

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Roadside Bicycle Repair

A Pocket Manifesto

Sam Tracy



An on-the-road repair guide for cyclists of all abilities.

With the perspective of a stranded rider Roadside Bicycle Repair gets you quickly back up on your bike.

Denver, CO (6/1/2008)—Following the publication of his popular book *Bicycle!: A Repair & Maintenance Manifesto*, Sam Tracy has written a book that cyclists can take with them to deal with on-the-road problems. And while Tracy puts repair first, he still manages to slip in some bicycle-centric politics. With step-by-step repair photographs throughout, this book is accessible enough for new riders, while still being a handy reference for veterans.

The book is arranged into the major bike components of:

- Wheels
- Seats
- Stems/Handlebars
- Brakes
- Drivetrains

It also includes advice on putting together a repair kit, how to do a flight check, and references to the greater cycling community.

“Small enough to be stuffed in a backpack for long-distance or risky rides...the clear instructions will guide even those beginners through their first flat tire or brake-pad replacement.”

—Foreword

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Sam Tracy began producing the zine *Biker Pride* in the early 1990s, which later broadened into the urban, cycling-focused *Multiplier*. He is the author of *Bicycle: A Repair & Maintenance Manifesto* and *How to Rock and Roll*. He lives in Roxbury, Massachusetts with his wife, Kerri, and their intrepid cat, Kozmo.

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For more information on *Roadside Bicycle Repair*, please visit www.speckpress.com.

Introduction from *Roadside Bicycle Repair*

This is freedom: you're on your bike, pedaling through whatever comes to pass, shooting your way past blocks of gridlock and overcrowded buses, chasing and improvising through a course of your own design. And you leave no trace but the experience itself...nothing like the present.

Some drivers don't appreciate the candor of your choices, instead tossing petty obstacles in your path—the suddenly opened car door, the unplanned lane change, the sheer oblivion of a sorely truncated worldview—but theirs is a dying culture; its petulant gestures merit nothing more than a reflexive response. The bicycle's own contributions will inevitably supercede, mingling with the passing world to define the texture of your ride.

This freedom, unlike the oil supply, is worthy of our defense. You do face the prospects of the inexorable flats, crashes, and breaks while riding your bike. But these are only passing dilemmas, for the simple truth is that bike repair is accessible, and this is the book for bikes on the move. You'll only need the foresight to make rudimentary preparations.

Roadside Bicycle Repair means to complement a small assortment of portable tools—a patch kit, some tire levers, and a pump; one of those clever metric Allen- and socket-wrench sets from your favorite local bike shop; a screwdriver and perhaps an adjustable wrench—but the truly dedicated might also pack spare tubes, a spoke wrench, and a chain tool with extra links. Throw it all in an old sock, which also doubles as a handy rag. The collection might seem cumbersome, but really it's no more than an extra lunch. The toolbox on my bench weighs ninety pounds; you'll do just fine. Note that some older bikes may require less common implements, as described herein; the distance-minded rider will do well to peruse this volume prior to departure.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The joyful, intense energy that Sam Tracy devotes to his two-wheeled friend is infectious. While I've always been a fan of bicycling—ever since the days when I first learned to ride on a blue number with a banana seat to my current cherry-red cruiser—Sam has further opened my eyes to the greater social good you can accomplish with your transportation choice.

Along with an overall rush of goodwill you experience when hopping on your bike, there's a further heightened feeling of accomplishment when you know with complete certainty that you can and will be able to fix that flat, tighten that brake, and generally take care of your own should a breakdown present itself. I have Sam to thank for that.

—Susan Hill Newton, Editor