



## Get a grip

Anybody who starts getting more serious about driving has soon found themselves contemplating driving shoes.

Some driving shoes are specialized for track use, the kind you would wear only then. Others are more multipurpose, some even dressy. Tradeoffs may center around price or utility, or both. (See sidebar on Piloti lineup.)

Two questions commonly asked by newer drivers thinking about their first driving shoes are [a] whether driving shoes will really make a difference, and [b] whether they might disrupt your existing style, habits and form if you suddenly change over. We posed these questions to accomplished race driver Emilio J Lezcano over dinner before a recent track event. His take:

"Racing is one thing and having a good time is another thing. When you drive the

Viper tomorrow, like me—with my normal shoes you have to be very careful because the shoes slide on the pedals, and this is very, very dangerous because sometimes what you want is to push the gas pedal for speed, and what happens is your shoes slide, and you have no speed. And maybe the guy who is behind you hits you. You know, it isn't worth having the wrong shoes. The shoes for racing are shoes for racing. Use. Your. Shoes.

"Because racing shoes are like a punch, you know, they grab. They form a good combination with the metal of the pedals. Your shoes have a grip, so when you brake or when you push the gas pedal, your foot is right there, no slipping, which is important. That's basically it. I recommend that you use it. Use it!"

Q: When we get in the car tomorrow and we've never worn them before, will it feel different? or will it feel just normal but better?

"No, better! better!" ■

# 24h

## LE MANS

### Piloti honors 24 Hours of Le Mans with special edition

Piloti has a new multi-year partnership with one of the world's oldest and most prestigious automotive endurance races. In 2017, Piloti (Italian for "driver") will debut 24 Hours of Le Mans special edition driving shoes, designed for fans, driving enthusiasts and lovers of the culture epitomized by this event. The partnership was coordinated by IMG, exclusive licensing agency for Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO), organizers of the race.

The race runs on the Circuit des 24 Heures du Mans in Le Mans, France—with a mix of closed public roads and a specialist racing circuit, designed to balance speed with a car's ability to endure 24 hours of racing—and is broadcast in more than 190 countries.

The special edition shoes reflect the race, combining "innovation and performance" with "chic and glamor." They will be sold at 24 Hours of Le Mans boutiques in Le Mans and Paris, and in specialty motorsports boutiques worldwide. Visit [www.24h-lemans.com](http://www.24h-lemans.com) and [www.boutique.lemans.org](http://www.boutique.lemans.org).

Popular from 1999 to 2012, Piloti re-entered the marketplace in 2014. Piloti FIA and SFI certified **Performance** driving shoes (\$150 to \$240) are favored by motorsports professionals. A made-in-Italy **Luxury** line of premium leather driving shoes (\$350 to \$500) fuses Italian design, racing style and patented biomechanics. For driving and general use, the street-friendly **Casual** line (\$150 to \$240) has patented Roll Control Heel technology and Piloti's vintage racing tire-inspired tread pattern.

Piloti footwear and apparel are sold at select motorsport and luxury retailers. Visit [Piloti.com](http://Piloti.com) for more details. ■