

Gift Ideas for Cyclists

Each year shoppers stress out about what to buy others for Christmas. Worse yet, one-third of all the money spent on gifts goes to waste because the gifts are never used by the recipients. Landfills and closets fill up. The solution: Buy “gifts of life” in the form of bicycle-related items.

Bicycle gifts encourage people to get more exercise, socialize. They also are packages that keep on giving. Active people feel better, spend less time/money dealing with medical issues and miss less work. Bicycle gifts also can be easy on the wallet of the giver. A set of tire levers makes a good stocking stuffer at \$3. A tube can be purchased for \$5. I’ve bought tire patch kits for 99 cents. On the other hand, if one wants to spend more on a gift, cyclists would be quite happy to see a titanium frame under the Christmas tree!

Another advantage of buying bicycle-related items is they have a long shelf life. If one lives where it’s difficult to ride in the middle of winter, a \$5 bottle of Pedros Green Fizz will be just as good when one rides in May. I carry a \$10 Brave Soldier Crash Pak that treats up to four wounds. I may go months without using it but I know, eventually, I will come upon a rider in the hills or roadways that didn’t defy gravity!



Lube items are always in season. Many riders have a preference but when it’s a gift, riders aren’t choosy. I like Tri Flow, White Lightning or Purple Extreme. Depending on bottle size, one can delight friends for about \$10. And one can toss in a Park Gear Clean brush for another \$5.

Most bicycle-vehicle accidents occur because of inattention. One of the gifts I give most often is a gift of illumination. One of my favorites is the BLT Fiber Optic Beamer Band that costs about \$10. The arm/leg band not only reflects with its highly visible fluorescent lime green but a button activates a flashing red streak in the middle of the band. An array of rear LED (light-emitting diodes) flashers can be purchased in the \$10 range as well. Most riders don’t ride at night but many cyclists get caught riding just at dawn/at dusk. The cyclist can see but motorists may not see them. Cateye’s Opticube, with three LEDs and a red cap cover, gets drivers’ attention when it’s on the strobe cycle. The light retails for about \$30. It’s small enough to fit in a jersey pocket or mini seat bag until it’s needed. A narrow strap quickly affixes it to the handlebar.

Energy bars are always a safe gift. On sale, many can be purchased for about \$1. My wife likes Sharkies, which are gluten free, wheat free and dairy free. The juice in the little

gummy “sharks” is natural. I don’t have my wife’s food allergies but I like Sharkie sports chews because they taste like candy. My wife also likes the organic Clif bars that are wheat free. My reason for eating Clif bars – I get sustained energy that I didn’t get from candy bars but Clif bars taste like cookies to me. Gels also make handy stocking stuffers.

The list of things that bring smiles to a cyclist’s face is almost endless. Other possibilities include: bicycle socks, hydrabaks, multi-tools, videos, Slime tubes and liners, tires, novelties like pint glasses with bicycle logos, bicycles clocks, locks, bar end tape, floor and frame pumps, mini-tool kits and even Primal Wear tattoo arm warmers.