

2026 Austrian Grand Prix - Friday

Spielberg, 26 June 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed a solid Friday of practice at the Austrian Grand Prix. Under the baking Styrian sun, with air temperatures well above 30C, the team set out to discover its new updates package, as well as the behaviour of car and tyres in the hot conditions.

Nico Hulkenberg and Paul Aron, deputising for Gabriel Bortoleto as part of the young drivers' FP1 programme, completed their programme without major interruptions; in the afternoon, with Gabriel back in the car, the team were able to focus on the remainder of the Friday plans, with both drivers gaining valuable mileage in their R26s.

With conditions expected to remain sunny and hot for the rest of the weekend, today's data will prove valuable to set up the cars for tomorrow's qualifying, as the team targets their place in the top ten.

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):

FP1: 11th / 1:09.165 (30 laps)

FP2: 7th / 1:08.559 (32 laps)

"It was a straightforward Friday with no major issues. We worked through the planned programme, learning more about the tyres, the car balance and the usual areas we focus on during practice. Overall, it has been a solid day, and we will analyse everything overnight ahead of tomorrow.

"Today was also my first experience with the new update package. It is always difficult to make direct comparisons from one circuit to another, but the initial feeling was positive. We have gathered some useful information and now the focus is on understanding the data further and making some progress overnight."

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):

FP1: Did not take part

FP2: 10th / 1:08.300 (30 laps)

"It was a decent session for me. The feeling in the car seemed positive: obviously, having sat out FP1 meant I had to adapt to things pretty quickly, but I think it looked okay overall. We are bringing some upgrades this weekend, and it looks like they're doing their job, but it's still early for a final verdict: we'll have a clearer picture tomorrow once we've had time to analyse all the data gathered from today.

"The margins are really tight, so it will be all about finding the right balance, putting together a clean lap, and feeling confident with the car. If we can do that, I think we can be competitive in qualifying."

Paul Aron (Car 97):

FP1: 17th / 1:09.646 (20 laps)

FP2: Did not take part

"It was great to be back in an F1 car and, as always, it's a real pleasure to drive these machines. I enjoyed my previous FP1 outing in Barcelona, so I was looking forward to getting back behind the wheel here, even though we knew the conditions would be challenging with the high temperatures. Overall, the session went well, and we completed the planned programme. I was happy with the pace on the medium tyre, while we weren't able to put in a representative soft tyre lap in our first run due to an issue and didn't have enough time for another attempt due to the red flag. But that's part of running a busy Friday programme. The most important thing is that we completed all the test items and gathered good data. I'm grateful to everyone at Audi Revolut F1 Team and Alpine for this opportunity and I wish the team the best for the remainder of the weekend."

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About Audi Revolut F1 Team

Audi Revolut F1 Team is the official factory team of Audi, as the brand enters the FIA Formula 1 World Championship for the first time in 2026. This project, in which Audi will create its own hybrid drive system ('power unit') developed in Germany, represents the ultimate expression of the manufacturer's 'Vorsprung durch Technik' philosophy and embodies a long-term commitment to compete at the pinnacle of motorsport with the clear objective of challenging for world championships by 2030. Audi Revolut F1 Team is based in three locations: the power unit is developed by Audi Formula Racing GmbH at the Audi Competence Center Motorsport in Neuburg, Germany; the chassis is engineered and race operations are managed from the state-of-the-art facilities of Audi Motorsport AG in Hinwil, Switzerland; while the Audi Motorsport Technology Centre UK in Bicester, United Kingdom, provides a foothold in the heart of 'Motorsport Valley', with direct access to top F1 talent and key strategic partners. This integrated structure provides complete control over the project, embedding a culture of precision, innovation, and relentless performance. Audi's entry is strategically timed to coincide with new Formula 1 regulations focused on increased electrification, as the electric share of the hybrid drive is raised to almost 50%, and the introduction of 100% sustainable fuels. The entry into Formula 1, one of the most important platforms in the world, serves as a high-tech catalyst for the entire Audi brand, acting as a global stage to demonstrate technological leadership and connect with new, diverse audiences by creating cultural impact that resonates far beyond the race track.

