



Patching a Bicycle Tire Inner Tube

How to keep a punctured or worn bike tube on the road, using a bike rubber patch kit.

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INTRODUCTION

You will be taking the wheel off of your bike, removing the tire from the wheel, and patching the hole.

Notes:

- Make sure that the wheel is fully deflated throughout the process, except for finding the hole.
- When applying the rubber cement to the hole the thinner the layer the better, for faster drying.



TOOLS:

- [Bicycle Tire Patch Kit](#) (1)
 - [Tire Levers](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Inner Tube



- Press the valve core while applying pressure to the tire to deflate the tire.

Step 2



- Insert the flat part of a tire lever under the tire coping. Apply pressure to the other end of the lever to lift the tire up and out of the wheel.
- Slide the lever around the circumference of the wheel to completely remove the tire.
- ⓘ Alternatively, if you have multiple tire levers, see if you can clip the first lever to a spoke to keep it in place. Then insert the second lever a few inches away. Clip it to a spoke. Insert the third lever a few more inches along. Take out the second lever and insert it a few inches past the third. Work along the rim until the tire pops off.

Step 3



- Remove the tube by pushing the valve through the hole in the rim and pulling the tube out from under the tire.

Step 4 — Patching a Bicycle Tire Inner Tube



- Locate the leak by first over inflating the tire.
- Place the tire under water and look for bubbles to find the leak.

Step 5



- Mark the hole with a marker, and completely deflate the tire.

Step 6



- Select a patch kit that you will use to patch the hole. Try to pick a patch that is appropriate for the size of the hole.

Step 7



- Clean the area near the hole with soap and water, then dry it thoroughly.
- Rough up the area around the hole with an abrasive surface such as sand paper until the area around the leak loses its shine.

Step 8



- Apply rubber cement to an area around the hole that is bigger than the patch to ensure that the patch bonds completely.

Step 9



- Apply the patch to the area.

Step 10



- Apply pressure to the patch until the rubber cement is dry.

To reassemble your bike, follow these directions from [step 6](#)