

- Lewis Hamilton's smile after the first test suggested the MP4-25 is going to be better than last year's model. The silver car with its distinctive engine cover-fin flattening to a horizontal plane has a Mercedes engine again but there is no KERS, which they used to such good effect in 2009
- McLaren and Mercedes will both race in silver, but which will be faster? The Silver Arrows will start without the benefit of a huge windtunnel spend and an inspired exploitation of the double diffuser, but expect the Brawn-Schumacher combination to once again find the best strategy to suit the new rules
- Adrian Newey's RB5 was 2009's best chassis. So, with limited technical changes for this year, the RB6-Renault should be the car to beat. Any marked changes will aim to exploit the new regulations, like having to start with a full tank of fuel and on the tyres used in qualifying
- Led by team principal Stefano Domenicali, Ferrari has concentrated on making a more frugal engine now refuelling is banned. After being caught out in 2009, chief designer Nikolas Tombazis has maximised the double diffuser by giving the F10, with its high nose, the smallest frontal area possible
- Described by technical director Sam Michael as a "clean sheet design", the FW32 arrives with an aggressive aero package that sports a Red Bull-style high nose. With Barrichello and Hulkenberg driving, points should not go begging, but much depends on the powerful Cosworth V8 engine
- Team principal *Eric Boullier* is new to F1, so may miss the steadying hand of *Pat Symonds*, fired after "Singaporegate". The R30 should be better than its predecessor, with a lot riding on an aggressive rear wing, product of a new windtunnel. Kubica, like Alonso in 2009, is sure to wring its neck
- Technical director James Key was delighted with progress last year and is hoping that the new car can be fast on all sorts of circuits, rather than just the high-speed ones. Money permitting, a relatively steady rule book will allow further developments this year
- No longer allowed to adapt the latest Red Bull chassis, Toro Rosso charged Ben Butler with considering the strongest points of last year's RB5 and starting his design from there. Ferrari power may be an advantage but aiming to rank at least eighth may be a big ask for the young drivers
- Lotus is back, but not as you know it. However, the ambition is there to not disgrace the famous name. With its technical side guided by seasoned hand *Mike Gascoyne*, ambitious team owner *Tony Fernandes* will expect Trulli and Kovalainen to push the Cosworth-powered car up the order
- The former Campos Meta F1 team will race under the Hispania name following Jose Ramon Carabante's acquisition of the Spanish outfit in February. German dentist Colin Kolles who has F1 experience with Jordan, Midland, Spyker and Force India has been appointed team principal
- As good as *Peter Sauber's* leadership is, a lack of revolutionary design on the Ferraripowered car could preclude it from matching its 2009 ranking of sixth, as neat and tidy seldom wins in F1. So this might have to be a holding season, relying heavily on de la Rosa's sorting skills
- Nick Wirth took a new tack with the slim-nosed VR-01 and designed it all by computational fluid dynamics, that's to say without putting models in windtunnels. It worked for him in sportscar racing with Acura, but time will tell whether it will work in F1. Like the other new teams, it will use Cosworth power

Sources: Bruce Jones, F1 teams