



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 \(1\)](#)

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.

(i) 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](#)