

## A Final Word

**B**efore finishing, a few tips on buying tires. You will notice that no prices are given for the tires included in this review. There are several reasons for this. The main reason is that a list price for tires is almost meaningless. Discounting is very widespread these days. Get quotes from several local tire dealers as well as mail order tire companies listed in Rotary Rocket and elsewhere. Mail order

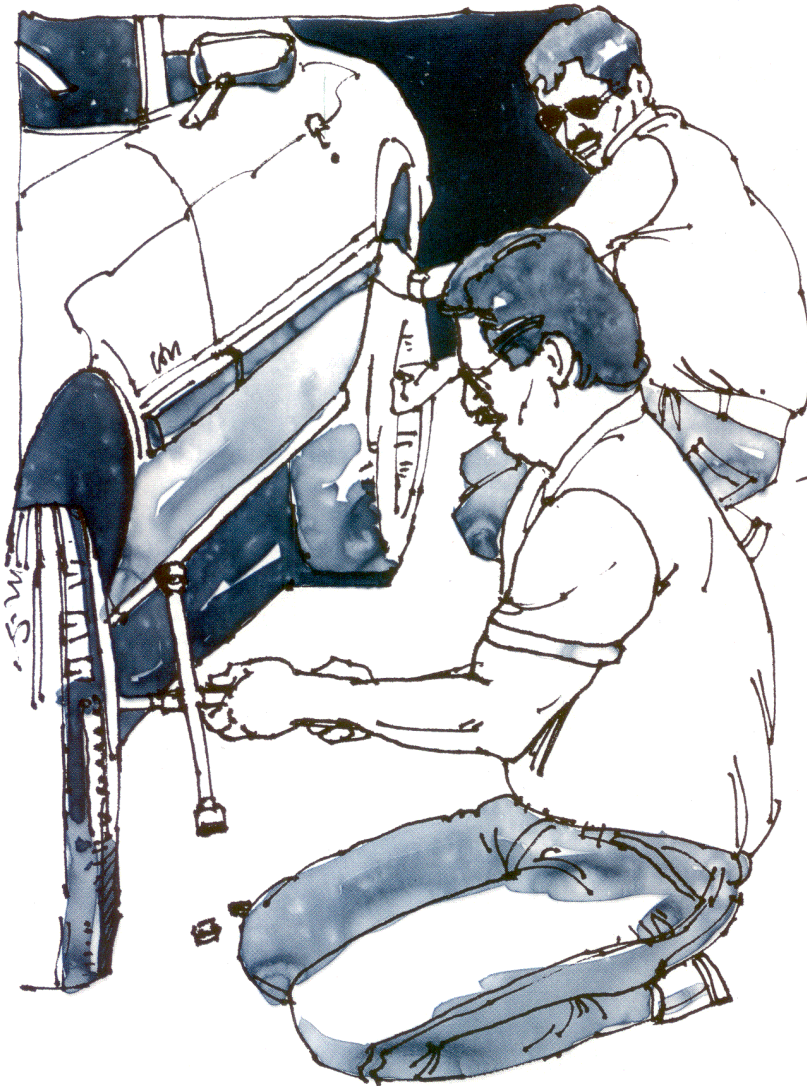
prices tend to be lower than those you'll find at your local dealer but even these vary considerably. Also balance the lower price with the time it takes to get them and the fact that you may have to go elsewhere to get them mounted and balanced. Of course, if you need new wheels too, you'll find many mail order firms that include tire and wheel packages with the tires already mounted and balanced for you.

As we cover in a sidebar, make certain the tires you buy, mounted on the appropriate rims, will fit inside your fenders. If a

tire is rubbing on a fender you can destroy it in a matter of minutes. If you live in a cold climate or like to travel to snow country, consider space under the fenders for snow chains as well. You may have to purchase different wheel bolts for your new wheels. Make certain the store has them before you complete the deal.

Finally, stay away from extreme tire sizes and wheel offsets. Leave them for the urban cowboy set. They are not for performance driving. The sizes listed in this article should present no problem.

# TIRE SIZE SELECTION



**O**ne of the most often asked questions by club members is "What is the largest tire that can be mounted on the stock alloy wheels?" The next most frequent tire-related question is "What is the largest sized tire that will fit an RX-7?"

As a general guide to a workable level of comfort/performance we suggest the following tire size versus wheel size.

Tire Size	Wheel Size	Remarks
185/70-13	5.5 x 13	stock size
205/60-13	6.0 or 6.5 x 13	
215/60-13	6.5 or 7.0 x 13	rear only
195/60-14	6.0 x 14	
205/60-14	6.5 x 14	rear only
195/50-15	6.0 x 15	
205/50-15	6.5 x 15	rear only

It should be noted that the sizes recommended are for RX-7s with a stock suspension. By changing to higher spring rates and smaller spring deflection, larger tires may be used. However, the suspension movement should be tested to insure that the larger tires do not rub the fender lips and inner fender wells. If your RX-7 has been lowered, the above recommendations are invalid and the larger tire/wheel combinations cannot be used.

The largest (in terms of diameter and width) tire that may be safely mounted on a stock 5.5 x 13 wheel is a 215/60-13. The advantage of using the wider tire is lost due to the narrow wheel not properly support-