

Student name _____

Pitsco Racer Glossary of Terms

Aesthetic	Describing an object's visual appeal or attractiveness.
CO ₂ Cartridge	A small, sealed, metal tube that contains compressed carbon dioxide. <i>CO₂ cartridges</i> are used to propel race cars down the track.
Coping Saw	A small hand-held saw with a narrow blade, useful for making curved cuts in wood. Good for rough shaping race car bodies if a band saw is unavailable.
Decelerate	The act of slowing a moving object. In CO ₂ racing, a car must be safely decelerated after it.
Drag	Force that resists an object's movement through the air. The more the object disrupts the laminar
Dragster	A race car that races a short distance on a straight track. CO ₂ race cars are often referred to as <i>dragsters</i> .
Friction	Force that resists relative motion between two objects in contact.
Hybrid Car	A CO ₂ race car design in which two wheels are housed inside the body and two are mounted externally.
Inertia	Property or tendency of an object at rest to remain at rest unless acted upon by a force.
Lift	Aerodynamic force that pushes upward on a body as it moves through an air stream. Airplane wings generate lift; race car bodies may also generate lift, positive or negative (downward force) as they move down the track.
Power Plant	The CO ₂ cartridge onboard a race car. The <i>power plant housing</i> is the body material that surrounds the cartridge.
Thrust	Force that propels an object, sets it into motion, or keeps it moving.
Thumbnail Sketch	A small, quick sketch used to rapidly communicate ideas.
Tolerances	An acceptable variance from a specified measurement. Used to determine the minimum and maximum measurements.
Traction	Friction between a car's tires and the road surface. Traction allows the wheels/tires to propel a car forward without the wheels spinning in place. In CO ₂ racing, the wheels do not propel the vehicle, so increasing traction is not necessary.