

25.04.2026

Dream start for the Austrians: Preining leads Auer home at the Red Bull Ring

- **Preining wins first DTM race of the season, ahead of compatriot Auer**
- **Pole-sitter Engel finishes third in a Mercedes-AMG**
- **Best McLaren result in the DTM for ex-Formula 1 driver Glock**

Spielberg. A clever strategy and strong nerves were the key to success: Thomas Preining (A/Manthey) produced a flawless display on Saturday to win his home DTM race at the Red Bull Ring for the second time. The opening race in Styria saw the Porsche works driver cross the finish line in first place after 38 laps to claim his ninth victory in the DTM. Preining's compatriot Lucas Auer (Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf) followed him home to make it an Austrian one-two at the Formula 1 circuit. "I could not be happier. As a racing driver, you dream of moments like this! To win in front of my family and many friends feels absolutely awesome. It was a very challenging race, with some very fast competition from Mercedes-AMG. Lucas Auer really put me under pressure at the end, so I was pretty relieved to cross the finish line," said the man from Linz, who was also voted "Driver of the Day" powered by PME Legend by the fans. Maro Engel (Monaco/Mercedes-AMG Team Ravenol) was third in a race that went right down to the wire.

Key facts, Red Bull Ring, Spielberg, race 1 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 4,326 metres
- **Weather:** 20 degrees, sunny
- **Pole position:** Maro Engel (Mercedes-AMG Team Ravenol, Mercedes-AMG GT3 #80), 1:27.403 minutes
- **Winner:** Thomas Preining (Manthey, Porsche 911 GT3 R #91)
- **Fastest lap:** Bastian Buus (Land-Motorsport, Porsche 911 GT3 R #29), 1:28.739 minutes

The highly-anticipated start to the opening DTM race of the 2026 championship was hard fought from the word go. While pole-sitter Engel did a great job of defending his lead, Preining passed Auer to take second place. That trio was followed in fourth by Jules Gounon (F/Mercedes-AMG Team Mann-Filter), who had overtaken Ben Dörr (Butzbach/Dörr Motorsport). Shortly thereafter, Dörr's McLaren 720S GT3 Evo crashed into the barriers after contact with another car, forcing the McLaren driver out of the race.

The pit stops shook things up at the front of the field: Gounon and Preining came in for new Pirelli slicks as early as laps 14 and 15. Two laps later, Engel came into the pits. However, he lost

Media Information



valuable seconds after issues during the tyre change. That left Preining free to take the lead ahead of Gounon. Auer also moved ahead of Engel after his mandatory stop, slotting into third place. On lap 33, Gounon's race came to a sudden end with a technical issue. That opened the door for Auer, who found himself within striking distance of the leader after a safety car phase. However, Preining remained ice cool and refused to allow his compatriot to get close enough to challenge. The 27-year-old was led home in first place by the safety car, after Kelvin van der Linde (ZA) was forced to retire with his BMW M4 GT3 Evo. Preining was followed home by Auer, Engel and Tom Kalender (Hamm/Sieg/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf), who produced a fine performance to climb from tenth to fourth place.

Marco Wittmann (Fürth/Schubert Motorsport) was the best-placed BMW driver in fifth, while Timo Glock (Kreuzlingen/Dörr Motorsport) steered the second McLaren 720S GT3 Evo to sixth place. Arjun Maini (IND/HRT Ford Racing) made up nine positions and finished seventh. Matteo Cairoli (I/Emil Frey Racing) ended his first DTM race in the Ferrari 296 GT3 Evo in eighth place, ahead of Porsche racer Ricardo Feller (CH/Manthey). Nicki Thiim (DK/Comtoy Racing) completed the top ten.

Lucas Auer: "We prepared meticulously for the opener, and second place is the reward for that hard work. In the closing stages, I was hoping for a mistake from Thomas Preining, but second place at my home event is also a top result. Ahead of the race on Sunday, we must analyse what strategy is best with the new tyre."

Maro Engel: "Up until the pit stop, it was a perfect day for us. When you have led so well for so long, third place feels disappointing. The crew in the garage has always done a superb job in the past, so I have no criticism of the team at all. We have a strong package and will push hard again on Sunday."

Result of race one of the season at the Red Bull Ring

1. Thomas Preining (A/Manthey)
2. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf), +0.774 seconds
3. Maro Engel (D/Mercedes-AMG Team Ravenol), +1.620 seconds
4. Tom Kalender (D/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf), +2.544 seconds
5. Marco Wittmann (D/Schubert Motorsport), +2.763 seconds

The full result is available at [dtm.com/en/results](https://www.dtm.com/en/results).

Media Information



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SCHAEFFLER

VIEROL



Amended
25.4.2026 - 17:52Result List
Provisional

Stewards / Race Management

STEWARD	Achim Loth
STEWARD	Carsten Ruscher
STEWARD	Eva Gruber
RACE DIRECTOR	Sven Soppe
CLERK OF THE COURSE	Kevin Kaltenegger
TECHNICAL DELEGATE	Wolfgang Dammert
CHIEF TIMEKEEPER	Steffen Ruhl

Weather Start/Finish

AIR	19.8°C
TRACK	39.1°C
CONDITIONS	Dry
PRESSURE	933 hPa
AIR	21.8°C
TRACK	40.5°C
CONDITIONS	Dry
PRESSURE	933 hPa

Track Information

GREEN FLAG	13:32:55
CHEQUERED FLAG	14:33:05
SAFETY CAR PHASE	3
FULL COURSE YELLOW PHASE	0
TRACK NAME	Red Bull Ring
TRACK LENGTH	4326m
TURN COUNT	10
TOTAL DISTANCE	164.38km
FASTEST LAP:	#29. BUU - 1:28.739



STARTED: 20 CLASSIFIED: 18 NOT CLASSIFIED: 2 DISQUALIFIED: 1

Nr.	Driver	Man.	Nation	Team	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Lap	Time
	Car			Competitor					
1	91 Thomas Preining Porsche 911 GT3 R (992)			Manthey Manthey	38	1:00:11.576		20	1:28.899
2	22 Lucas Auer Mercedes-AMG GT3 EVO			Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf Landgraf Motorsport	38	1:00:12.350	0.774	34	1:28.905
3	80 Maro Engel Mercedes-AMG GT3 EVO			Mercedes-AMG Team RAVENOL Winward Racing	38	1:00:13.196	1.620	35	1:29.070
4	84 Tom Kalender Mercedes-AMG GT3 EVO			Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf Landgraf Motorsport	38	1:00:14.120	2.544	35	1:29.217
5	11 Marco Wittmann BMW M4 GT3 Evo			Schubert Motorsport Schubert Motorsport	38	1:00:14.339	2.763	31	1:29.849
6	16 Timo Glock McLaren 720S GT3 Evo			Doerr Motorsport Dörr Motorsport	38	1:00:14.920	3.344	20	1:29.044
7	36 Arjun Maini Ford Mustang GT3			HRT Ford Racing HRT Ford Racing	38	1:00:15.698	4.122	19	1:29.424
8	14 Matteo Cairoli Ferrari 296 GT3 EVO			EMIL FREY RACING EMIL FREY RACING	38	1:00:16.273	4.697	20	1:29.453
9	90 Ricardo Feller Porsche 911 GT3 R (992)			Manthey Manthey	38	1:00:16.447	4.871	19	1:29.475
10	7 Nicki Thiim Aston Martin Vantage AMR GT3 EVO			Comtoy Racing Comtoy Racing	38	1:00:16.992	5.416	20	1:29.675
11	64 Finn Wiebelhaus Ford Mustang GT3			HRT Ford Racing HRT Ford Racing	38	1:00:17.505	5.929	17	1:29.352
12	63 Mirko Bortolotti Lamborghini Temerario GT3			TGI Team by GRT GRT Grasser-Racing-Team	38	1:00:18.329	6.753	19	1:29.993
13	69 Thierry Vermeulen Ferrari 296 GT3 EVO			EMIL FREY RACING EMIL FREY RACING	38	1:00:18.605	7.029	20	1:29.046
14	29 Bastian Buus Porsche 911 GT3 (992) EVO			Land Motorsport Land Motorsport	38	1:00:18.701	7.125	20	1:28.739
15	130 Luca Engstler Lamborghini Temerario GT3			Red Bull Team ABT ABT Sportsline	38	1:00:18.817	7.241	20	1:29.564
16	19 Maximilian Paul Lamborghini Temerario GT3			TGI Team by GRT GRT Grasser-Racing-Team	38	1:00:19.139	7.563	36	1:30.233
17	10 Marco Mapelli Lamborghini Temerario GT3			Red Bull Team ABT ABT Sportsline	38	1:00:19.827	8.251	12	1:30.481
18	48 Jules Gounon Mercedes-AMG GT3 EVO			Mercedes-AMG Team MANN-FILTER Winward Racing	34	54:22.930	4LAPS	20	1:28.811
Not classified									
8	Nicolas Baert Aston Martin Vantage AMR GT3 EVO			Comtoy Racing Comtoy Racing	20	32:09.285	18LAPS	19	1:30.336
25	Ben Dörr McLaren 720S GT3 Evo			Doerr Motorsport Dörr Motorsport	1	1:34.747	37LAPS		



Amended
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Result List Provisional

Nr.	Driver	Man.	Nation	Team	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Lap	Time
	Car			Competitor					
Disqualified									
3	Kelvin van der Linde			Schubert Motorsport					
	BMW M4 GT3 Evo			Schubert Motorsport					

Fastest lap of the race. Car 29 driver Bastian Buus on lap 20. Time 1:28.739, average speed 175.4 km/h.

Following stewards decision no. 9 - 1 penalty lap converted into a time penalty of 5 seconds for car no. 29

Following stewards decision no. 29 disqualification for car no. 3

Subject to final scrutineering!		
Publication time:	Clerk of the Course: Kevin Kaltenegger	Timekeeper: Steffen Ruhl