



Inside Track – Hockenheim Preview

[Opening credits]

Christine – Voiceover

Welcome to Inside Track. This show is a little bit different to our previous previews, instead of our usual lap, new Red Bull signing Sebastian Vettel takes us on a helicopter tour of the Hockenheim circuit.

Christine – Voiceover

It was all about Lewis Hamilton at the British GP as he took a dominant victory over the 12 other finishers. Heidfeld was second, and Barrichello third, whilst Raikkonen, Kovalainen, and Alonso all picked up points, despite finishing a lap down.

This leaves the drivers championship in an incredible position, with Hamilton, Massa and Raikkonen all on 48 points, with Hamilton leading on wins. Kubica is close behind on 46, whilst Heidfeld is on 36 and Kovalainen sits on 24 points.

Ferrari maintain their hold on the lead of the constructors championship, but BMW are still in contention on 82 to Ferrari's 96. McLaren have 72, and then there is the enormous gap to Toyota on 25, Red Bull on 24 and Williams on 16.

[Footage of Sebastian Vettel taking off in the helicopter.]

Sebastian: So, let's start, one lap of the Hockenheim ring in Germany, for the Grand Prix of Germany. Here we start going on the main straight, very important last corner to take all the speed. The straight line is not that long, but of course, every kilometre per hour counts. So, we start right away, on the right hand side we see the box, approaching first corner. We downshift from 7th to 5th gear, very, very fast corner, around 240 km/h, and the exit is very important not to take too much kerb, because that slows you down again.

Then we are heading Turn 2, very difficult to find the right braking point. It's very bumpy in the area, as we can see. It's braking down, 7th gear to 2nd gear, quite low speed in the apex, and then it's very important to let the car roll, don't scrap too much speed, then take all the speed for the straight line. Longest straight line on the circuit, and it's also the point where we reach the maximum speed, around 210km/h, and it's the best opportunity on this circuit to overtake other cars.

So, we are now approaching the famous hairpin at the Hockenheim ring. It's downshifting 7th to 1st gear, so six gears down. Very, very hard braking, end of straight line, downforce level is quite high, so we can use all the power of the brakes under braking. Downshifting to first gear, very low speeds, around 50/60km/h. Very difficult to hit the apex, and then very important to get right out of the corner and have good traction.

We are approaching the new Mercedes arena, the light right hander you can see here, it's easy flat, it's not a problem at all. The most important thing is to go back on the right hand side and to focus on the braking point. It's very difficult to find, there are not a lot of references, so you really need the boards - 150m signs on the right hand side. Then going on the inside of the apex, being careful not to take too much kerb, it's quite bumpy there as well.



And then we are already heading the exit of Mercedes Arena, which is easy flat in a Formula 1 car, round 200/240 km/h, but if you mess up the line out of Mercedes arena, then you are in problems there. Now we are coming to my favourite point on the circuit, it's entry of the Stadium. Very, very fast corner, I think the quickest on the circuit – 240/250 km/h, in qualifying even more. The exit is very important to let the car run. Use all the kerb you have, and then a quick upshift to sixth gear before downshift to 2nd again for Sachs corner. The banking is quite big here, so we can use a lot of speed. But then the exit is difficult because you tend to lose the rear. Upshifting to 5th and 6th gear, through the left/right combination and heading to the Opel corners, last two corners on the circuit. Very difficult because you go down and then over a crest, the apex of the first corner, and then it's very important to take all the speed throughout the two corners, and especially through the second one, and then take as much kerb as you can on the outside of the last corner, towards start and finish line.

[Footage of the helicopter landing. Cut to Sebastian Vettel.]

Sebastian: When do we get the chance to see the racetrack from that high above? It was quite nice, you could see all the corners quite impressive. Also, you could see here at Hockenheim, the old circuit, the layout of the old circuit. So, it was quite impressive from up there.

[End Credits.]

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