ORACLE Red Bull RACING

RB19

MAX VERSTAPPEN

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Australia 2023

Free practice and qualifying



The 2023 Australian Grand Prix delivered a thrilling qualifying, with Oracle Red Bull Racing reaffirming its dominance and Max Verstappen unstoppable at the controls of the RB19.

The Albert Park circuit in Melbourne was dressed up to welcome the teams for the third round of the 2023 Formula 1 season. After the races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, all eyes were on the Oracle Red Bull Racing team and a question mark hung in the air: would the RB19 confirm its power in Australia or would problems start to emerge in a car that had so far displayed outstanding performance?

Lights and shadows

Doubts began to be dispelled on March 31, during the first free practice sessions. Everything went according to plan: Max Verstappen stepped on the accelerator and was unbeatable, clocking a time of 1:18.790. He was 0.43 seconds ahead of his closest challenger, Lewis Hamilton, who showed that the Mercedes cars were ready to put up a fight.

Checo Pérez on track during qualifying ahead of the F1 Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit on March 31, 2023.



The Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo follows the progress of the two RB19s in the Oracle Red Bull Racing garage during the free practice sessions at the Albert Park circuit.

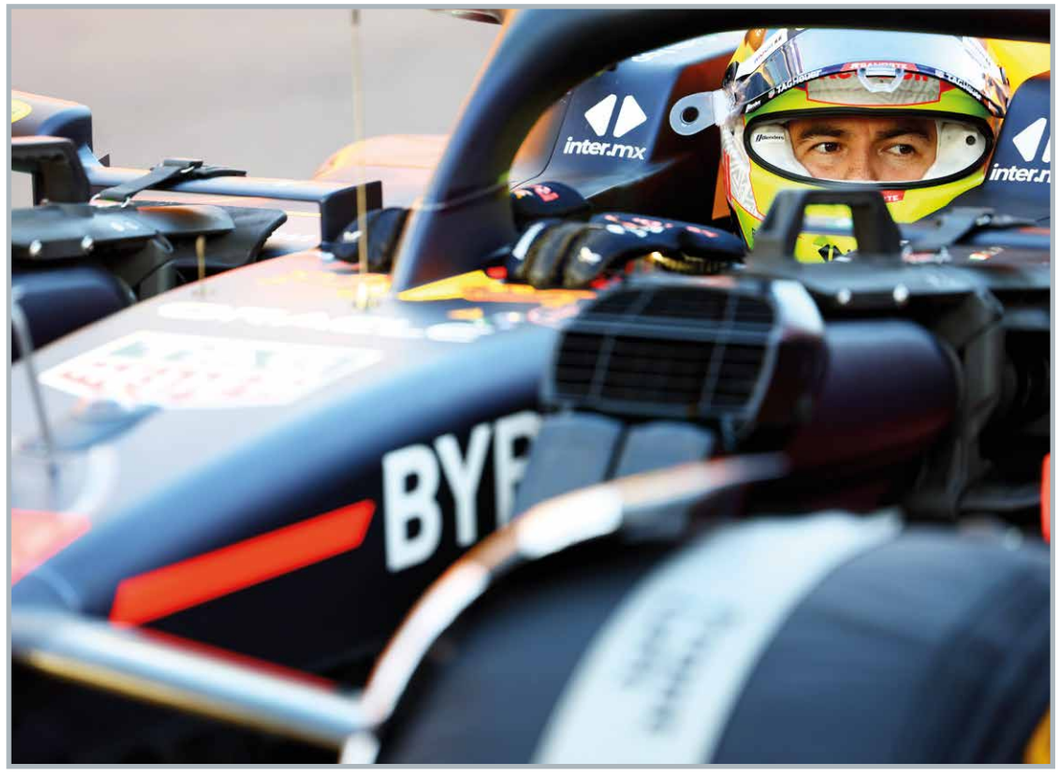
Checo Pérez took a more than remarkable third place, just half a second behind his teammate.

But, as motor racing fans know, even the most predictable things can change in a matter of seconds. And the scenario of the second practice session was altered significantly when the rain made an appearance. On the wet tarmac, Fernando Alonso, at the wheel of his Aston Martin, showed that he was not at all afraid of the wet conditions. With absolute confidence in his driving skills, he finished the session in the lead, setting a time of 1:18.887. Charles Leclerc and Max Verstappen were second and third. Although the times were not representative, the different drivers' ability to adapt to the changing weather conditions seemed to herald that the weekend could be full of surprises.

Unexpected setback in qualifying

In the third free practice session, Max Verstappen decided to bring some order and once again showed who was the driver to beat. With a splendid progression, he was in the lead with a time of 1:17.565, although he felt the presence of Alonso very close, just 0.16 seconds behind. In third and fourth position, also with very close times, were Esteban Ocon in his Renault and George Russell at the wheel of his Mercedes.

The surprise came with Checo, and it wasn't positive news. While Verstappen's RB19 was running perfectly, the Mexican struggled with the car's overall balance and went wide on numerous occasions. Alarm bells immediately went off in the Oracle Red Bull Racing paddock and mechanics began working on Checo Pérez's car to ensure he had no problems in qualifying.



Sergio Pérez waits in the pitlane during a red flag delay during the F1 Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on April 2, 2023.

An unsettling Q1

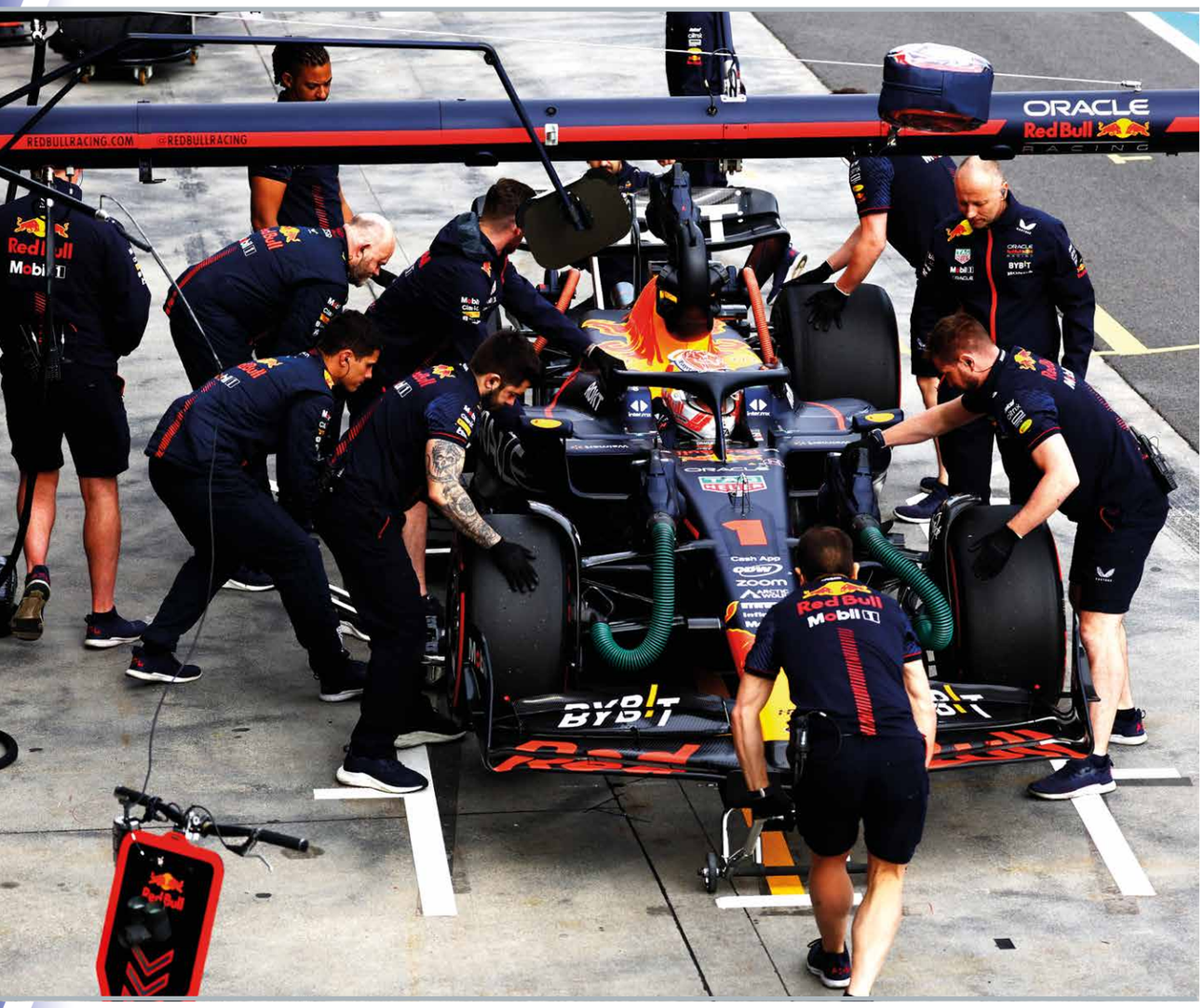
With the track completely dry and the Melbourne skies clear, qualifying on Saturday April 1 promised to be very encouraging for the Oracle Red Bull drivers. Once again, Verstappen started as the clear favorite, but pressure from teams such as Mercedes – who were showing notable improvements – and the ever-dangerous Ferrari turned qualifying into a real battle.

Q1 was bittersweet for Oracle Red Bull Racing team members. As Germany's Nico Hülkenberg of Haas was pushing hard, the session was suspended by a red flag. Sergio Pérez had gone wide at turn 3 and was unable to continue. He was out of qualifying almost at the start, which was a real blow to the team's interests. But Verstappen did not let his teammate's incident affect him and set an impressive time of 1:17.384, three tenths ahead of the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.

Rivals put pressure on

In the second round of qualifying, Ferrari attacked hard and Charles Leclerc initially set the fastest time. However, Verstappen was quick to respond, bettering the Monegasque's time with a 1:17.056. Fernando Alonso was keen to join the fray and was just 0.064 seconds down on the Oracle Red Bull Racing driver, showing that Aston Martin was not prepared to give up. Despite Ferrari and Aston Martin's attacks and their best efforts to record the fastest time, it was Verstappen who closed Q2 on top, making it clear that the RB19 was still a very difficult car to beat.

As predicted, Q3 ended up being an extraordinary battle



Max Verstappen driving the (1) Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 stops in the pits during qualifying ahead of the F1 Australian Grand Prix.

between the fastest drivers. On his first attempt, Verstappen made a succession of mistakes that relegated him to sixth place. His rivals seized the opportunity to put in some fantastic laps. Alonso set the fastest initial time, but Hamilton temporarily claimed the top spot with a lap of 1:17.271.

The Dutchman's return to the track wiped a lot of smiles off his rivals' faces. On his second attempt, he set a time of 1:17.262, beating Hamilton by just 0.009 seconds. But it didn't stop there. On his final flying lap, Verstappen lowered his time to an impressive 1:16.732, putting him 0.236 seconds ahead of George Russell, who had managed to overtake teammate Hamilton for second place.

The competitive qualifying session ended with Max Verstappen on pole position, followed by the Mercedes of Russell and Hamilton in second and third respectively. Fernando Alonso was fourth, just ahead of Carlos Sainz Jr. The stakes were high, and the next day's race was hotly anticipated.

Qualifying classification

Pos.	Nº	Driver	Constructor	Q1	Q2	Q 3	Final grid
1	1	Max Verstappen	Oracle Red Bull Racing	1:17.384	1:17.056	1:16.732	1
2	63	George Russell	Mercedes	1:17.654	1:17.513	1:16.968	2
3	44	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	1:17.689	1:17.551	1:17.104	3
4	14	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin Aramco-Mercedes	1:17.832	1:17.283	1:17.139	4
5	55	Carlos Sainz Jr.	Ferrari	1:17.928	1:17.349	1:17.270	5
6	18	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin Aramco-Mercedes	1:17.873	1:17.616	1:17.308	6
7	16	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	1:18.218	1:17.390	1:17.369	7
8	23	Alexander Albon	Williams-Mercedes	1:17.962	1:17.761	1:17.609	8
9	10	Pierre Gasly	Alpine-Renault	1:18.312	1:17.574	1:17.675	9
10	27	Nico Hülkenberg	Haas-Ferrari	1:18.029	1:17.412	1:17.735	10
11	31	Esteban Ocon	Alpine-Renault	1:17.770	1:17.768	N/A	11
12	22	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri-Honda RBPT	1:18.471	1:18.099	N/A	12
13	4	Lando Norris	McLaren-Mercedes	1:18.243	1:18.119	N/A	13
14	20	Kevin Magnussen	Haas-Ferrari	1:18.159	1:18.129	N/A	14
15	21	Nyck de Vries	AlphaTauri-Honda RBPT	1:18.450	1:18.335	N/A	15
16	81	Oscar Piastri	McLaren-Mercedes	1:18.517	N/A	N/A	16
17	24	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo-Ferrari	1:18.540	N/A	N/A	17
18	2	Logan Sargeant	Williams-Mercedes	1:18.557	N/A	N/A	18
19	77	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo-Ferrari	1:18.714	N/A	N/A	PL1*
NC	11	Sergio Pérez	Oracle Red Bull Racing	No time	N/A	N/A	PL2*

*Valtteri Bottas and Checo Pérez had to start from the pit lane due to critical parts of their respective cars being replaced.

2023 Australian Grand Prix
Absolute chaos



Sergio Pérez driving the (11) Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 on track during the F1 Australian Grand Prix.



Max Verstappen driving the (1) Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 on track during the 2023 Australian Grand Prix.

After practice and qualifying, fans were expecting the race to be a nail-biting affair, but no one expected the event to be chaotic and exciting, with all manner of incidents, red flags, and lead changes. Mercedes and Aston Martin set out to close down Verstappen, but the Oracle Red Bull Racing driver proved he is at home in the most challenging of environments.

A difficult start

From the very start, the race became totally unpredictable. The pole position setup meant that, as soon as the lights went out, the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton attacked Verstappen, who lost his place at the front of the field. This swift and aggressive move by the Brackley-based team caught most by surprise, as Verstappen's RB19 had demonstrated its fantastic race pace during the start of the season. But, on this occasion, the opening laps proved difficult for the Austrian team, as Verstappen had no choice but to give up his position, expressing his frustration over the radio.

The race started to spiral further out of control when Charles Leclerc was forced to retire on the opening lap after an incident with Lance Stroll. The Monegasque Ferrari driver watched helplessly as his car got stuck in the gravel, forcing his retirement and the first appearance of the safety car. Just a few laps later, Alex Albon, who had raised Williams's hopes, suffered the same fate as Leclerc, as he was unable to avoid his car hitting the barriers at turn 7.

This bumpy start to the race meant that some drivers took

FINAL CLASSIFICATION

1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull-Honda RBPT
2	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes
3	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin A.M.
4	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin A.M.
5	Sergio Pérez	Red Bull-Honda RBPT
6	Lando Norris	McLaren-Mercedes
7	Nico Hülkenberg	Haas-Ferrari Mercedes
8	Oscar Piastri	McLaren-Mercedes
9	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo-Ferrari
10	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri-Honda RBPT
11	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo-Ferrari
12	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari
13	Pierre Gasly	Alpine-Renault
14	Esteban Ocon	Alpine-Renault
15	Nyck de Vries	AlphaTauri-Honda RBPT
16	Logan Sargeant	Williams-Mercedes
17	Kevin Magnussen	Haas-Ferrari
RET	Alexander Albon	Williams-Mercedes
RET	George Russell	Mercedes
RET	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari



The Oracle Red Bull Racing team watch the action in the garage during the F1 Australian GP.

the opportunity to change tires. George Russell did so, at a time when he was in the lead of the race. His strategy may have initially seemed appropriate, until a red flag was unfurled, which opened the door for the other drivers to change tires without losing positions. This led to an immediate change in the race order. Hamilton took the lead, followed by Verstappen, while Russell slipped back down the field.

Verstappen starts to fly

When the race restarted, Verstappen made it clear that he wanted to take control of the race and increased the pace of the RB19. Although Hamilton tried to defend at all costs, the Dutchman took advantage of the DRS to overtake him easily on the main straight. From there, the Oracle Red Bull Racing driver consolidated a comfortable lead and set his own pace. Behind him, Fernando Alonso was trying to hold off Carlos Sainz Jr. and an aggressive Pierre Gasly, who was also in contention for the podium.

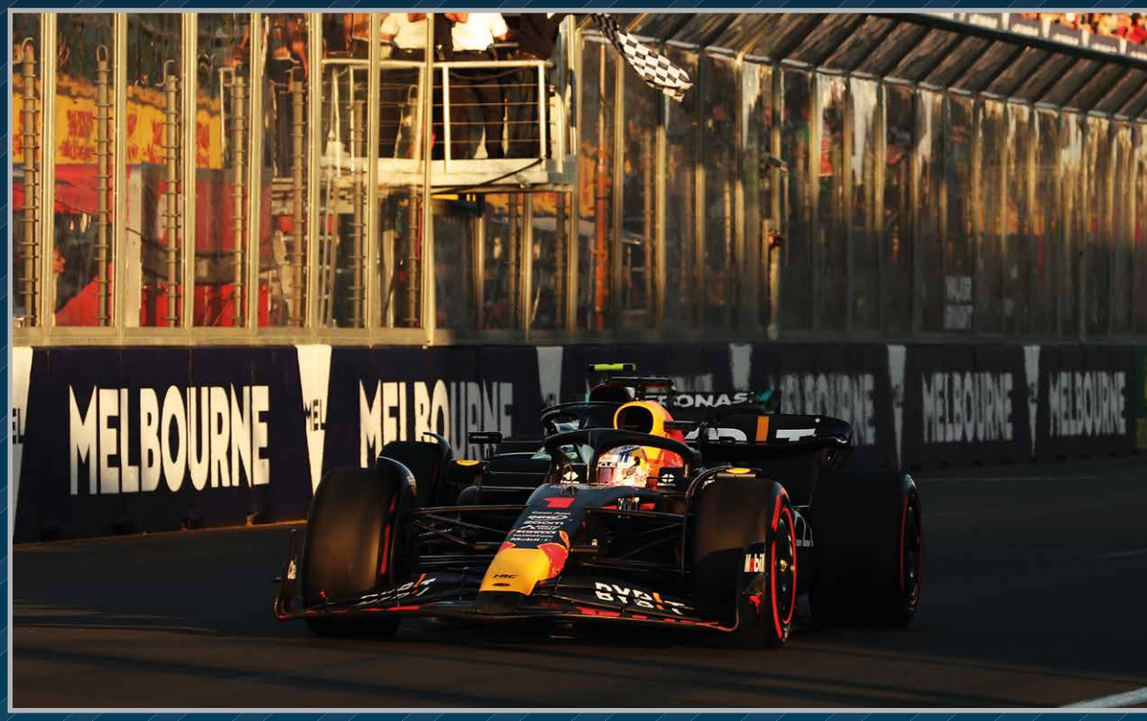
Things then got even more complicated for other drivers. Flames started to emerge from the rear of George Russell's Mercedes as he was coming down the main straight. The stewards deployed a virtual safety car, which stabilized the positions for a few minutes. But Russell was forced to abandon the race for good.

Checo Pérez makes a comeback

Another different chapter of the race was being played by Sergio Pérez, who had started from the pit lane after a disappointing qualifying. Demonstrating his desire to succeed, he made a spectacular comeback. Despite the challenges of the Albert Park circuit for overtaking, the Mexican managed to make his way into the points. Pérez finished the race in fifth position and also set the fastest lap, scoring valuable points for himself and his team.

The end of the race was as chaotic as the start. Kevin Magnussen lost a wheel after hitting the wall, which caused another red flag. When the race restarted, things got even more complicated. Carlos Sainz Jr.'s car touched Alonso's car, which spun. The incident led to a series of collisions that left several cars damaged, including the Alpine cars of Gasly and Ocon, who collided with each other and were forced to retire.

All these incidents meant that, once the race was over, many drivers had little reason to celebrate. One example was Carlos Sainz Jr. After a great race, he was relegated to 12th place due to the five-second penalty he was given for the contact with Alonso's car. Alonso, despite the spin, had managed to finish the race in third position, a great result for the Aston Martin team.



Race winner Max Verstappen driving the (1) Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 takes the checkered flag at the 2023 Australian Grand Prix.

> "In the midst of a fierce battle for the win, Verstappen came out on top to consolidate his championship lead."

With such fluctuating race circumstances, the joy of the Oracle Red Bull Racing team was justified. Max Verstappen had taken his first win in Australia, the Albert Park circuit having previously eluded him. Although it was a difficult victory, the Dutchman could not hide his satisfaction. "Today was a chaotic day, but I'm very happy to get the win," he said after the race. "The red flags were frustrating, but the most important thing is that everyone is fine and we managed to win."

The champion can also slip up



George Russell of Great Britain driving the (63) Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team W14 and Max Verstappen of the Netherlands driving the (1) Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 battle for track position into turn 1 at the start of the F1 Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit on April 2, 2023.

Christian Horner had warned on more than one occasion that Grand Prix victories are becoming harder to secure. And Max Verstappen had the opportunity to experience this for himself at Albert Park. The race was dominated by confusion and disarray, which did not help the Dutchman, who was suddenly overtaken by the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton at the start of the race. What's more, teammate Sergio Pérez started from the pit lane, leaving Verstappen alone and showing signs of vulnerability. Despite the adverse start, the Oracle Red Bull Racing champion soon took control of the situation and imposed his pace on the rest of the field. But for those who thought Verstappen had the race won, they had to hold their breath as his RB19 went off the track at turn 13 and lost valuable seconds as he drove across the grass to rejoin the track. Fortunately, the mishap was of little consequence and did not prevent him from crossing the finish line in first place with a comfortable lead over Hamilton, his nearest challenger. However, it was clear to everyone in attendance that Verstappen could also make mistakes at crucial moments. Although the entire race was plagued by incidents, any slip-up by the champion, no matter how small, was watched in detail by his rivals. On this occasion, none of them had the chance to capitalize on that mistake, but there was still a long way to go in the championship.

BUILD THE

ORACLE Red Bull RACING RB19
MAX VERSTAPPEN

FRONT LEFT SUSPENSION (2)

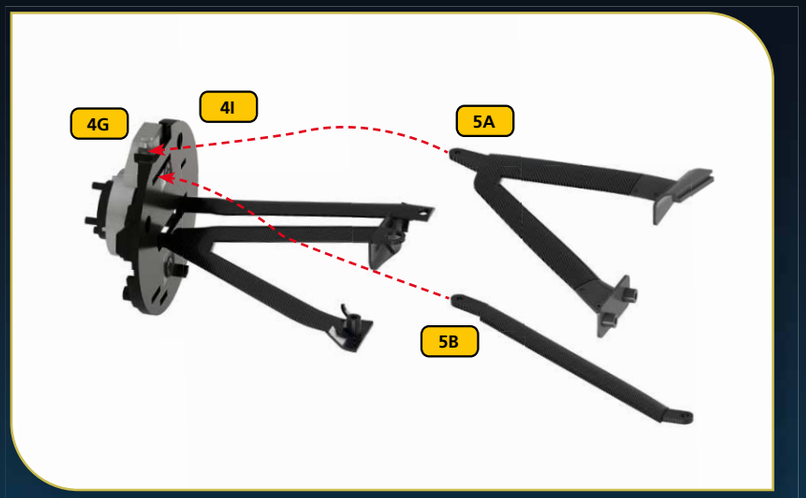
In this issue, we will continue assembling the front left suspension and mount the front left brake disc cowling.

PIECES IN THIS ISSUE



- **5A** Front left suspension upper arm
- **5B** Front left upper reinforcement arm
- **5C** Front left brake plate
- **5D** Brake disc cowling
- **5E** Hub outer part
- **5F** Brake disc cowling air intake
- **A** Screws 2.3 mm x 4 mm (2 + 1*)
- **D** Screws 2.0 mm x 6 mm (1 + 1*)

* Spare screw

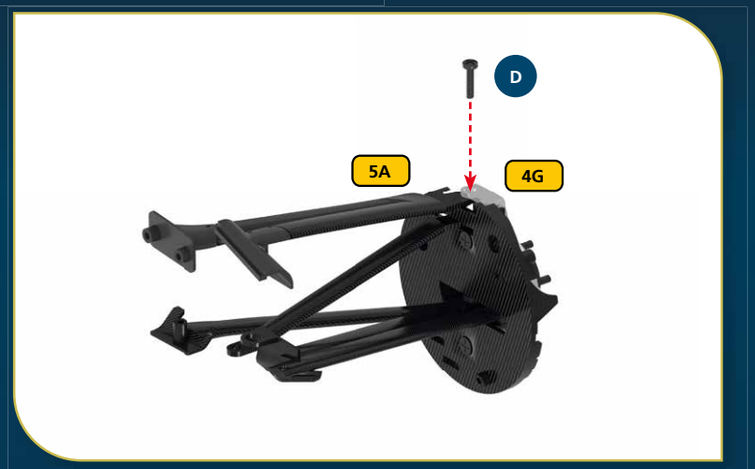


STEP 5-1

Insert the highlighted end of the front left upper reinforcement arm **5B** into the groove in the wheel hub **4I**. Also insert the end of the front left suspension upper arm **5A** between the wheel hub **4I** and the hub mount **4G**.

STEP 5-2

Secure the front left suspension upper arm **5A** to the hub mount **4G** with a **D** screw.



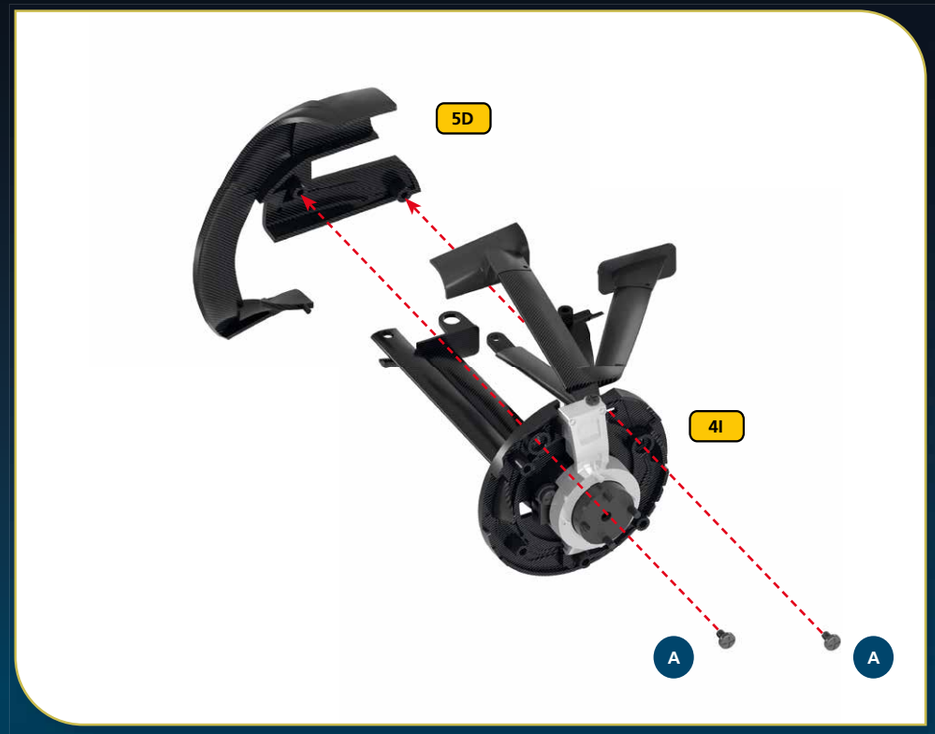


STEP 5-3

Carefully check the position of the parts in the picture and fit the brake disc cowling air intake **5F** into the marked groove in the wheel hub **4I**.

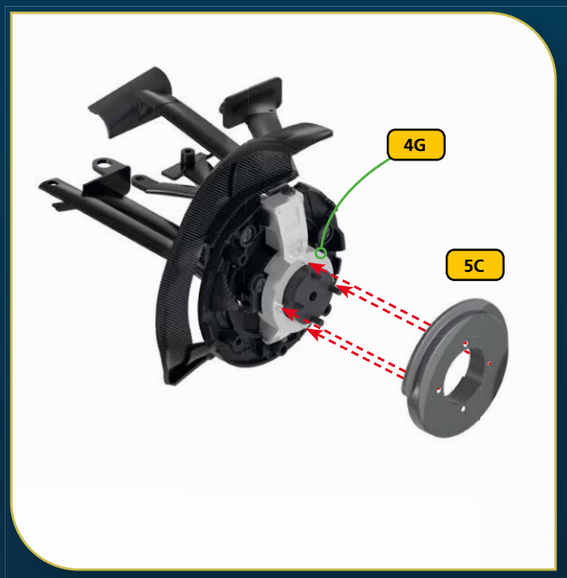
STEP 5-4

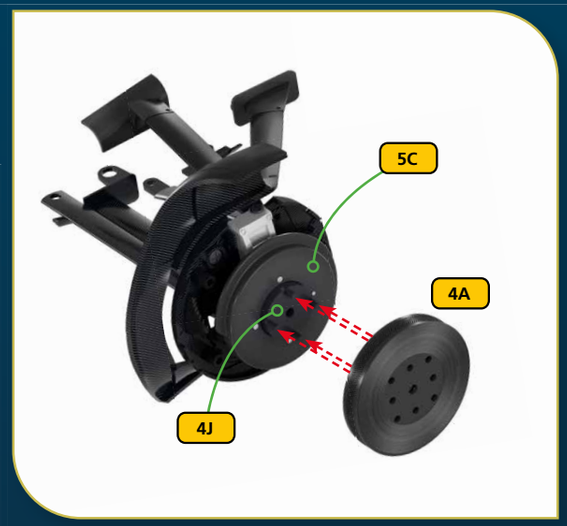
Fix the brake disc cowling **5D** to the inner side of the wheel hub **4I** with two **A** screws.



STEP 5-5

Mount the front left brake plate **5C** by positioning its four holes over the four pivots on the hub mount **4G**.

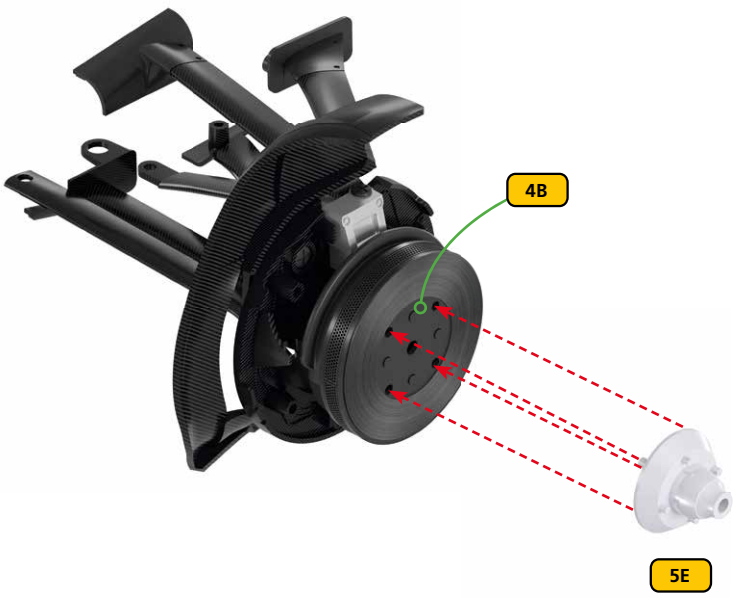




STEP 5-6

Position the inner part of the brake disc **4A** over the front left brake plate **5C** and match the four holes on the inner part of the disc **4A** with the pivots on the hub inner part **4J**.

Front left suspension (2)



STEP 5–7

To complete the assembly, insert the outer part of the hub **5E** into the holes in the central part of the brake disc **4B**.

FINAL RESULT



This is what the parts that have been assembled at this stage of the assembly look like.