

BMW Wheel Size, Spacing and Tire Fitment.

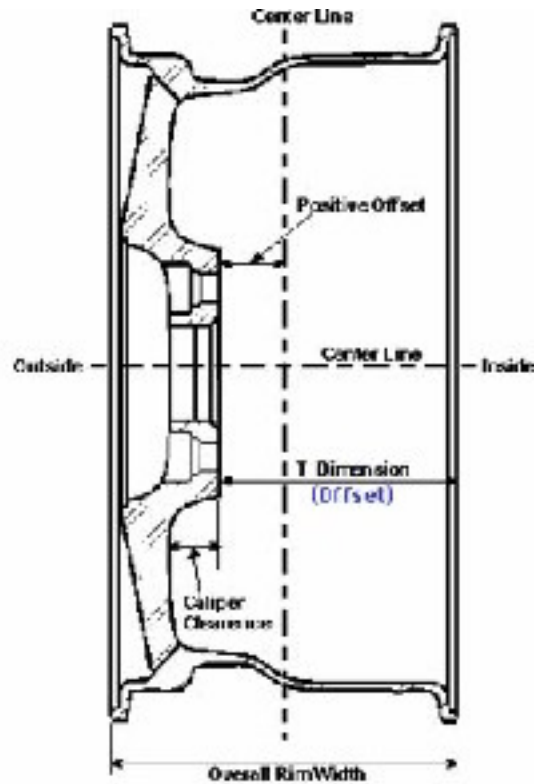
Wheel Dimensions - Width, Offset and Backspace

Width - What most people don't realize is that the published width of a wheel is not the actual width.

For example: A 6" wheel is 6" wide where the tire mounts, but is actually 7" wide edge to edge.

Offset - Wheels are normally designated by "offset" shown in millimeters as ET on the wheel. As it implies, offset is how much the mounting surface is offset from the center line of the width toward the face of the wheel.

Backspace - It is usually more instructive to look at wheels in terms of "backspace" rather than offset (shown as the "T" dimension on the drawing to the right.) Backspace will tell you how far the wheel will fit under the fender. When fitting larger wheels and tires it is important to know the maximum backspace a chassis will accept.



Let's take the example of a 6" wheel with 19mm ET. The wheel is actually 7" wide, so zero offset (center line) would be a backspace of 3-1/2". The ET of 19mm is about 3/4"

Therefore, 3-1/2" + 3/4" equals 4-1/4" ...

So a 6" wheel with a 19mm offset has a backspace of about 4-1/4". Similarly a 7" wheel with a 20mm ET has a backspace of about 4-3/4".

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