

## ABU DHABI YOUNG DRIVER TEST - DAY ONE

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 15 November 2011
<b>Track</b>	Yas Marina Circuit
<b>Driver</b>	Sam Bird

<b>No of Laps</b>	53 laps
<b>Best Lap Time</b>	1:43.548
<b>Kms Covered</b>	294 kms
<b>Track Length</b>	5.554 kms

<b>Weather</b>	Sunny
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Two days after the 2011 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Formula One's Young Driver Test began at the Yas Marina Circuit this morning.

GP2 driver Sam Bird is driving for MERCEDES GP PETRONAS at the test and had the first of his three days in the car today.

- The team ran 2011 Pirelli tyres throughout the day whilst working on some development items for 2012
- A transmission issue cost some running time in the morning, however the lost time was recovered in the afternoon session
- Having used the team's simulator extensively, Sam was quickly up to speed, and showed impressive pace and consistency
- The team plan to start evaluating the 2012 Pirelli tyres tomorrow

### Sam Bird

"We did some good work today as the team began on-track preparations for the 2012 season. It's fantastic to be behind the wheel of a Formula One car again, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself out there. I'm looking forward to the next two days and making a contribution to the team's work for 2012. Many thanks to MERCEDES GP PETRONAS for giving me this opportunity."

### TIMES

Pos	Driver	Car	Time	Laps
1.	Jean-Eric Vergne	Red Bull	1:40.011	83
2.	Jules Bianchi	Ferrari	1:40.960	85
3.	Robert Wickens	Lotus Renault	1:42.217	78
4.	Fabio Leimer	Sauber	1:42.331	67
5.	Gary Paffett	McLaren	1:42.912	41
6.	Max Chilton	Force India	1:43.016	81
7.	Valtteri Bottas	Williams	1:43.118	71
8.	Oliver Turvey	McLaren	1:43.502	35
<b>9.</b>	<b>Sam Bird</b>	<b>MERCEDES GP PETRONAS</b>	<b>1:43.548</b>	<b>53</b>
10.	Rodolfo Gonzalez	Team Lotus	1:44.022	87
11.	Stefano Coletti	Toro Rosso	1:45.278	87
12.	Dani Clos	HRT	1:45.329	68
13.	Charles Pic	Marussia Virgin	1:46.930	30
14.	Adrian Quaife Hobbs	Marussia Virgin	1:47.292	32

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