

The Sound RIDER! Ultimate Motorcycle Tech Tire Repair Kit

Why we put it all together

There are hundreds of configurations for tire repair kits on the market. For the last several years I've been refining my tire repair kit so that it's small, lightweight and does everything I need it to. Until now you couldn't walk into any auto parts store, motorcycle shop, or department store and buy the kit off the shelf. You'd have to do what I've done and buy a bunch of loose pieces to assemble the parts necessary to make up the kit I carry today. Well that was yesterday and this is now.

I've finally put my mind to recreating the same kit I carry for our readers, we hooked up with a tire accessory wholesaler to bring it all together. We've created the Sound RIDER! Ultimate Tech Tire Repair Kit. It consists of several universal patches for tube and tubeless tires, some self vulcanizing rubber insertion strips (try to find these at the auto parts store) and even parts to repair faulty valve cores. Here a list of what's inside and why.



The Basic Kit

- 1 instruction sheet – For those of you unfamiliar with making on the road tire repairs yourself
- 1 puncture marker – It's important to mark the location of a puncture so you can easily spot it when you get ready to seal it. Typically not found in most repair kits.
- 1 Tech Tire Repair vulcanizing tubeless strip insertion tool – This is a smaller than average insertion tool. Because the walls of motorcycle tires are thinner than those of car tires, you don't need a big boy to get the job done. It's top quality US manufactured. You would also use the back side of this handle to apply pressure to patches to stimulate a tight seal while vulcanizing.
- 1 pair of latex gloves (individually wrapped) – another item you won't find in most repair kits. It's a lot easier to do a repair keeping your hands clean than having them get dirty. We wrap these in their own individual plastic bag so they are protected from the other items in the kit.
- 4 Tech Tire Repair PermaCure II self-vulcanizing tubeless strips – Sticky strings and mushroom plugs are problematic in motorcycle tires. They will inherently pop out after time due to the lack of a reliable bond. However, these strips vulcanize to the tire rubber giving you a better shot at a quality seal.
- 1 20 ml tube of Tech Tire Repair vulcanizing fluid – Your basic rubber vulcanizing fluid.
- 1 rubber scuffer – Rubber always vulcanizes to patches better if you rough it up a bit using a scuffer.
- 4 Tech Tire Repair Universal 3" x 3" patches – These hard-to-find patches are universal. That means they will patch tubes, tubeless radial and bias ply tires. Until now it was necessary to carry three types of patches to handle all three.
- 1 slotted valve core tool/cap – Slow leaks can sometimes be attributed to a faulty valve core. These little steel caps can be used to remove a failing valve core. Handy if you want to fill your tire with Slime too.
- 2 Tech Tire Repair valve core replacements – We went with the high grade on these. The red ring you see denotes that they withstand higher levels of heat than standard valve cores.
- 2 Tech Tire Repair replacement valve stem caps – If you're riding around without valve caps on your tires, you're increasing the chances of getting a leaky valve core. Valve caps keep dirt and crud away from your valve cores which can cause them to fail.
- 2 towelettes – I don't see these very often in tire repair kits. Even if you wear the latex gloves, you may still get a little dirty since excessive wear on the gloves around motorcycle work can mean the fingers

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will tear.

Basic plus Pouch Kit (shown in image on previous page)

- Basic Kit plus...
- Small (8"x4") Sea to Summit heavy duty polyurethane See Pouch – This tiny pouch holds everything in the basic kit and keeps it compact. The ultra strong polyurethane material means it's much stronger than a nylon or fabric bag, but not bulky like a hard case that would eat up precious storage space.

Ultra Kit

- Basic kit plus...
- Large (10" x 8") Sea to Summit heavy duty polyurethane See Pouch – A larger pouch so you can store the kit together with the tire irons mentioned next.
- 1 pair CruzTOOLS tire irons - In tube tire and large injury tubeless tire repair, irons are often needed to remove the tire to gain access to the tube or interior wall of a tubeless tire. These irons are quality grade enough to get a motorcycle tire job done as we know from firsthand experience.

I see a lot of kits out there with sticky strings, mushroom plugs and CO² cartridges. And I hear all the horror stories about how they fail. The most popular mushroom plug kit on the market today doesn't use any vulcanizing to insure the plug adheres to the tire. Considering the low density of motorcycle tire walls, it's no wonder they inherently pop out. The insertion tool is a space hog as well.

CO² cartridges may or may not get the job done. That's a crap shoot. For air I carry a Best Products adventure pump. That way I can air up and down as often as necessary without relying on a CO² cartridge or availability of a gas station nearby. The handy inline dial gauge they make to go with it makes monitoring your air pressure while inflating a breeze.

Patrick Thomas/Winter 2009