

The Essential Tool Kit –

by Murray Rook

Here are a couple of things that you should remember. It's not compulsory to carry this stuff, but it could be the difference between getting your 100% finish, or arriving in the rear convoy cavalcade of crushed dreams!

Tubeless Tyres

If you are planning to ride with tubeless tyres, please make sure you understand the concept and know how to repair them in case of a flat. Yes tubeless tyres can go flat, just much less often! Please make sure you know how to re seat and inflate them. It's a good idea to carry some CO2 cartridges and an inflation nozzle, and please familiarise yourself with how it works. It will also be well worth your while to carry a tube, if your sealant cannot seal the puncture then the fastest way to get going again is to empty out the sealant and put a tube in.



Chain Breaker

A chain breaker is another essential item, if your chain fails, then this is possibly the only tool that will get you out of trouble, combined with this, carrying a couple of Shimano chain pins would also be wise. You could also use split links, KMC make "the missing link" but Sram and Shimano both make an equivalent product, check with your local bike shop. Again a wise addition would be a few spare chain links in case you need them to effect a repair.



Allen Key Kit

As modern bikes are largely screwed together with allen headed bolts, a small kit of allen keys is a must. Most bike shops sell fold up kits of allen keys, you can also get some with a chain breaker and screwdriver, so they are a mini bike tool kit all in one.



Puncture repair kit

I know that no one wants to be doing puncture repairs on the track, however if you are running with tubes and happen to puncture more tubes than you have spares, this could be your only option.

Bicycle pump

With all the modern tools and gadgets available for bikes these days we often forget that the basic devices are the ones we fall back on time and time again. Carry a hand pump, these days you can get light weight alloy ones, but make certain the hose attachment will fit your valve stems, otherwise you might as well be carrying a chook leg!



Spare parts

You should look at all the things that could fail on your bike, and ensure your spare parts kit has some contingency to cover the failure. You cannot physically carry everything during a stage, however certain things will be helpful in making sure you keep the bike running well throughout the event.