

Alternative Methods of Chain Lubrication

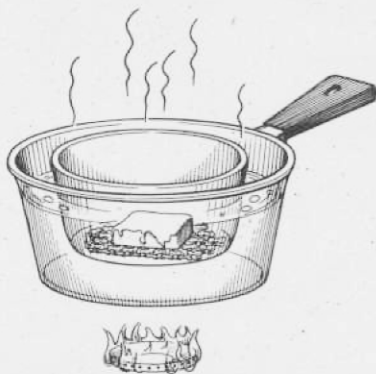
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WITH WAX

WAXING IS WONDERFUL. Everything the chain touches stays clean. You will need:

DOUBLE BOILER

Just a small handleless pot inside a larger pot.



PROCEDURE

- 1** Degrease the chain with biodegradable solvent; dry thoroughly.
- 2** Fill the big pot with 3" of water, put the wax into the small pot, and put the small pot into the big pot. CAUTION: WAX IS FLAMMABLE; ALWAYS USE A DOUBLE BOILER.
- 3** Boil the water, which melts the wax so it's almost the consistency of water. Stir the chain to aid penetration.
- 4** Let it cool. When the wax is as thick as syrup, remove the chain with a spoke or piece of coat hanger bent in an "S". Hang it up to dry.

BREAK OFF THE CLINGING CHUNKLETS, work the chain a bit to make it flexible, and put it back on. It may skip in the first one to two minutes of easy pedaling, but it'll be ready to ride again after three or four minutes, and in dry conditions will last 400 to 700 miles. Best of all, everything the chain touches, from calves to derailleur pulleys, stays clean. After several rewaxing cycles the wax gets dirty and needs replacing.

NOTE: SHIMANO HYPERGLIDE CHAINS SHIFT WELL, BUT ARE TRICKY TO REASSEMBLE. LET A BIKE SHOP DO IT, OR SAVE YOUR WAX JOBS FOR STANDARD CHAINS.

1 LB. PARAFFIN

Grocery stores keep paraffin with the canning supplies.

Note: We are experimenting with a beeswax/butter mix but the results aren't in yet.

Pure beeswax is too sticky.

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PETROLEUM-FREE POSSIBILITIES

WE ARE NOT TRYING to infuriate chainlube manufacturers and we are not officially recommending this—but: Olive, sesame, or peanut oil, or hot, melted butter will keep your chain lubricated for at least 300 miles under dry road conditions. You can drip it onto the chain from a water bottle.

If you buy regular chainlubes and degreasers, insist on those that biodegrade and have minimal, recyclable packaging.

They cost no more than other chainlubes and degreasers, and most bike shops sell them.

