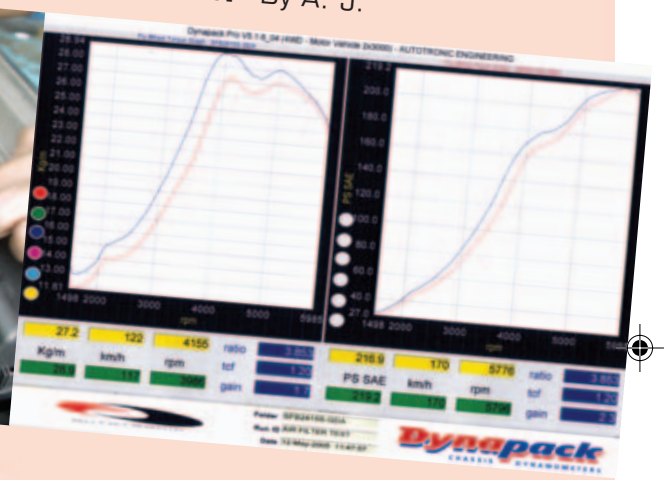
DROP-IN PODS

WE ALL KNOW THAT OPEN-PODS ARE GREAT FOR HIGH-END TORQUE WHILE DROP-INS RULE AT LOW-END BUT WHAT IF THERE IS A DROP-IN FILTER THAT COMBINED THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. IMPOSSIBLE? WELL, HURRICANE DOESN'T THINK SO AND THEIR FILTERS DO JUST THAT. By A. J.

Altis used for the test



Going Metal

HURRICANE Filters feature a stainless steel wire mesh filter element that hails from Japan, the filters need no oiling unlike conventional cotton filters. Oiling is needed in some filters to allow them to trap dust, but what a lot of people don't know is that during acceleration, the suction is extremely great within air chamber and some of this oil might actually get sucked in as well. The MAS airflow sensor will pick up this irregularity and misread the sensor, thus sending the wrong information to the ECU and in-turn causing the car to stall.

The wire mesh built into Hurricane Filters on the other hand traps dust of a specific value thanks to the carefully calculated engineered gaps within the mesh, which allows air to flow through, but keeps out harmful particles. The wire mesh has been carefully machine-knitted, and is extremely sturdy meaning the mesh won't get pierced so easily (*think chain mail amour). Another point to note is that in normal filters, when they dry up their spaces open up allowing more harmful particles to flow though.

The Equation

For most of us with relatively normal cars, we drive around with paper or cotton filters, for the enthusiastic, they either choose an open-pod filter or don't even have one at all. But as listed above these filters have their shortcomings, even the leading brands which have their own wire-mesh filters feature a lower count for wires which equates to less filtration, Hurricane on the other hand has a higher wire count, with each piece of wire being precision built and laid in equal lengths and spacing by high-tech equipment to ensure maximum filtration and air-flow. On top of that, Hurricane Filters provide the same performance as open-pods due to the structure of the wire-mesh filter element.

Hurricane is a global brand that has been manufacturing filters for more than 10 years. Materials like the stainless steel wires and frames are from Japan. Hurricane Filters have another advantage over normal filters, they are easier to wash, drivers just need to blow-clean the filter with an air gun and wash the filter with a light soap solution before letting the filter dry and affixing it back into your air-box.

Test Time

After hearing so much about the filter, HOTstuff was eager to put the Hurricane to the ultimate test, an actual road trip to gauge just how good are these stainless steel drop-ins. We took a Corolla Altis that had a stock paper filter installed and took it for a spin first just to get a feel of the car. The car's acceleration was almost non-existent, the engine needed to be revved to above 4000rpm before any sense of speed could be felt and on top of that the paper filter restricted too much air from flowing through to be of any aid to the engine.

Next up, the paper filter was replaced with Hurricane's Stainless Steel Filter and we took the car out for another spin. What a difference it made, the car was quicker of the bat; acceleration was a lot faster and not so sluggish. We didn't need to rev the engine all the way just to get the Altis to move. Air flow has improved dramatically and the engine doesn't feel like its suffering from an asthma attack. Oh did we mention that the filter adds a nice air-induction growl whenever you floor the pedal?

To further Hurricane's cause, we took a standard WRX and a Forester Turbo to the dyno shop to calculate the actual gains from fitting Hurricane's Stainless Steel Filters. HOTstuff firstly used their standard paper filters and ran the dyno before installing Hurricane's filter and tabulating the actual figures. The result? The WRX gained an impressive 7bhp while the modded 300bhp Forester Turbo bumped its horsepower by a staggering 14. All this coming from a drop-in filter, now that's truly impressive!

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