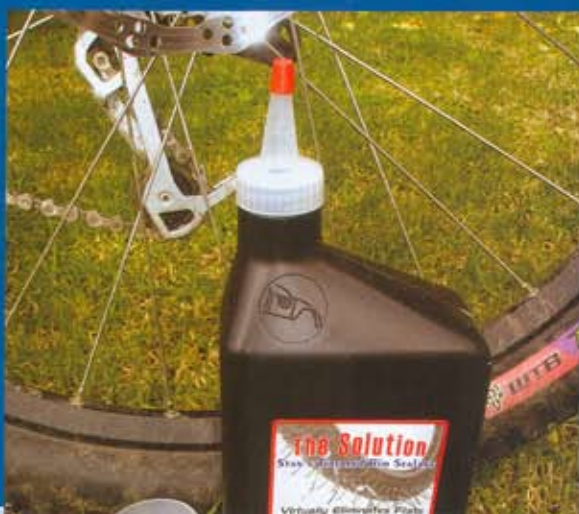


> stans notubes

> RRP\$ \$50 - \$180

(All components available separately)

> distributed by cycletech NZ



Back in Issue 10 we ran through the process of converting tyres to Stans NoTubes in the Workshop feature. Since then we've converted a second bike in the NZMTBR stable and have been putting the NoTubes system to the test.

First up, in converting our second set of wheels we reinforced a couple of points: 1. While it is possible to inflate the tyre with a track pump, a compressor makes the job ten times easier 2. Have patience and work through the steps methodically! We only managed to throw our toys a couple of times before packing up all the bits and heading down to the local gas station where we managed to inflate our second tyre in five seconds flat.

Weighing the wheels before and after showed the NoTubes system actually added a negligible 15 grams over our existing tubed set up. After five months of use on two bikes we can happily report we have had no punctures. Having scored six punctures in the five weeks prior to installing Stans this has to be a good result. Events ridden included: The Big Coast, 24 Hours of N-Duro, Colville Connection, Karapoti Classic (including some adventurous lines through the rock garden!), and numerous trail rides. In riding the 'Where to Ride' for this issue the rear tyre on one bike 'pinged' so badly when riding over a tangle of tree roots that it smeared the tyre logo, yet it didn't puncture. Likewise we've experienced none of the 'burping' sometimes talked about with this system. Perhaps a testament to the fact that we followed the correct installation procedure?

In terms of pressures we'd normally run our tubed tyres in a range of 25-35psi depending on conditions anyway, so the Stans NoTubes hasn't allowed us to us lower our pressures. But it has increased confidence in rocky conditions with lower pressures. Decreased rolling resistance hasn't been a night/day improvement, but there has been a noticeable improvement in traction in damp conditions where our hard-terrain tyres were previously quite sketchy.

While there are some performance gains to be had with the Stans NoTubes system the biggest advantage appears to be the fact it makes your tyres virtually puncture-less. So there's no more carrying spare tubes or having that perfect ride interrupted by the all-too-familiar hiss of the dreaded snake bite.