

## Todd Strong on the Titan Mk9

*Titan Mk9s don't get a lot of respect. There were a few drivers in period and in today's vintage/historic era that were/are able to make the car perform. The following is a discussion about the differences between the Mk6 and Mk9 by Todd Strong who has a lot of seat time in Mk9s and Mk6s:*

Two very different cars.

Mk6- very easy to drive and confidence inspiring. Very stable in high speed corners but slow to transition in tight twisty linked corners. Low speed power on understeer very difficult to minimize.

Mk9- more difficult to drive at the limit but much more reactive. Goes where you point it and transitions in the twisties very well. Very sensitive to fore/aft weight transfer making it hard to make mid corner adjustments. Also much better on the brakes. Not sure what the braking difference is but I can consistently go noticeably deeper before braking in the mk9. Overall the mk9 is a faster car if you can really drive it to its limit. I say for qualifying give me the mk9, for a 20 lap race give me a mk6.

Now the one thing not mentioned above is aero drag. The mk9 is significantly slower down the straights. At willow springs which is a high speed hp track. With the same exit speed out of the last turn the mk9 is about 200 rpm slower at the end of the straight. I have literally 1000's of laps at willow and can run very consistent times there and the 200ish rpm difference is very consistent. That said overall lap times are very similar. So my other saying is for technical tracks give me the mk9. For high speed aero tracks give me the mk6. In the end the ultimate lap times are within .5-1s a lap difference max generally with the mk9 quicker except on some of the real aero tracks the mk6 is faster. You just have to work a lot harder to drive the mk9 fast (and scare yourself a little more).

Todd Strong

 <p>Todd Strong's Competitive Mk9</p>	<p>Sampling of Mk 9s Pics</p>	 <p>Gordon Smiley's Mk9 at the 1975 SCCA Run Offs</p>
 <p>Mk9 on pole at Bridgehampton, NY</p>	 <p>Mark Domiteaux's restored Mk9b</p>	 <p>MK9a with the more sharply turned down nose.</p>