CYCLING GUIDE

Repair Kit Must-Haves

Everything every cyclist should carry, and nothing you don't.



REPAIR KIT

Build Your On-Bike Kit

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Whatever you ride, one small saddlebag should live on your bike. Below is the base kit every cyclist carries, then a short add-on list depending on whether you run tubes or tubeless.

On-Bike Repair Kit — Every Cyclist Should Carry One

Whatever your budget, carry enough to get yourself home. This is the base kit; the two short lists after it cover what to add depending on whether you run tubes or tubeless.

Item	My recommendation	Good alternatives
Saddlebag	**SILCA Mattone Grande**	Topeak Aero Wedge; Lezyne Road Caddy
Tire levers	**Park Tool Tire Levers**	Pedro's Tire Levers; SILCA Premio Tire Levers
Mini multi-tool	**Park Tool Mini Multi-Tool with Chain Tool**	Crankbrothers M17; Topeak Mini PT30
Emergency tire boot	**Park Tool TB-2 Tire Boots**	Folded currency; purpose-made adhesive tire boot
Chain quick link	*Quick link compatible with your drivetrain*	Shimano Quick-Link; SRAM PowerLock
Inflation method	*Mini pump or electric pump with a manual backup*	CO_2 inflator with two cartridges

Add this for tubed tires

Item	My recommendation	Good alternatives
Spare inner tube	**Continental Spare Inner Tube**	Pirelli SmarTUBE; Tubolito
Tube patch kit	**Park Tool Vulcanizing Patch Kit**	Rema Tip Top; Park Tool Super Patch
Additional spare tube	*Recommended for long or remote rides*	One tube for normal rides, two for longer rides

Add this for tubeless tires

Item	My recommendation	Good alternatives
Tubeless plug tool	**Dynaplug Racer Pro**	Stan's Dart; Muc-Off Stealth Tubeless Puncture Plug
Spare inner tube	**Continental Spare Inner Tube**	Pirelli SmarTUBE; Tubolito
Spare valve core	*Tubeless valve core*	Any compatible removable valve core
Valve-core tool	*Compact valve-core tool*	Often built into a multi-tool
Emergency sealant	*Optional small bottle of tubeless sealant*	Useful on long or remote rides

The spare tube stays in the tubeless kit. That may sound backward, but plugs don't fix everything. If the puncture is too large, the tire is cut, the valve fails, or the tire unseats, the tube becomes your way home.

> Tubed and tubeless tires fail differently, so they need slightly different kits — but most of the gear is the same. Every cyclist needs tire levers, an inflation method, a multi-tool, a tire boot, and a quick link. Tubed riders add spare tubes and patches. Tubeless riders add plugs, but still carry a tube. **The goal isn't to carry an entire bike shop. It's to carry enough to get home.**

Normal rides vs. long or unsupported rides

For a typical loop close to home, the base kit plus your tube-or-tubeless add-ons is plenty. For long, remote, or unsupported rides, carry a second tube (or a small bottle of sealant for tubeless), and don't rely on a single CO_2 cartridge — bring a backup or a mini pump you can fall back on.

How to use it

Knowing what's in the bag only helps if you've practiced once. Learn to remove a wheel, seat a tube or place a plug, and inflate to a sane pressure — at home, on the couch, before you ever need it on the road. The companion **Before Your First Ride** checklist covers this.

THE REST OF THE SERIES

Still choosing a bike? Start with **Beginner Road Bike Buyer's Guide**. Kitting out the rest of your setup? **Cycling Gear Guide + Recommendations** breaks down helmets, kit, shoes, computers, and more by budget.

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