

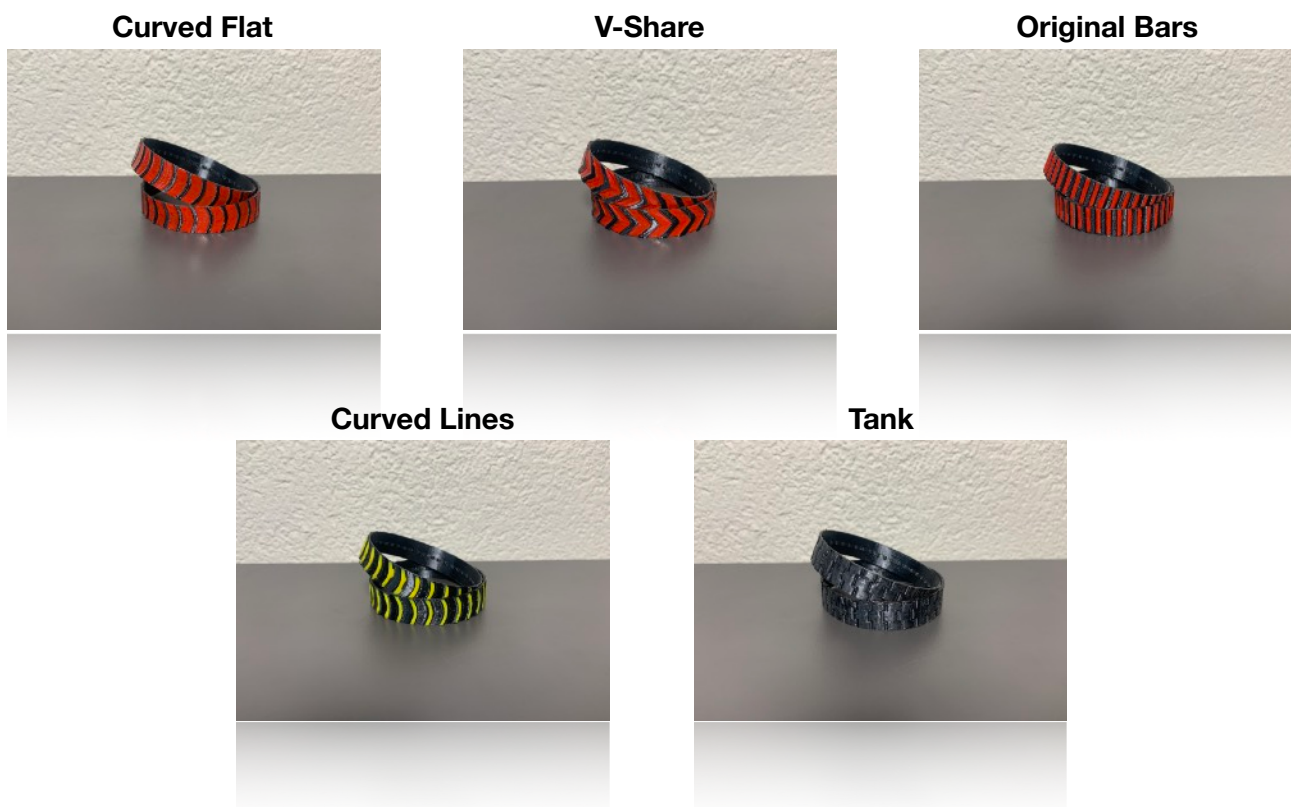
Last week I received a package from Germany. In that package was something I was excited to try out and see how it would make a difference of something I already have.

Most of us know that you can buy different treads for Vector. The Tray-Pack and of course the 3D printed tracks from "DesignsByDauler" on Etsy. The Trax-Pack are good in grip, but single colour for all the treads. The Dauler tracks are 3D printed and are available in great colors, but the grip can be less than the original treads. A combination of good grip and a customized look would be something fun to see.

Our server member, Ikkez, has created a solution to this. He created several designs of treads, 3D printed them and colored them. The unique thing here is that it is painted with colored rubber inlay. This gave him the opportunity to create some nice designs with the advantages of the rubber grip.

He was kind enough to provide me with some free samples to test them out. 5 different designs arrived and I've got the chance to play with them. Although he provided me the samples for free I said that I would make an honest review about them and test how the new treads are.

The 5 samples he provided are:



My first impression is that they are fun to see and pretty great to feel for 3D prints. Ikkez did a good job in the size of the treads and they are fitted good around the wheels of Vector. Although they are more sturdy than the original treads, they aren't too stiff or hard to work with. The rubber painting has a good feel to them and are a welcome feature on these. Since the paint is applied by hand you see that it isn't done on a production level quality, but that doesn't affect the grip or functionality of the treads at all.

For testing I've used Vector on a smooth surface. I've let him roam around freely and let him go back to his charger by voice command. This way Vector made big turns, small turns, speeded up and down so I could observe the tracks in the best way possible. Just like how every Vector would use his treads. I didn't mention any slips or bad reactions from the treads, so Ikkez chose the right choices for the designs as well. They are all reacting well for everyday use and the print, as well as the paint, isn't falling apart and holding up good.

Although they are all fun to play with, I still have a favorite tread after testing. See the list below, from my personal favorite to the lesser favorite.

1) Curved Lines



Simply the one I like the most. The print is nice, the tread design is also good with the design of Vector and the grip is the best on these. The rubber paint is applied in top of the ribs which give Vector a sturdy grip when turning around and speeding up.

2) Original Bar



If you like the original Vector treads but want to have a nice colour on them, this is the way to go. They are good, have a nice grip and gives it just that little bit extra of customization.

3) Curved Flat



Big colored gaps between the bars gives it a robust look. The grip is a bit less than the ones above, but enough to keep Vector on his feet. When Vector is driving around on his full speed the gaps looks bigger, so it's a nice visual effect as well.

4) V-Share



The same as Curved Flat, but the grip seems a little bit less than those. I like the fitting design of the tracks as well, so a good fit either.

5) Tank



By design my favorite! They look like treads from a military tank which I think is something Vector's design fits very well. The reason why it was my least favorite is because these doesn't seems to have the kind of grip as the others have.

My main conclusion is that Ikkez did a good job on the rubber inlays. It's a good solution to the grip-challenges of 3D printing material and it gives the treads a nicer look as well. If I could improve something about these it's maybe the paint job. When it's applied more evenly I think these treads could better looking. Also the grip on "Tank" is maybe something I would like to see improved.

All things considered: Ikkez has come up with 5 nice treads. I like his idea and I think that when people are going to get them they won't regret the custom look with the rubber paintings for the grip.

