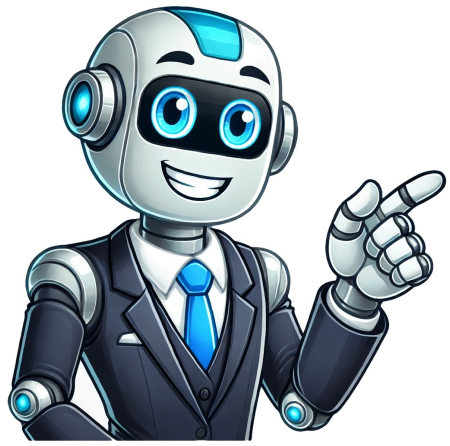


I'm not a robot





































Are you getting into the world of CO2 dragster racing? It's an exciting environment, especially if your car is successful. There's nothing like seeing the car you built from scratch cross the finish line ahead of your opponents. Many CO2 racers have backgrounds in engineering and mechanics. If you have a knack for these areas, you should do well and have fun. It's easy to understand why a mechanical background is helpful in CO2 racing. Success and speed begin with design. Sometimes even the smallest design trait can make all the difference in a split-second victory. Keeping your car as light as possible is an obvious way to improve speed. However, you should assume that every racer will have a car at or near the allowable minimum weight. To win your races, you'll need more than just a lightweight car. Below are a few tips that can put your dragster over the top. Think about golf balls. It may seem like a sleek, smooth surface would be best for a fast dragster as it appears to be the most aerodynamic solution. However, consider the texture of golf balls. They aren't sleek or smooth. Rather, they have small dimples all over the surface. These dimples serve a couple of important purposes. First, they remove weight from the ball. More importantly, they eliminate the pocket of air that can form behind a ball and become a drag on its speed. Instead, the air attaches to the dimples and forms a layer of air surrounding the ball. This actually helps the ball move faster through the air than it would if it were smooth. Take the same approach with your dragster. Consider creating small dimples or pockets in the surface so air will form a close layer around the car as it moves down the track. Otherwise, air could go right past the car and develop a rear pocket that holds your car back. Keep your car low. Air drag doesn't just happen on the top of the car. It can also occur below the car's chassis. It may be difficult, but try to keep your car as low to the ground as possible. The less space that exists between the track and the chassis, the less room there is for air to get under the car and form a drag pocket in the rear. Along those same lines, don't use wide axles. The axles could act as a resistant against airflow and reduce the car's speed. Try to keep the axles as narrow as allowed under the race guidelines. Take it easy with the paint job. It always feels good to have a car that looks stylish. However, that style doesn't mean anything if it costs you the race. Go light with the paint on the exterior of your car. Multiple layers of paint will add weight and reduce the car's speed. Instead, try to get one good layer in a stylish color. Remember, the winning is the ultimate style point. Ready to design your CO2 dragster? Contact a CO2 car dealer. They can help you find the parts and tools you need to design and build a winning car. Shane Marshall 24 August 20