

Bicycling

Clement X'Plor MSO Tire

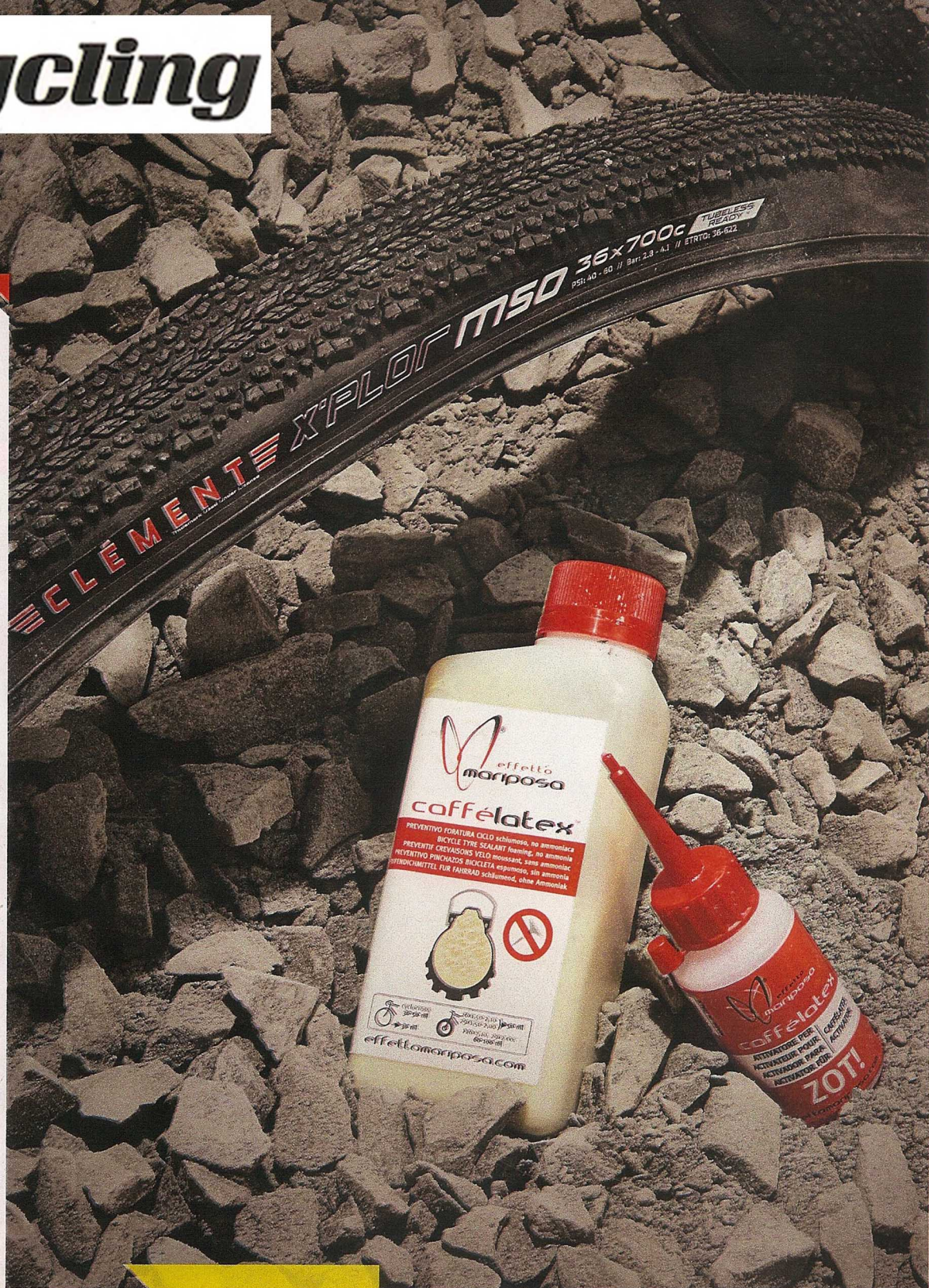
PRICE \$72
WEIGHT 467g
(36mm tubeless)

Picking gravel tires is about more than choosing a tread. Durability, size, and rolling resistance matter, and because most jaunts include some pavement, overall efficiency is key.

Over the last year the 36mm-wide Clement X'Plor MSO has become my go-to for long days that include everything from singletrack to unimproved rail beds to dirt and gravel roads.

A tight, modified chevron shape lines the middle of the tread for fast rolling in a straight line. The tread morphs outward through a mixture of smaller, siped (split) dots and coffin-shaped blocks for traction on loose surfaces, ending with larger, Y-shaped blocks for serious cornering grip. The tires roll fast and grab well at the low pressures (22–40 psi) that provide the traction you want

off-road. When riding through mud, the closely spaced blocks resisted packing up. And the siping helped the tires stick to wet pavement and in icy conditions. A protective belt beneath the tread layer resisted punctures from debris during city rides too. The MSO is available in 700x32, 36, and 40 versions.—M.Y.



Effetto Mariposa Zot! Nano and Caffélatex

PRICE Zot! Nano \$15/10ml;
Caffélatex \$7/60ml

When used with sealant, tubeless tires offer a great ride and better ability to resist flats by sealing up small punctures quickly. Effetto Mariposa's Caffélatex is one of our favorite sealants because of its foaming action, which helps it to work faster. But rougher surfaces can punch holes

in tires that are larger than the quarter-inch limit of most sealants. That's where the new Zot! Nano catalyzing polymer comes in. Designed to work specifically with Caffélatex, Zot! Nano mixes with the sealant to quickly harden the fluid and close larger cuts—we used it to seal holes up

to a half-inch in length. The 10-milliliter bottle sits on your frame in a supplied holder under a bottle cage. When needed, you insert the tip of the bottle at the puncture and squeeze. The seals held up off-road and under the higher pressures associated with road riding.—M.Y.