Selecting the Right Bike Tyres for Your Needs by Henry Massey

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One of the most important components of any machine, which can have a great effect on the way that it handles, is the type and brand of rubber with which it is fitted. Whether you go for cross-ply or radials, you should look out for signs of wear and replace them when necessary. Failure to do so can result in unpredictable handling characteristics, especially on wet roads.

Radials are quite rare as they to flex from side to side, making for an unpleasant ride, so most rubber components designed for bicycle wheels are those where the thread of fabric runs diagonally from one side to the other. Which particular make and model is the best choice for your bike will depend on a number of factors, not the least of which is how much you are willing to spend. As with most other components and accessories, the more expensive models are often of a higher quality.

Some cyclists may be tempted to economise and buy the cheapest bike tyres available but this could turn out to be a big mistake. Although a high price is no guarantee of quality, items that are at the lower end of the market are usually produced cheaply by compromising on certain factors such as durability. Rubber with a tread that lasts for a long time is not necessarily the best choice either, as harder compounds offer less grip when cycling on tarmac.

Clincher tyres are the most widely used type, so called because they hook over the rim of the wheel and are therefore clinched in place by the air pressure once they are inflated. This type comes with a separate inner tube, which means that if they are punctured it is often only necessary to replace the inner tube rather than the outer section as well. Tubeless models offer better performance but once they are punctured, you will either need to use them with a tube or replace them, so they could work out to be more expensive in the long run.

Some cyclists swear by one particular make whereas others like to change things around and try as many different manufacturers as possible. Whatever approach you take, dealing with a reputable retailer could save you a lot of hassle.

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