

2026 Barcelona Shakedown Week - Round-Up

- › Audi Revolut F1 Team concludes a week of on-track activities in Barcelona, the first comprehensive official F1 session for the team.
- › Drivers, Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto, covered more than 140 laps on the final day of running on Friday, providing solid data on the new car and power unit combo.
- › The team will analyse these learning as it prepares for the first official pre-season test, scheduled for February 11-13 in Bahrain.

Barcelona, January 30, 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed a busy week of on-track action as the Barcelona Shakedown Week came to an end at the Circuit de Catalunya. The three days of running, spread over a five-day span, provided the team with solid data about its 2026 contender, the R26, and the Audi F1 hybrid power unit, with Gabriel Bortoleto and Nico Hulkenberg hitting more than 140 laps on the final day of the shakedown.

Mattia Binotto, Head of Audi F1 Project: “This shakedown week marked the beginning of our journey as Audi Revolut F1 Team and as a power unit manufacturer. Seeing the R26 hit the track for the first time on Day 1 was an emotional moment for all of us. There is still much to learn, but we leave Barcelona having gained a solid understanding of our new car and engine, and how they behave on track. The first day brought some challenges that slightly affected our running plans, but step by step we managed to get more laps, build mileage, and collect valuable data. The more we run, the more we learn, and the better feedback we can provide.

“Even though we know there is still room to grow and develop, this is a fantastic project and everyone is fully committed to it. Both drivers were able to put laps on the car, becoming familiar with the power unit, energy management, and drivability, and providing crucial feedback. We leave with a long list of items to work on, but that is a positive: it shows the team’s dedication and focus. I want to thank the whole team – trackside and back in Hinwil, Neuburg, and Bicester – for their effort, commitment, and motivation over these days. Now, we take what we have learned and push forward, aiming to make even more progress in Bahrain.”

Jonathan Wheatley, Team Principal of Audi Revolut F1 Team: “After three meaningful days of running in Barcelona, I find myself pleased with the level of progress we’ve made this week as a team. This shakedown wasn’t just about running the car - it was also about putting our entire trackside operation to the test and integrating our chassis and powertrain personnel into one cohesive team. From reliability to logistics, operational procedures to pit equipment, everything was under scrutiny.

“Both drivers spent time in the R26 and their feedback will be invaluable in shaping future car development. We’ve encountered a few early challenges, but the way the team came together to find solutions has been impressive. It is exactly why these tests exist - to push ourselves and grow stronger - not just operationally, but as a team.

“We leave here with a focus on being in the best possible shape for the Bahrain test. With six more days of testing ahead, and the opportunity to present the car on track to the public for the first time, there’s a real sense of momentum and anticipation.

On a personal level, I want to thank everyone at the track, in Hinwil, Neuburg and Bicester for the enormous effort over the past weeks. This week was a critical milestone on our journey as a team, and we can be proud of the progress we have made together.”

James Key, Technical Director of Audi Revolut F1 Team: “Barcelona marked a significant step in our development journey as we ran the car through its first full test programme. We came here knowing it wouldn’t be a flawless week - there were still many firsts for us, with a brand-new car and power unit package, and extensive collaboration between Neuburg and Hinwil.

“As expected, we faced some early challenges, which is completely normal at this stage. They were all well understood and fixable. That said, we made clear and consistent progress as the week went on, and by the second half of the test, we were able to run more productively and begin extracting meaningful insights.

“This test was never about performance - it was about validating the fundamentals and ensuring our core systems are functioning reliably. In that regard, we’ve made good progress and now have a solid foundation to build on heading into Bahrain. Every lap completed is a step forward, and the work from both the trackside team and our colleagues in Neuburg and Hinwil has been instrumental in moving us forward.

“Well done to the entire team for their efforts this week.”

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27): “Today was definitely our best day of the week - over 140 laps over both sessions. This gave us great mileage across all systems. This kind of running is really valuable at this stage, and we’ve taken away a lot of lessons that we’ll now review.

“With a new power unit and a lot of firsts, we expected a few bumps on the road and we worked through them well. There’s still a long way to go, but we’re making progress every day, learning and improving step by step.

“The team has done a great job, working hard and pulling in the same direction. Now it’s about going through all the data, a couple of sim and factory days, getting ready for Bahrain. Quick turnaround, but looking forward to being back in the car.”

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5): “Overall, it’s been a positive day of running on top of an encouraging testing week. Getting some solid laps in was a big step for me today, which shows the step forward we made from Day 1, when we had technical problems that cost us quite a bit of time. That’s what shakedown is about after all: putting the car on track, building mileage, and uncovering the small issues so that we can fix them and understand our car better. The team did a great job getting through the programme, and we are clearly moving in the right direction. Now, the focus shifts back to the factory to work on correlation and prepare for two weeks in Bahrain, where conditions will be completely different. There is still something to learn and improve, but this has been a strong starting point to build from.”

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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.



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