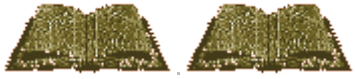
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# Reviews of Forensic Software



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Tread Assistant 1999 *from* Tire Guides International
May be ordered from:
Dr. Friedrich Lux, 2700 Wr. Neustadt, Franz Gruber Grasse 22,
Austria, Europe, Price: Euro 150.00
Phone and
Visit the Official site of Tire Guides International
Please click here to read an exclusive interview by Dr. Lux.

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Scene of crime examination is one of the essential parts of any crime investigator. Many biological and physical clues such as hair, blood, fibers, fingerprints, foot and shoe prints etc may be recovered from the scene of crime, which can help nab the criminal. One of the physical clues that has recently gained much attention is the tire print.

Dr. Friedrich Lux



Tire prints are found at most outdoor crime scenes, as the criminal often drives away in a vehicle. It is well known that different manufacturers make different tires with different tread patterns, and often by examining the tread pattern one can pin point the offending vehicle. Matching of tread prints left at the scene of crime was till now done manually by tire print experts.

The software under review (Tread Assistant 1999) allows this matching to be done with the help of computer. The software comes on a CD, which has a large data base. Among the database, it has a drop-down list of 262 tire manufacturers, displays 17 tire pattern examples, and has a library of 11033 tire images running to 320 MB!

Essentially what one has to do is to scan the tread pattern recovered from the scene of crime and feed it into the computer. The software then computes the possible manufacturer and vehicle all by itself. There are ways you can rotate the image, make its negative, alter the corners, and do a host of other things. The possibilities are endless. When testing this software, this reviewer found it to be extremely useful for prospective tire imprint examiners.