



TClinic

WHEELS — RIM STRIPS

Next time you replace or change a tire casing or replace some of those missing spokes, take a good look at the rim strip — that's the 2" wide rubber strip that is stretched around the rim and covers the spoke ends — it's designed to protect the tube from abrasion or puncture by the spokes. Ten to one it's either missing or worn out.

New ones can be obtained from your local motorcycle shop — they may not have 19" ones, but the 18 inchers will do nicely — however, you will have to cut a small half-moon shaped hole to clear the valve stem. The rim strips are cheap, so live a little and buy five — they are made of neoprene and should last indefinitely.

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2002 Update

Rim strips are still available from motorcycle shops. While many street bikes have gone to mag wheels and tubless tires spoked wheels are still out there especially on the off road bikes. Of course tire dealers who carry antique sized tires carry the rim strips at a nominal cost as well.