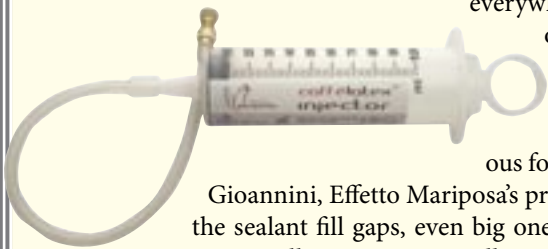


# Tech Briefs

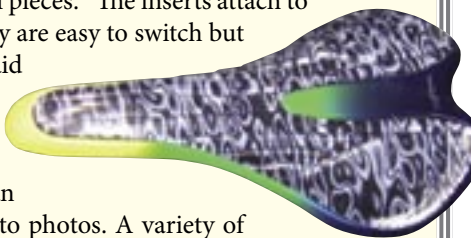
## Foaming Tire Sealant Eases Installation Issues

FORT COLLINS, CO—Effetto Mariposa's new sealant looks a lot like a latte coffee if you give the bottle a shake. Caffelatex's foaming action is its most noticeable difference from other sealants. "I wanted a sealant to be more effective, able to be everywhere in the tire when punctures occurred. And it needed to be stable over time and temperature, without using chemicals that were potentially dangerous for tires and rims," said Alberto De Gioannini, Effetto Mariposa's president. The foaming effect helps the sealant fill gaps, even big ones, between the tire and the rim, easing installation issues as well as sealing high sidewall cuts. De Gioannini said getting rid of the ammonia was very important, so that eliminated using a natural latex base. Examining a variety of automotive formulations, he settled on a synthetic latex blend that he said will not dry out as fast as current sealants. Effetto Mariposa also is providing a tubeless kit. "Our sealing tape is fiberglass reinforced and can stand nine-bar (130 psi) with a single turn. That will allow road tubeless conversions as well as soon as more road tubeless tires become available," he said. Each kit includes an injector to avoid the mess and to precisely meter the amount of sealant added. The sealant comes in \$29.95 liter and \$13.95 quarter-liter bottles. The tubeless kit, including a small bottle of sealant, two presta valves with valve wrench, injector and tape, sells for \$75. Effetto Mariposa's products are available from Cantitoe Road.



## Paiho Group Develops Customizable Saddles

CHANG HUA HSIEN, Taiwan—Paiho Group's Tiger Shark saddle features interchangeable gel top skins of various thicknesses with customizable graphics that give riders the freedom to tailor their saddle. The composite saddle base has recessed areas built into the shell which houses the gel pieces. "The inserts attach to the base with a Velcro-like fastener, so they are easy to switch but will not move around under the rider," said Oliver Lee, Paiho Group's sales manager. "The graphics are designed on a computer and we can easily take someone's file and deliver saddle inserts." Graphics can include everything from bike shop logos to photos. A variety of gel inserts in varied thicknesses and texture allow riders to switch from a smooth, lightweight and thin pad to a thick, more textured pad. Paiho Group showed a variety of one-piece tops and three-piece tops—replaceable nose and twin sit bone pads—at last month's Taipei Cycle Show. The recesses in the saddle shell hide the edge of the insert so there is no risk of lifting a pad from the edge. Paiho Group is looking for a North American distributor and has not set retail pricing.



## Lezyne Packs Function into Pocket Multi-Tool

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Lezyne has a new line of multi-tools designed for mechanics. The professional tool line differs from the company's consumer multi-tools in that it's longer so mechanics can tighten fasteners all day without effort or pain. The tools are housed in thick aluminum, with sides that are rounded for comfort. They come in hex and torx sets as well as a screwdriver set. A new large chain tool rounds out the offerings. With plenty of big professional tools available for mechanics, why would they opt for pocket tools? "Wouldn't you rather carry all the tools you need in your pocket? It cuts out walking back to the bench or tool box to get what you need," said Micki Kozushek, Lezyne's president. The tools are still in development so Lezyne has yet to determine availability and pricing.

