market segment
our chain lubricant choice can very easily either cost you a lot o	or save you a lot - in both efficiency and running costs.
t it can be so hard for cyclists to know which brand or which p	product to trust. Manufacturers can make any claim they like about their products performance, and often with zero
	. Sadly it is also very difficult for cycling media to properly assess, and most cyclists struggle too (Track your chain wear!!!)
	, time, contamination exposure, re lubrication etc etc are all controlled. The wear rates that come in are purely down to
e performance and wear protection of the lubricant to do its j	ob in its actual use case - on a bicycle chain on a bicycle drivetrain. Not some esoteric ASTM test for a different use case.
	es between clean and contamination blocks. Most facilities lubricant tests are very short (hours). brication intervals, but NO cleaning during main test - it is up to the lubricant to resist becoming abrasive.
nieras most zre tests last from 5000 to 6000km. There are re lu	orication intervals, out no cleaning working main test - it is up to the indiricant to resist decoming adrasive.
sessing a lubricants performance via wear correlation is a relation	tively blunt tool. It cannot directly predict efficiency (speed). Ie if two lubricants return similar wear rate results,
	retc. As a blunt tool to measure performance, we are looking for large differences in wear rate, as a high wear
	takes friction to wear steel at a notable rate. So a 0.1 vs a 0.2, or 1.3 vs 1.4 etc - I don't care.
and the second	
ut a 0.1 vs 0.3 or 0.4 difference result is becoming a notable pe	rformance difference if this is for an individual wear block, or around 0.5 for the overall cumulative wear.
	ear lifespan vs another lubricant. A 1.0 difference means an entire other chains was worn to wear allowance by same point.
	sive in block 1, but increases notably in block 2 - then it has absorbed a lot of contamination and become abrasive
he test is just a Tacx Neo smart trainer set to 250w resistance, o	driven by an industrial motor at 100 cadence. So it is an actual bicycle drivetrain.
o the chain, and its lubricant - is being tested in its ACTUAL use	case, not some esoteric efficiency test method.
a lubricant shows high chain wear in this test, it is EXTREMELY	unlikely to be a high performing product in your cycling. If you are happy with a product that tests poorly here,
ou will do cartwheels of joy if you switched to a high performin	g product of your preference (wet, wax, wax drip etc).
	x poor result lubricant - pls note that getting 10,000km from a chain is easy if you run it WAY past recommended
	ek to reset contamination. I would get about 60,000km if I took an Mspeedwax / Hot Melt / Rex BD chain to 2%.
	ed at same load, same intervals, same contamination introduced at the same time and same amount.
he wear rates are a true reflection of one lubricants performan	ce vs another, as a bicycle chain lubricant, in its actual use case on a bicycle drivetrain.
	Understanding Cost to run calculations.
his has been a difficult area to model. Previously I had extremel	y detailed modelling, factoring lubricant cost, different components etc - however the numbers were often lubricants, the cost to run numbers were pretty unbelievable - because in real life no one would actually spend those \$\$
	nanicality, the cost to fun numbers were pietry underlevance - because in real me no one would actually spend trose 55 I many chains per 500km or 10,000km to a 0.5% recommended wear replacement mark. And if one actually replaced
	the cost to run modelling would have been very accurate of that very high cost. But, people running such lubricants do not
	till they are very very worn, and then replace. Often they may have no idea just how worn their drivetrain was, they just know
	would see a number saying X huge amount of \$ per 10,000km, and they are not spending that due to riding things to the buld disregard cost to run calculations entirely as being wildly inaccurate - which in reality, for them - they were.
	ar your chain (and thus drivetrain) components rapidly DO cost A LOT of cyclists A LOT of extra money every year. ains costing over \$200 and cassettes costing \$700 to \$1000+, as well as some very expensive chain rings. On high end
	ams costing over \$200 and cassettes costing \$700 to \$1000+, as well as some very expensive chain rings. On high end lubricant can literally save you \$1000 on component wear over a year, or 5000km, or 10,000km etc.
/hat would you rather spend your money on? Those news glas	ses you covet? Or shoes? Or helmet? Or winter jacket? Or Cargo bibs?- Or just burn it on buying new groupset components
at by simply buying a proven excellent lubricant vs a proven n	neh or poor lubricant - you can easily prevent that wear and needed replacement.
owever in light of the issues on original cost to run, it has now	been greatly simplified, and more leeway given around replacement. Cost to run is based on rider taking chain to 1.0% wear
opposed to recommended replacement mark of 0.5%, and the	en cost to replace components of \$500. If you components cost less than this, factor that for yourself when you are comparing
	ay cost MUCH more than this, so - factor accordingly. If the cost to run on my modelling has one lubricant at \$500 and
iother lubricant at \$1000, but your compnents will cost your \$	1000 to replace vs \$500, then there will be \$1000 wear saving between those 2 lubricants vs \$500.
	erforming products are still a bit nuts. They just eat so many chains. In reality what happens is people just run them
	r drivetrain vs paying in \$, because if they realised how bad things were, they would try a different lubricant.
r in some cases people mask a poor lubricant by way of very fro	equent and very thorough maintenance, which also carries time and solvent costs (and solvent ends up where?)
	REMEMBER THIS IS A BENCHMARK TEST!
es - I know - for X lubricant that performs poorly on the data by	REMIEIVIDER THIS IS A DEIVENTIVIARE LEST: elow there will be cyclists that have achieved very different KM's to wear rate in their use. But I am not testing your personal
ding conditions or terrain. I am not testing your power. I am no	ot testing your chain and drivetrain maintenance. In the ZFC test, all aspects and conditions are the same, so the results are
	oricant A is much lower wear than Lubricant B in the dry offroad test block 2 - whilst your wear rate will differ
or your cycling vs this benchmark test, the relationship will be h	nighly linked. You can expect lubricant A to deliver much lower wear to you Vs lubricant B just like it did in this test.

for your cycling vs this benchmark test, the relationship will be highly linked. You can expect lubricant A to deliver much lower wear to you Vs lubricant B just like it did in this te In summary - if you have been happy with a product that tests poorly in the ZFC test, you will be doing carthwheels of joy if you used a high performing product instead.

om of the lubricant test page on website is the full test brief if you wish to read the full test protocol and d

How to use this data?
The table below shows the wear recorded across the main test (cumulative - each blocks wear added to all previous wear).
For most data / cost comparisons I use the first 5000km only, excluding harsh block 6, as most lubircants have failed long before, and I am using heavily extrapolated data to fill.
The main test up to the end of Block 5 (5000km of testing including a dry contamination block and a wet contamination block)- is an overall fairly tough test.
A lubricant with a result of 1.0 (one chain worn to the recommended chain wear replacement mark of 0.5% elongation wear) for Block 5 is a high performing lubricant
For MOST cyclists - especially predominantely dry conditions road cycling - you should also expect to attain at least 5000km to a 0.5% wear mark for that lubricant.
IF you ride predominantly offroad - you should refer to the individual block by block data table (below the cumulative wear table) to select a lubricant that performs well
in offroad conditions (gravel / mtb). Many wet lubricants especially become very abrasive very quickly when exposed to the world of dirt and dust.
IF you ride predominantly or frequently in wet conditions / harsh wet conditions - you should refer to the block by block data table (below cumulative wear table) to select
A lubricant that performs well in those conditions.
Data fields that are RED denote the data is Extrapolated as the test was stopped at end of previous block due to high wear not warranting continuing test.
Extrapolated data is the average result for lubricants of that type that have physically been tested (better performing) in that block. It is likely if tested the red data fields would be worse than shown

Friction / wear test - CUMULATIVE WEAR - Main test protocol

WAX / Wax DRIP / DRIP - WET / GREASE

COST TO RUN - 5000km Number of chains worn to recommended replacement mark of 0.5%. 1.0 = 1 chain worn to 0.5% wear mark. sed on drivetrain parts replacement cost of \$500, and will placement necessary after 1 x chain wear to a 1.0% ongation wear necessitating new components with a new ain. Refer to Cost to run explainer in main information Block 1 - No Contamination 0.0 Block 6 - Harsh wet conditions riding 0.4 Block 2 - Dry Offroad Block 3 - No Block 4 - Wet condition Block 5 - No Contaminati riding 0.1 conditions 0.0 0.0 Contamination bricant 44.50 0.0 0.1 0.3 0.3 1.0 0.0 0.1 0.1 59.50 95.00 100.00 107.00 107.00 107.00 107.00 201. 0.0 0.1 0.0 0.5 0.6 0.0 0.3 0.0 0.3 0.1 0.1 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.4 0.9 0.0 0.1 0.4 hrvate immersive wax fifetto Marjoos Flower power wax ceramic Spd UFO Drip New Formula ilica Super Secret Drip rru Tension Tungsten Race - (*D.A) ession S-Wax ru Tension Tungsten All Weather lices Sumeared Fr. 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.3 0.0 0.0 0.4 0.0 0.1 0.4 0.0 0. 0.4 0. 0. 0.5 0.8 0.8 0.9 0.9 1.2 1.2 1.5 0. 0.2 0.6 0. 0.: 0. 0. 0.7 a Synergetic K Black Diamond 0. 1.0 0. 0. 0.3 ramic Speed Wet Conditions 1.1 1.5 0.1 0.3 0.9 ******************************** vate wax drip (1) 0. 0. 1.2 volubes 0.9 0.4 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.4 ck N Roll Gold 0.1 0.4 k Frix Shun lish Line Dry vate test - wet lubricant (1) 1.6 0.1 0.4 0.8 0.1 0. 0.8 0.1 0. iger general purpose (\$6.95) 0.1 0. 0.2 Wend Wax test 2 (dissolved in) 0.4 1.0 0.9 1.0 1.1 1.9 ooth wt-1 on Factory greas nde Tech Pro X-Lite 0.5 0.2 te test wet lubricant (2) 0.9 1.2 1.2 1.7 0.1 0.4 1.9 0. 0. Off C3 Ceramic Dry 0. ap Eco ite Lightning Epic Ride sh Line Wet (green bott) c Off Ludicrous AF 2.5 0.6 1.6 0. 1.7 3.3 on All weather Off Nano 122 2.1 LUBRICANT sh Line Halo Drip wax (*Re-Test TBA) 1.67 0.43 1.29 0.20 0.68 verage D.A = Re lube applications doubled E.A = Extended application intervals 2.53 extrapolate

Wear - Block by block (individual wear rate for each block)

How to use this data?						
The table below shows the wear recorded for each individual test block. This enables you to drill down to what lubricant performs for your riding -ie offroad? Frequent wet?						
A high result in block 1 may indicate initial penetration issues, especially if there is a similar or even lower wear rate in block 2 where abrasive contamination is now added.						
Or, if there is a high wear rate in block 1, followed by a much worse result in block 2, it is simply a very poor lubricant.						
A high amount of wear in block 2 (regardless of block 1 result) - shows the lubricant becomes abrosive once exposed to dry dust contamination = NOT suitable for offroad / gravel						
Block 3 gives us an indication if the lubricant was able to improve / flush clean itself after block 2 - ie any ability to "clean as it lubes".						
Block 4 gives us an indication of the lubricants performance in wet weather conditions.						
Block 5 is similar to block 3 - how does the lubricant recover post block 4's wet contamination.						
Block 6 is a harsher wet conditions test vs block 4 - it has double the amount of water, double the amount of contamination, this is applied twice as often (4x amount all up).						
Data fields that are RED denote the data is Extrapolated as the test was stopped at end of previous block due to high wear not warranting continuing test.						
Extrapolated data is the average result for lubricants of that type that have physically been tested (better performing) in that block. It is likely if tested the red data fields would be worse than shown						
SUMMARY						
If you only ride in dry road conditions - Any lubricant with a low wear rate in BLOCK 1 will sult you well, especially if you follow chain maintenacnce guide (instructions tab - ZFC)						
If you ride gravel or mtb in predominately dry conditions - you want a lubricant with a low wear rate in BLOCK 2. ZFC RECOMMENDS BELOW 1.5 chains per 5000km						
If you ride in frequent wet conditions (road or affroad) - you want a lubricant with a low (comparatively) wear rate in Block 4 - ZFC RECOMMENDS BELOW 2.5 Chains per 5000km						
If you ride in frequent VERY HARSH conditions - you want a lubricant with a low (comparatively) wear rate in Block 6, ZFC RECOMMENDS BELOW 3.5 chains per 5000km						

Number of chains worn to recommended replacement mark of 0.5% in EACH block. 1.0 = 1 chain worn to 0.5% wear mark WAX / Wax DRIP / DRIP - WET / GREASE

WAX / WAX DRIP / DRIP - WEI / GREASE			Block 2 - Dry Offroad						Block C. Horch wat
			conditions - CHAINS			Block 4 - Wet conditions			conditions riding - Chains
	Block 1 - 1000km- No	Block 2 - 1000km - Dry	WORN to 0.5% PER	Block 3 - No	Block 4 - Wet conditions	riding - Chains Worn to	Block 5 - No	Block 6 - Harsh wet	worn to 0.5% per
Lubricant	Contamination	Offroad conditions	5000km	Contamination	riding	0.5% per 5000km	Contamination	conditions riding	5000km
Rex Black Diamond Wax - 11+1 mix	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.23	0.02	0.36	1.79
Silca Hot Melt	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.40	0.04	0.09	0.43
Molten Speed Wax Original Formula	0.00	0.12	0.60	0.00	0.08	0.40	0.00	0.78	3.90
Mspeedwax New Formula	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.09	0.46	0.01	0.20	0.99
Candle wax	0.05	0.10	0.48	0.06	0.14	0.71	0.06	0.37	1.87
Rex Black Diamond Wax - 4+1 Mix	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.18	0.92	0.02	0.28	1.40
Silca Hot wax X	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	1.16	0.05	0.32	1.60
Silca Synergetic	0.00	0.19	0.93	0.24	0.27	1.37	0.22	0.55	2.77
Nix Frix Shun	0.13	0.27	1.37	0.14	0.27	1.37	0.73	0.43	2.15
Tru Tension Tungsten All Weather	0.14	0.10	0.50	0.12	0.31	1.55	0.18	0.32	1.60
Private Immersive wax (3)	0.01	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.32	1.59	0.00	0.37	1.87
Effetto Mariposa Flower power wax	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.32	1.60	0.11	0.32	1.60
Ceramic Spd UFO Drip New Formula	0.02	0.03	0.17	0.01	0.32	1.62	0.17	0.37	1.83
Session S-wax	0.15	0.06	0.29	0.05	0.33	1.63	0.27	0.37	1.83
Private Immersive wax	0.00	0.06	0.29	0.00	0.34	1.70	0.00	0.37	1.87
Private Immersive wax (2)	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.37	1.85	0.06	0.42	2.09
Silca Super Secret Drip	0.03	0.05	0.23	0.00	0.37	1.85	0.29	0.66	3.30
Tru Tension Tungsten Race (D.A)	0.05	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.38	1.92	0.30	0.39	1.95
Ceramic Speed Wet Conditions	0.12	0.16	0.80	0.17	0.41	2.06	0.24	0.37	1.87
Allied GRAX	0.22	0.18	0.92	0.19	0.42	2.10	0.26		2.14
Rex Black Diamond	0.02	0.11	0.56	0.17	0.43	2.13	0.24	0.64	3.20 3.28
Rex Domestique	0.05	0.29 0.17	1.43 0.87	0.15	0.44 0.45	2.19	0.15		
Smoove Boeshield T9- Aerosol	0.19	0.17	1.62	0.02	0.45	2.26		0.46	2.29
Squirt	0.11	0.32	1.62	0.22	0.47	2.37	0.22	0.71	2.48
Finish Line Dry	0.19	0.35	1.10	0.18	0.49	2.45	0.33	0.82	4.08
Cycle Star Gold	0.13	0.33	1.55	0.45	0.54	2.72	0.44	0.86	4.08
Private wax drip (1)	0.05	0.05	0.23	0.00	0.59	2.96	0.43	0.60	2.99
Wend Wax test 2 (dissolved in)	0.36	0.34	1.68	0.29	0.60	2.99	0.46	0.65	3.24
White Lightning Epic Ride	0.23	0.34	1.69	1.04	0.60	2.99	1.04	0.90	4.49
Revolubes	0.04	0.18	0.92	0.17	0.62	3.09	0.17	0.92	4.62
Wolf tooth WT-1 on Factory Grease	0.18	0.37	1.86	0.48	0.63	3.16	0.48	0.95	4.74
Singer General Purpose (\$6.95)	0.09	0.38	1.92	0.40	0.64		0.40	0.97	4.83
Rock N Roll Gold	0.09	0.29	1.45	0.20	0.65	3.25	0.20	0.98	4.88
Private test - wet lubricant	0.15	0.44	2.20	0.31	0.70	3.51	0.31	1.05	5.26
Silca Synerg-E	0.02	0.08	0.39	0.20	0.73	3.67	0.20	1.10	5.51
Wolf tooth WT-1	0.17	0.53	2.65	0.54	0.79	3.95	0.54	0.81	4.05
Tunap Eco (on test)	0.11	1.13	5.63	0.49	0.82	4.09	0.49	1.23	6.13
Muc Off C3 Ceramic Dry	0.11	0.62	3.09	0.52	0.88	4.39	0.52	1.32	6.59
Dumonde Tech Pro X-Lite	0.16	0.69	3.45	0.22	0.95	4.75	0.22	1.43	7.13
Private test wet lubricant (2)	0.11	0.25	1.27	0.56	1.02	5.09	0.56	1.53	7.63
AB Graphene Wax	0.22	0.38	1.92	0.25	1.04	5.18	0.25	1.04	5.18
Muc Off Ludicrous AF	0.09	0.78	3.90	0.64	1.04	5.21	0.64	1.56	7.81
Finish Line Wet (green bottle)	0.15	0.91	4.56	0.77	1.17	5.86	0.77	1.76	8.79
Prestacycle One	0.08	0.95	4.75	0.81	1.21 1.25	6.06	0.81	1.82	9.08
Muc Off Hydro Dynamic	0.28	0.99	4.95	0.85		6.25	0.85	1.88	9.38
Muc Off Nano	0.38	1.08	5.39	0.93	1.34	6.69	0.93	2.01	10.04
Cyclon All weather	0.24	0.96	4.82	0.88	1.64	8.20	0.88	2.46	12.30
Airolube	0.10	0.99	4.95	0.58	1.65	8.26	0.58	2.48	12.38
Shimano Factory Grease	0.11	0.21	1.04						
Finish line Ceramic Wax (unable to extrapolate data)	0.72								
Wend Wax test 1 - stick only	0.74								
NO LUBRICANT									
Finish Line Halo IIVI wax (*KE-16St TBA)	1.00								
Finish Line Halo Drip wax (*Re-Test TBA)	2.03								
Average All hikes	19.6%	32.3%		27.9%	59.7%		34.6%	85.3%	
Average All lubes	19.6%	32.3%		27.9%	59.7%	1	34.0%	85.5%	_
*D.A = Re lube applications doubled	Red = extranolated data	as test stopped before tes	ting this block				1		
*E.A = Extended application intervals		k data table for current extr							
Enternation application intervals	Sectored Wear by Diot	a data table for current extr					L		

Wet lubricants Extrapolation update - Nov 2024 Average All Wet Block 1 - 10.8% Average All Wet Block 2 - % Extrapolation = +28.3%

Block 3. Average All wet Block 2 = 53.1% Average all wet Block 3 = 38.8% Extrapolation = -14.3%

Block 4 Average All wet block 2 = 53.1% Average all tested wet block 4 = 79.2 Extrapolation = + 26.1%

Block 5 Too small data (only 3) Use their block 3 wear rate (very optimistic Extrapolation = use block 3

Block 6 - change to use a 1.5 multiplication on Block 4 Only one wet lubricant has been tested in block 6 - insufficient for data average extrapolation

Wax drip lubricants Extrapolation update - Nov 2024

Average All Wax Block 1 - 9.7% Average All Wax Block 2 -Extrapolation =

Block 3. Average All wax Block 2 = Average all wax Block 3 = Extrapolation = -3.0%

Block 4 Average All wax block 2 = 9.7% Average all tested wax block 4 = 39.9 Extrapolation = + 30.2%

Block 5 Average all wax tested block 4 = 39.9% Average all wax tested block 5 = 23.8% Extrapolation = -16.1% reduction vs block 4

Block 6 Average all wax tested block 4 = 39.9% Average all wet tested block 6 = 40.6% Extrapolation = + 0.7% vs block 4

Immersive wax (excluding Finish line halo Block 5 - use block 3 Block 6 - avg all tested = 37.4 - use this except for AB graphen wax - use block 4