

RBATECH

EFFETTO MARIPOSA CAROGNA TUBULAR TAPE

To glue or not to glue, that is the question

Those of us who have ridden on tubular wheels and tires understand that the ride qualities are unrivaled, yet repairing or replacing a tire is so much more of a hassle than with a clincher. Multiple hours of gluing tires, or the cost associated with it, have most of us abandoning this classic rolling combo. Tufo has been making a double-sided mastic tape for years that allows you to ditch the glue, if you're using their tires that is. Thankfully, Effetto Mariposa has brought us the Carogna tubular tape that can be used on any rim or tire combination without the worry of a tire rolling off.

THE TECH

The Carogna tubular tape's name is a satire of the horrible smell of traditional liquid mastic glue; Carogna meaning "putrid carcass" in Italian. Luckily for anyone using Carogna tape, it does not possess the rancid smell most mechanics are used to. The Carogna tape's mastic adhesive has a claimed functional temperature range of -40 to 302 degrees Fahrenheit, ensuring that extreme temperatures will not give you reason to worry that your tire might roll off. This wide range of temperature also gives the Carogna tape an advantage for winter cyclocross racing, where tubular wheel and tires are still very popular.



The most unique thing about Effetto Mariposa's tape is its ease of installation. As long as you start off with a completely clean rim, the installation process would take only about 15 minutes to tape each tire. Since the Carogna tape requires a clean rim, without any existing tubular glue or tape residue, Effetto Mariposa also produced a Carogna remover that helps clean the rim surface in preparation for the tape.

Luckily, we had just received a set of tubular wheels and tires that needed testing. The installation process was amazingly straightforward. Our good fortune had us installing the tire on a fresh wheel, so we did not have to take the time and pry any old glue or tape off the rim. While installing the first tire we came across a few hiccups due to lack of experience and technique. But after that, the second tire was much smoother sailing.

THE VERDICT

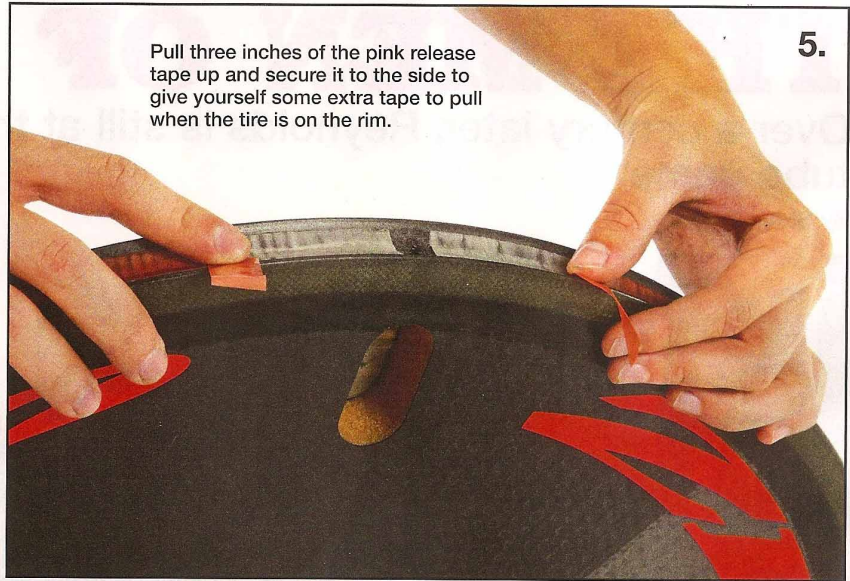
Unless you are experienced in gluing tubulars and really enjoy the task, we see little reason to still perform the labor-intensive handiwork, with the Carogna tubular tape being such a simple, clean and odor-free alternative to glue. It's available in two widths for road wheels: 16.5mm and 20mm. Each roll, two meters long, is enough to tape one tire. They also offer a 16-meter roll option. ■

STATS

Price: \$19.95 (16.5mm x 2m), \$22.95 (20mm x 2m)

Widths: 16.5mm and 20mm

www.effetto-mariposa.eu



Pull three inches of the pink release tape up and secure it to the side to give yourself some extra tape to pull when the tire is on the rim.

5.



6.

Install the tire on the rim over the top of the pink release tape. Once the tire is on, inflate and shift it to make sure it is aligned straight on the rim.



7.

Slowly pull the release tape out from under the tire. Make sure to do this with about 20 PSI in the tire to keep the tape from tearing.



8.

With the release tape completely pulled out, double-check that your tire is aligned, and then pump your tire up to the maximum pressure that both the tire and rim are allowed. After 24 hours your tire will be completely secured to the rim.