

AI-01840 Bike Hacks

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The YouTube video "163 Bicycle Hacks and Tips for Everyone" provides a compilation of hacks and tips related to bicycles and related activities [1]. Here is a list of the hacks mentioned in the source:

1. **Opening a quick link without pliers:** Fold over the link, grab it with needle-nose pliers, and squeeze it to pop it open [1].
2. **Zip tie chain stay protector:** Wrap zip ties around the chain stay to protect paint from chain slapping [1].
3. **Cleaning action camera cases:** Put them in the dishwasher with detergent [1].
4. **Creating bike clearance for upside-down work:** Use two pieces of wood or bricks under the handlebars [1].
5. **Standing a bike up on a curb/log:** Kick the pedal backwards so the drivetrain holds it in place [1].
6. **Truing wheels without a stand:** Use zip ties as pins to watch tutorials and straighten the wheel [1].
7. **Patch kit boxes as first aid kits:** Fit bandages, ointment, butterfly closures, and tape inside [2].
8. **Proving bike ownership:** Hide a piece of paper with unique information in the seat post or handlebars [2].
9. **Sealing tubeless tires with particulate:** Add glitter or other particulate to sealant to plug bigger holes, though it can get messy [2].
10. **Bleeding air from hydration packs:** Turn the pack upside down and take a drink [2].

11. **Seat cover from an old towel:** Fold a towel over the top and fasten the ends together to keep it in place over a headrest [2].
12. **Trimming zip tie ends flush:** Use a knife to get the zip tie piece totally flush with the fastener, as end nippers or nail clippers can leave dangerous edges [2].
13. **Using a paper clip/hairpin for chain work:** Hook it to the chain to make it behave more predictably for people with poor dexterity [2].
14. **Setting a master link:** Position it above the chain stay and crank forwards abruptly [2].
15. **Cleaning dirty hands after bike work:** Use an abrasive like sea salt or sand to scrub dirt off [2].
16. **Making a 2×4 bike stand:** Cut two 22-inch pieces and two 12-inch pieces as crossbars, fasten them with screws, and ensure the width fits your tire [3].
17. **Removing BMX grips with water:** Pour water around the base of the grip and twist until it comes loose [3].
18. **Installing BMX grips with zip ties:** Put zip ties inside the grip and position them around the handlebar to reduce traction, then pull them out one by one [3].
19. **Leveling a road bike saddle:** Set the bike on a flat surface, place a level on the nose and a butt pad of the saddle, and adjust the tilt until level [3].
20. **Securing a bike with a U-lock and cable:** Lock the frame with a U-lock and the wheels with a cable [3].
21. **Locking the rear wheel inside the frame:** If you don't have enough cable, lock the rear wheel on the inside of the frame to secure both the frame and the rear wheel [3].
22. **Security skewers for wheels:** Use security skewers that require a key instead of quick release skewers for better security, lighter weight, and aesthetics [3].
23. **Oiling a squeaking floor pump:** Apply chain oil to make the pump work like new [4].

24. **Cleaning scuffs on bike paint:** Apply WD40 to a rag or paper towel and work the scuff out; it won't damage paint and is good for shoe scuffs on seat stays [4].
25. **Aligning disc calipers with business cards:** Loosen mounting bolts, put business cards between pads and rotor, clamp down hard with the brake lever, then tighten bolts while holding the lever [4].
26. **GoPro base on a nail/tent stake (Go Shank):** Mount a GoPro base to a nail or tent stake by heating the tape for better stick, using it as a handle or sticking it in the ground for filming [4].
27. **Securing a tripod on a hydration pack:** Secure the upper part of a tripod leg behind the top buckle of the front pouch and tuck the bottom behind a shoulder strap [4].
28. **Making heavy-duty rubber bands from old inner tubes:** Cut old inner tubes into bands that don't dry out quickly and are good for securing inner tubes [4].
29. **Using inner tube rubber bands as volume reducers:** Double them up to take up space in suspension [4].
30. **Emergency funds in handlebar end cap:** Hide a \$20 bill inside a handlebar end cap with an inner tube rubber band to keep it from sliding [4, 5].
31. **Bracing a sidewall tear with currency:** Slip a rolled-up dollar bill between the tire and tube and carefully pump it up [5].
32. **Unfraying cables:** Twist them from the base and work your way back up, especially for recently frayed cables, then clip the end and add a new cap [5].
33. **Cleaning bike with car interior cleaning wipes:** Convenient for non-moving parts, especially in tight spaces, but avoid moving parts and disc brakes [5].
34. **Temporary relief from gnats while climbing:** Put your arm in the air to make gnats fly to the highest point, then sprint away [5].
35. **Weighing a bike with a fish scale:** Hook your bike to a \$10 fish scale for a surprisingly accurate measurement [5].
36. **Making homemade trail mix:** Pick out ingredients like cranberries, peanuts, and Reese's, and mix them up [6].

37. **Storing master links on your bike:** Stuff two links into your bar end and leave a string dangling to pull them out [6].
38. **Using platform pedals as a bottle opener:** Hook the lip of the bottle cap under the pedal's C and pry it off [6].
39. **Cleaning a chain with two toothbrushes:** Fasten two toothbrushes at the base and pedal the chain between them, optionally using a solvent [6].
40. **Protecting frame from cable rub:** Use velcro pads on cables or the frame to stop damage and noise [6].
41. **Cleaning rotors with alcohol prep pads:** Easy for on-the-fly cleaning, especially after taking the bike off a rack [6].
42. **Using honey instead of energy gels:** 100% natural, available in packets, cheaper, and less disgusting [7].
43. **Cheaper tailgate protector for pickup trucks:** Cut cardboard to size and fold it at the top to lay over the tailgate [7].
44. **Freshening hydration reservoir:** Add a drop of citrus (lemon or lime juice) to remove rubbery taste/smell [7].
45. **Keeping hydration pack water cold:** Partially fill the pack with water, fill with air, lay in the freezer to create a layer of ice along the back, then top off with water [7].
46. **Keeping hubs clean (alternative):** Tie a zip tie or string around the hub to collect grime (though there are better ways) [7].
47. **Storing first aid supplies in seat post:** Plug the bottom of the seat post (e.g., with a bar end widened by zip ties), put supplies in a bag to block moisture, and store them inside [7, 8].
48. **Protecting shifters/levers in a crash:** Do not overtighten them; tighten incrementally until firmly in place so they move instead of breaking upon impact [8].
49. **Marking shifters and brakes for reinstallation:** Make score marks with a knife on aluminum parts or use label maker arrows on carbon/painted surfaces [8].

50. **Homemade dummy hub:** Cut a segment of garden hose to fit between rear dropouts, install axle, and route chain around it to clean or work on bike without a rear wheel [8].
51. **Preventing hydraulic brake compression:** Fold up a thick piece of paper and wedge it between calipers before working on or transporting the bike [8].
52. **Single-speed conversion in an emergency:** If a derailleur breaks, shorten the chain with a multi-tool to find the straightest chain line and go single-speed [8, 9].
53. **Disposable chain guide:** Use five or six zip ties to create a lower pulley on the chain stay and an upper pulley on the seat stay to guide the chain [9].
54. **Cleaning hydration pack with baking soda:** Put a few spoons of baking soda in the pack, fill with water, whip it through the tube, then rinse and dry [9].
55. **Flask cage for "seriousness":** Use a flask cage (e.g., Origin8) to carry a flask (e.g., filled with iced tea) as a statement against taking mountain biking too seriously [9].
56. **Playing "bike" indoors:** Lay on your back and have competitions with friends in a garage or dorm room [9].
57. **Securing inner tube/multi-tool to frame:** Roll up inner tube with multi-tool, CO2, and inflator, then fasten with self-stick hook and loop to frame [9, 10].
58. **Emergency valve core wrench:** Use a lock-on grip collar by removing the grip, popping off a collar, and using the gap to wrench in the valve core [10].
59. **Cleaning helmet pads:** Place removable pads inside a clean sock and machine wash with detergent, then throw in the dryer [10].
50. **Protecting bike during transport:** Cut pool noodles to size and open them up to place on bike parts that are dangerously close to being smashed [10].
51. **Automating hydration hose re-securing:** Use a retractable badge holder clipped to a shoulder strap, with the cord fastened to the end of the hydration hose [10].
52. **Preventing spoke wrench from leaving truing stand:** Use a badge holder to keep the spoke wrench attached to the stand [10].

53. **Hardware store cycling glasses:** Buy safety glasses from a hardware store for a fraction of the cost of cycling-specific glasses [10, 11].
54. **Hardware store gloves and floor pumps:** Find these items at a hardware store for much cheaper than cycling-marketed ones [11].
55. **Squaring off socket edges for suspension service:** Use a grinder to square off the edges of a standard socket for maximum grip on shallow top caps [11].
56. **Running your garage like a bike shop:** Write out work orders to keep track of maintenance and "invoice" family members with chores [11].
57. **Replacing GoPro Hero 4 lens:** Pry off the rubber ring, unscrew the old lens with pliers, and screw in the new lens [11, 12].
58. **Making a mud guard from sheet plastic:** Print a template, trace it on plastic (e.g., 2L soda bottle, tracing paper), cut it out, and secure to your fork with four zip ties [12].
59. **Warming up a cold tire:** Bring a cold tire inside to warm up, making it easier to manipulate [12].
70. **Applying rubbing alcohol to tire bead:** Helps the bead slip back on after manipulation and evaporates cleanly [12].
71. **Drying wet shoes with paper:** Stuff shoes full of newspaper or magazine paper to draw out moisture [12].
72. **Cutting cables without proper cutters:** Wrap electrical tape tightly around the cable, then make the cut to prevent fraying [12, 13].
73. **Sealing cable ends without crimps:** Coat the end with a few layers of super glue [13].
74. **Crimping cable caps without a crimper:** Use needle-nose pliers or diagonal cutters to crush them down in one spot [13].
75. **Using biodegradable dog waste bags:** Good for greasy/sealant repairs, packing out garbage, or cleaning dog waste from tire treads [13].
76. **Affixing a flashlight to your helmet:** Use mounting squares and zip ties to secure a cylindrical flashlight for a brighter, cheaper light source [13].

77. **Making a PVC bike stand:** Measure from the ground to your bike frame, subtract an inch, cut a slot in PVC pipe, fasten PVC to plywood, and place crank arm in the pipe with pedal spindle in the slot [13, 14].
78. **Homemade chain whip:** Use an old chain and vice grips to hold the cassette in place while wrenching on the lock ring [14].
79. **Strap wrench alternative with a rag and vice:** Double up a rag, wrap it firmly around the part, place it in the vise with jaws wide open, and carefully clamp only the rag [14].
30. **Shammy on top of luggage:** When packing bike gear for air travel, put a dirty shammy on top to deter inspectors [14].
31. **Neutralizing smell of sweaty gear:** Put a dryer sheet in your bag [14].
32. **Riding home with a broken chain (downhill):** If you have a long downhill, remove the broken chain; for safety, wrap remaining chain around the sprocket by pushing a pin halfway out and snapping it back together [14, 15].
33. **Homemade soil compactor:** Cut a piece of scrap plywood, drill holes on either side, feed a string through, and tie knots [15].
34. **Extracting a mangled through axle (hex wrench deeper):** Insert a good hex wrench a little further and tap it to get enough grab [15].
35. **Extracting a mangled through axle (Torx bit):** Find a Torx bit slightly bigger than the mangled hole, tap it in until jammed, and try to crack it loose [15].
36. **Extracting a mangled through axle (homemade extractor):** Find a hex wrench slightly bigger than the through axle size, file or grind the end to a taper, and hammer it into the axle [15].
37. **Unsticking a rounded stem bolt (penetrant and other bolts):** Apply penetrant, then tighten the other stem bolt as much as safely possible to make the stuck bolt easier to turn [16].
38. **Unsticking a rounded stem bolt (Torx trick):** If other methods fail, use the Torx bit trick (from mangled through axle hack) [16].
39. **Tightening valve stems with action camera mount:** Wedge the action camera mount on the valve core and tighten it up [16].

90. **Fixing internally routed cable rattle:** Pull the cable out an inch, tightly wrap it with electrical tape until it reaches the thickness of the hole, then jam it back in [16].
91. **Truing rotors with a wheel truing stand:** Use a nut and bolt attached to the truing stand arm to get a reference point for bent rotors [16].
92. **Cutting zip ties with a multi-tool:** Wedge the zip tie between two wrenches on a multi-tool and rotate until it breaks off at the base, leaving no sharp edge [17].
93. **Keeping brake caliper hardware together:** Use valve stem nuts to screw onto the caliper bolts while the caliper is hanging loose during repairs [17].
94. **Reusable sandwich bags for trail snacks:** Use tougher, reusable bags instead of Ziploc bags for trail food [17].
95. **Avocado and egg toast trail lunch:** Mash avocado with lemon juice and salt, put on toast with sliced hard-boiled egg [17].
96. **Peanut butter and jelly burrito:** Use a flour tortilla, mashed banana, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, then toast the edges to keep it shut [17].
97. **Opening master links with a shoe lace:** Undo a shoelace, wrap it around the link once, and pull with both hands to compress and release the clip [17].
98. **Chalking disc calipers with a popsicle stick:** Cut a wide popsicle stick in half if needed and wedge it into the calipers [18].
99. **Organizing bike gear with a milk crate:** Use milk crates to keep pads, gloves, tools, and dirty mountain bike stuff organized in a trunk, and drill a hole for an S-hook to hang a helmet [18].
100. **Cleaning a mountain bike with a toilet brush:** Buy a \$1 toilet brush for its long bristles, perfect for cassettes and tight spaces with dish soap and a gentle stream of water [18].
101. **Applying stickers without bubbles:** Apply from the center and work your way out to avoid trapping air [18].
102. **Homemade patch kit:** Buy rubber cement and cut patches from an old inner tube; identify the hole, sand, apply cement, let dry, sand patch, and press down [18].

03. **Tubeless tire repair with a piece of sponge:** Plug the hole with some sponge and a small Allen key; the sponge absorbs sealant, dries, and stops the leak [19].
04. **Applying zip tie for sag measurement inside out:** Apply the zip tie inside out to set sag, allowing it to be easily pulled off without risking damage to the seal [19].
05. **Getting fresh water from hydration pack tube:** Blow into the tube first to mix tube water with reservoir water, preventing a warm, rubbery first sip [19].
06. **Car key quick release:** Remove transponder from new car keys and leave other crap at trailhead, or buy a quick release for other keys to carry only the needed key [19, 20].
07. **Multi-tool storage in bottle cage:** Stretch a piece of inner tube (chalky side out for grip) around the back of any bottle cage to securely hold a multi-tool [20].
08. **Hiding tubeless patch kit in handlebar:** Cut applicator off, epoxy it to a bar end, and store it in the handlebar with bacon strips stuck to the end [20].
09. **Weighing bikes with fish scale and rubber hook:** Attach a large rubber hook to a \$10 fish scale with a hose clamp for easier bike weighing [20].
10. **Storing tools with belt clips:** Fasten an old license plate to the side of a workbench with the top protruding, creating hooks for clipped tools [20].
11. **Cleaning bike with a toothbrush:** Use an old toothbrush for deep cleaning tight creases and dusty corners on a bicycle [20, 21].
12. **Inline water filter for hydration pack:** Buy an inline filter at a camping store, cut the hose, and install it with the water flow arrow towards the mouthpiece [21].
13. **Vice protection with old grip:** Cut an old grip down the middle and apply it to any tubular bike part you want to clamp, offering more cushion than an inner tube [21].
14. **Securing water bottle to cage:** Make a T-shape with self-stick hook and loop, wrap it around the bottle's indentation, then secure it to the cage to prevent it from falling out [21].

15. **Pizza cutter from bike parts:** Use a cheap hub, fork, and rotor from the parts bin, clean them, put a grip on the fork, and assemble into a pizza cutter [21].
16. **Washing bike with car wash soap:** Use car wash soap instead of bike-specific soap to avoid dulling the finish [21, 22].
17. **Cutting carbon handlebars:** Use a spray bottle filled with water to prevent dust from getting into the air [22].
18. **Disc brake truing tool from broken carbon bar:** Take a straight piece of carbon bar, cut a notch an inch down the center, remove sharp edges, and add a grip or tape handle [22].
19. **Magnetic dishes/magnets for bolts:** Mount a strong neodymium magnet on your repair stand or workbench as a quick and easy bolt holder [22].
20. **Emergency shifter cable nub:** If you don't have a new cable, tie a knot at the end with pliers to create a nub [22].
21. **Soldering iron for shifter cable nub:** Fray the end slightly and add a nub with a soldering iron [22].
22. **Equipment ties for holding handlebars/fork:** Use rubber-coated bendy rods to keep handlebars from moving during repairs or to keep the fork from dropping out during headset/stem repairs [22].
23. **Neatening cables with heat shrink tubing:** Measure and cut heat shrink tubing, unhook cables, apply tubing, and use a heat gun/hair dryer to evenly shrink it [23].
24. **Lever bleed without a funnel:** It takes longer, but can be done without the funnel [23].
25. **Emergency brake fluid from Johnson's baby oil:** In a pinch, baby oil (main ingredient mineral oil) could potentially be used to bleed mineral oil brakes, but this is highly skeptical and might void warranty [23].
26. **Tail guard from Kydex:** Heat Kydex to make it malleable and conform to shapes for protection [23].
27. **Carrying bike through house like a pro:** Turn your bike upright to reduce its footprint and turning radius for navigating tight spaces [23, 24].

28. **Storing zip ties in hollow crank set:** Push zip ties into a hollow crank set to fold over and keep in place [24].
29. **Hardware store derailleur cable crimps:** Find suitable replacements for derailleur cable crimps (e.g., hollow rivets, electrical connectors) at a hardware store [24].
30. **Loading backpack on a bench vice:** Hang your backpack on a bench vice (using the knob on the crank as a hook) to get it out of the way while loading supplies [24].
31. **Measuring inside diameters with zip ties:** Attach short pieces of zip tie to the jaws of an adjustable wrench to measure inside diameters [24].
32. **Multi-tool as a phone stand:** Open the wrenches on a multi-tool and wedge your phone between them to get the right angle for filming [24, 25].
33. **Waterproofing gear with spray:** Use waterproofing spray on textiles like bags, tents, shoes, or clothing to make water bead up and roll off [25].
34. **Relief from charlie horses (pickle juice/mustard):** Drink pickle juice or use mustard packets; the strong flavor overwhelms sensory neurons to stop muscle spasms [25].
35. **Schrader pump adapter from valve cap:** Cut the top off a Presta valve cap, screw it onto the stem upside down, and ensure the valve is open [25].
36. **Homemade pick from bicycle spoke:** Grind a spoke to a point, bend the tip to a 45-degree angle, and bend the other side into a hairpin to secure it in a wooden handle [25, 26].
37. **Carrying duct tape on your pump:** Spool duct tape around your pump to ensure you always have tape with you, preventing wrinkles and contamination [26].
38. **Quick and dirty bike wash with garden sprayer:** Use a \$10 garden sprayer (powered by air pressure) with a brush for an inexpensive and effective bike wash [26].
39. **Double knotting shoelaces (extra security):** Pull a lace further up the shoe and pass the loops underneath it to prevent tangles in the drivetrain [26].

40. **Using tire lever hooks:** Use the hooks on tire levers to hold the lever in place on your spoke when removing tight tires, freeing up your hands [27].
41. **Working tires by hand:** Push both sides of the bead into the center indentation of the rim to de-seat the tire, then pull it over the side. For mounting, locate one side of the bead in the center and work your way around, then gorilla the other side on [27].
42. **Setting tubeless bead with a hand pump:** Grab and pull a handful of the tire onto the side of the rim on both sides, then pump vigorously until the bead seals [27, 28].
43. **Mini tailgate pad from high-density foam:** Cut flooring foam to size to cover less of your tailgate, retaining backup camera use, and rolling up for storage [28].
44. **Reducing hitch rack wobble with aluminum can shims:** Cut pieces from aluminum cans and lay them inside the receiver with lips on the edges for retention [28].
45. **Increasing action camera mount grip:** Apply carbon paste to the joint on the action camera mount to increase grip and reduce movement [28].
46. **Pup Jail from cargo net:** Cut cargo net to size, fold it over a bungee cord, secure with zip ties, then hook bungee to headrest rails and clamp net to seatback pockets for messy dogs [28, 29].
47. **Loosening stubborn air caps on suspension forks:** Use the shock pump as a slide hammer by bracing the handle on the cap and using the body to initiate a precise impact [29].
48. **Keeping knee pads from sliding:** If you wear a shammy, stretch it over the tops of your pads to hold them in place [29].
49. **Securing multiple bikes on a tailgate with a ratchet strap:** Use a ratchet strap hooked to bed tie-downs over the bikes and crank it down. For more security, wrap the strap around each bike [29, 30].
50. **Securing rear brake hose on dirt jump/BMX bikes:** Put a zip tie loosely around the hose, then pass another zip tie through it and around the steerer tube for a permanent, bar-spin-friendly fix [30].

51. **Shortening a 29-inch inner tube for other wheel sizes:** Push down on the tube and pull it back to fold it over itself to achieve a smaller size [30].
52. **Presta tube in Schrader wheel (valve cap fix):** Cut a Presta valve cap in half and screw it onto the stem upside down about a quarter of the way up to make a perfect fit [30].
53. **Adding leverage to small multi-tools:** Remove a through axle and slide it over an unused hex wrench on the multi-tool to create leverage [31].
54. **Removing small stumps with a reciprocating saw:** Use a pruning blade and cut around the stump in a circle [31].
55. **Sifting dirt with a leaf rake:** Rake soil into a pile, scoop it with the leaf rake, and shift it around to remove sticks and pebbles [31].
56. **Summoning a local on trails:** Stop off trail to take a "whiz" to summon a local for trail knowledge [31].
57. **Touch-up worn bike parts with a black Sharpie:** Use a black Sharpie to touch up worn black parts on your bike [32].
58. **Making a cheap fork look legit:** Remove all stickers, clean and regrease springs, and put a red O-ring on the stanchion [32].
59. **Painting a vinyl bike seat:** Lightly sand the seat, clean it, and apply very light coats of vinyl paint until it's the desired color [33].
50. **Using disc rotor bolts for customization:** Disc rotor bolts are the same size and thread as bottle cage and luggage rack bolts, allowing for cheap and easy color customization [33].
51. **Homemade sandblaster from air compressor:** Modify an air sprayer with a water bottle and sand to clean or strip paint off bike parts [33, 34].
52. **Removing blood stains from clothes:** Pour hydrogen peroxide on the stain as soon as possible [35].
53. **Handlebar glasses holder:** Use two zip ties to create a loop on your handlebars to stick glasses in when not needed [35].
54. **Accurate sag reading for suspension:** Before getting off the bike, turn your compression all the way up to reduce suspension movement [36].

35. **Dog water bowl from a rock:** Pull a rock out of the ground to create an indentation, then fill it with water for your dog [36].
36. **Treating wooden mountain bike features:** Mix outdoor bleach with water in a garden sprayer and spray the feature once or twice a year to kill moss and algae [36, 37].
37. **Welding cable crimps:** Weld the end of the cable to prevent fraying for an "overkill" solution [37].
38. **Removing linkage bearings without specialized tools:** Use a clamp and sockets; a socket that fits inside the bearing slightly offset, and another larger socket for extraction [37].
39. **Installing linkage bearings without specialized tools:** Find a socket the same diameter as the bearing and use a clamp to press it in [37].
70. **Using a dime as a crank puller adapter:** A dime is the same size as the adapter piece on some crank pullers, allowing you to remove a crank arm [38].
71. **Silencing saddle pouches:** Put a sock inside the saddle pouch with contents to prevent noise [38].
72. **GoPro water shedding:** Clean the GoPro lens with alcohol; RainX does not perform better [38].
73. **Homemade wheel holder for rotor/tire work:** Clamp an old through axle or a bent piece of \$4 hardware store metal in a vice to hold a wheel [38, 39].
74. **Securing your bike with obscure fasteners:** Replace stem bolts with security Torx, flathead M6, T20, or Phillips head M5 bolts in unexpected places to make theft harder [39].
75. **Storing tubeless plugs in a multi-tool:** For multi-tools with plug applicators, store plugs directly in the tool; for others, fold plugs into the tool and use a small Allen key [39].
76. **Emergency chain repair without a quick link:** Remove janky stuff from one side, ensure the other side is an inner link, push a pin 3/4 of the way out on an outer link, twist to separate, then re-join and push the pin back through [39, 40].

77. **Trampoline bike from kid's balance bike:** Use a kid's balance bike on a trampoline for practicing tricks; it's small, doesn't get in the way, and is already safe [40].