

## ***From My Shop***

### **This month I would like to show my method of mounting a clincher tire!**

*by Phil Lawrence*



There are many different ideas on mounting clincher tires, which may or may not be better, or easier. What I will show you is what has worked well for me over the last fifty years.

The first thing that needs to be done is to inspect the clincher rim for sharp edges—this is very important! Any sharp, or thin, edges created by years of rust will cut the tire bead. Inspection of the tire is next. Make sure the bead is not damaged, and that there are no cuts to the tread or side walls.

If everything checks out ok, we can start.

Start with your non-demountable wheel or demountable rim, a good tire and, preferably, a new inner tube, and a few tools. I've found that three standard Model T tire irons work well. You will also need a source of compressed air; a clean rag and a little muscle are really all that's needed.

### **Mounting the Tire**

First, we will take our clean rag and wipe out the inside of our tire to be sure that there is nothing in it that could cause a puncture later. Next, inflate the tube just enough to get it round, no more. Now, insert the tube into the tire. If you plan to use a tire flap, put that in the tire and over the tube, lining up the hole in the flap with the valve stem. For a little detail, line up the valve stem centered on the tire manufacturer's name (photo #1). The serial number should be on the back side of the tire (photo #2). What I do next is different from anyone I've ever watched mount a clincher tire. Take your rim, or wheel, and by standing the tire vertical with the valve stem on the bottom, pointing up, put pressure on the top of the tire. This will spread the bottom of the tire open (photo #3). With the bottom of the tire open, line up the valve stem with the wheel or rim, and work the wheel or rim into the tire between the beads (photo #4). Once that's done, you can lay the wheel or rim on the ground flat and start working the tire bead onto the rim, one side at a time.

Once both sides of the tire are mounted on the rim, you can start to inflate the tire. It's always a good idea to bounce the mounted tire on the ground a few times to help seat the bead in the rim. When both beads are seated, you can fully inflate the tire. As you may remember from previous articles, the clincher tire is a high-pressure tire. The formula for inflation is 18 to 20 pounds pressure per inch of width. With that in mind, a 3-inch-wide tire should be inflated to between 54 to 60 pounds per square inch. A 3 ½ inch tire should be inflated to between 63 to 70 pounds per square inch. By inflating your tires to the proper high pressure many tire problems can be avoided.



*Photo 1 - Valve stem centered on Brand Serial*



***Photo 2 - Number on the back side***



**Photo 3 - Spread the bottom open wide**



**Photo 4 - Press the wheel into tire**