

Reynolds Technology Ltd.
Timeline

- 1841 John Reynolds starts as a nail manufacturer, in Birmingham, England.
- 1875 The elder Reynolds retires, passing leadership of the company to sons Edwin and Alfred John.
- 1881 Edwin dies.
- 1890 Alfred John's sons, John Henry and Alfred Milward, join John Reynolds & Sons, Ltd.
- 1897 Alfred M. Reynolds and J.T. Hewitt patent the invention of butted tubing.
- 1898 The predecessor to today's Reynolds bicycle tubing company is formed, called The Patent Butted Tube Co., Ltd on 20th December 1898.
- 1902 The Patent Butted Tube Co., Ltd. publishes its first bicycle tubing catalog, boasting a 4 1/2-pound tube set.
- 1916 Due to the onset of WWI, The Patent Butted Tube Co., Ltd. starts manufacturing tubing for military bicycles and motorcycles.
- 1917 Due to increased wartime production, The Patent Butted Tube Co., Ltd relocates to a large Tudor house known as Hay Hall in Tyseley, Birmingham.
- 1923 The Patent Butted Tube Co., Ltd. changed its name to Reynolds Tube Co., Ltd.
- 1924 Reynolds introduces high manganese tubing.
- 1928 Reynolds Tube Co., Ltd. is acquired by Tube Investments, Ltd.
- 1935 Max Bigford and Austyn Reynolds introduce the legendary Reynolds 531 tubeset, with a 5-3-1 ratio of key elements in this

manganese-steel alloy.

- 1939 Reynolds ceases bicycle tube production due to the onset of WWII, switching production to fighter plane tubing for the Spitfire. Hundreds of Reynolds employees volunteer to serve in Britain's Home Guard (similar to the US National Guard).
- 1958 Luxembourg's Charly Gaul wins the Tour de France astride a Reynolds 531-built bicycle, completing the 4,319.5km race more than three minutes ahead of Italy's Vito Favero.
- 1961 France's Jacques Anquetil wins his second Tour de France, en record five Tours de France by 1964, on board a Reynolds-tubed Gitane.
- 1969 Belgium's Eddy Merckx wins his first of five Tours de France on his private-label, Reynolds-tubed DeRosa. France's Walter Pingeon finishes a distant second, nearly 18 minutes back in the 4,102km race.
- 1976 Reynolds introduces heat-treated 753 tubing; which rapidly becomes the competition tubing of choice worldwide.
- 1978 The Badger, France's Bernard Hinault, wins his first of five Tours de France on a Reynolds-tubed Gitane, beating Joop Zoetemelk by nearly four minutes in the 3,913.8km race.
- 1980 Reynolds receives the coveted Guidon D'Or (golden Handlebar) award for its 531 tubing.
- 1986 American upstart Greg LeMond wins his first of three Tours de France on his private-label, Reynolds-tubed Hinault. His bike's namesake finished three minutes behind in the 4,083km epic race.
- 1991 Spaniard Miguel Indurain wins the first of his record-setting five consecutive Tours de France, beating rivals Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci by more than three minutes, astride a Reynolds-tubed Pinarello.

- 1995 Reynolds introduces 853, the world's first commercial air-hardening steel for bicycle frame tubes.
- 1996 Reynolds is named the official tubing supplier to USA Cycling, who provide GT Bicycles through the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.
- Coyote Sports Inc., a privately held company owned based in Boulder, CO, acquires TI Reynolds 531 Ltd. and renames the company Reynolds Cycle Technology Ltd. Coyote Sports was formed with the specific purpose of establishing a cohesive group of companies in the sporting goods industry.
- 1997 Reynolds is a sponsor of the US No. 1 professional cycling team, Saturn.
Reynolds introduces 725, 631, and 525 tubing for OEM use. Schwinn and LeMond Bicycles offer Reynolds-tubed models for 1998, and Gazelle bikes use 853 tubing in the Tour de France.
- 1998 Reynolds celebrates 100 years as the world's leading bicycle tubing manufacturer by announcing a complete product range, encompassing steel, aluminium, titanium and carbon fibre materials.
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1999 Coyote Sports Inc. files for Chapter 11 in the USA, but the UK-based Reynolds continues operations on metallic tubing. Reynolds Composites LLC in California starts production of carbon fibre forks.
- 2000 A management buy-out on 24th January led by Keith Noronha takes Reynolds back into private ownership, whilst keeping all the employees (and experience) on board. Reynolds Composites LLC remains a separate entity based in CA, USA.
Manufacturing of metallic products continues at the Tyseley, England, facility. The company is named Reynolds Cycle Technology (2000) Ltd.
Reynolds sales of the mandrel butted 3Al2.5V titanium range to the US, Italy, and France increase significantly, and see use in the professional peleton through LeMond.

- 2001** Reynolds commences commercial production of X-100 aluminium-lithium alloy tubing, available from approved builders only. The company works actively with Birmingham University to develop new high-performance materials and processes.
- 2002** Reynolds launch the first seamless butted 6Al-4V titanium tubeset, the highest performance tubing metallic material available to the bike industry. Users include Airborne, Guru, Moots, De Rosa, Passoni, Nevi for premium framesets.
- 2003** Reynolds partners with Eastern Cape Magnesium of South Africa to develop the MZM magnesium butted tubeset using an innovative high-purity alloy. Although TIG welding of Mg alloys remains a constraint to commercial production, the material is used in bonded structures.
Reynolds also sets up a commercial partnership with Founder Land Co. in Taiwan for the production of Cr-Mo and Aluminium parts to agreed quality specifications, mainly for use in Far East framebuilding.
- 2004** Reynolds launch a road component range under the "ETAPE" label. Materials technology and design on the X-105 stem allows low weight with durability.
- 2005** The separate company Reynolds Composites LLC, purchased by Maclean-Fogg of the US, acquire a license from Reynolds to design, manufacture and sell Reynolds-branded bike accessories (e.g. wheelsets, stems and handlebars) through their distribution channels.
- 2006** The company is renamed Reynolds Technology Ltd. to reflect the increasing revenues from diversification into "new" sectors for tubing outside the cycle industry.
- 2007** After 90 years at Redfern Road, the company moves to a modern factory building in Shaftmoor Lane, Birmingham. The new "953" stainless maraging steel range becomes commercially available to builders – probably the hardest material in the bike industry at over 1800 MPa tensile strength.

2008 Reynolds installs a plug-bar drawbench at Shaftmoor Lane, adding production capacity and flexibility. Specialist niche sales sectors now include motorsport, oil down-hole drilling, sports wheelchairs and related tubing based on the high-strength materials developed for the bike industry. A special edition “531” tubeset is launched to mark our 110th year.

2009 Reynolds 631 tubing is used for prototype motorcycle race frames (531 tubing was used extensively in the 1960-1980’s), and sports-car suspension wishbones. Production capacity is increased despite the recession, as RTL’s order book improves due to a revival in steel bikes.