

Wide Tire Bead Help

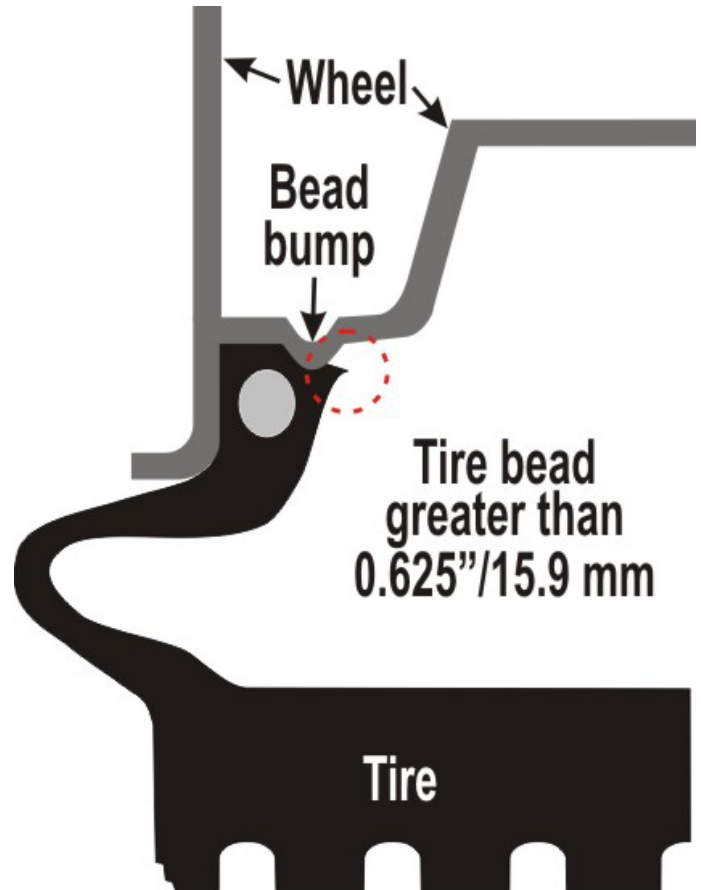
Harry Lewellyn 090211

Problem: With very large tires, typically 36 inches in diameter and greater, the beadlock tubes may fail. This involves most Interco tires, BFG MTRs and others. The failure can range from small holes to slits 180° around the tube right at the tire-beadlock Bead intersection. The problem appears to be caused by the tire.



Background: We have recently discovered all tires are not created equal as international wheel specifications assume. These specify that the space behind the bead bump be 0.750 inch/19mm. Most tire beads are 0.625 inch/15.9mm wide. However, larger tires have wider beads. Some may be as wide as 1.0 inch/25.4mm wide.

Discussion: This means that standard 0.625 inch tire beads will seat completely behind the bead bump, but for wider tire beads, a portion of the sharp inside tire bead edge will be outside the bead bump area. This causes two problems: 1) It may prevent the beadlock case from moving to seat properly and 2) the sharp edge may cause tube failure.



Solution: The solution is to smooth out the wide, sharp tire bead edge. Further, exercise all proper beadlock installation practices, and in particular, use lots of powder. If you run out of powder, you may buy any bath, baby or talc powder from your local 99 cent store.

