

## caffélatex: tubeless kit

\$59.95 (complete kit) | [www.CantitoeRoad.com](http://www.CantitoeRoad.com)

The CafféLatex Tubeless kit is designed to convert a standard rim into a tubeless system using a special rim strip, valve stem and latex sealant.

What makes CafféLatex distinctive is the foaming agent added to the sealant. Shake it up and it foams up like a good beer from the tap. This foamy goodness is key because instead of puddling up, it quickly coats the inside of the tire, giving an improved seal and better puncture protection.

My first attempt at setting up a new rim and tire went smoothly. I nearly got it to air up with a floor pump—which is a miracle—but I couldn't quite get the bead to lock. A quick shot with the air compressor did the trick.

CafféLatex sealant is synthetic and does not contain ammonia like other latex sealants. Ammonia is corrosive and can damage aluminum rims.

While many racers and tech savvy riders are using these tubeless conversions successfully, it's not for everyone. The initial setup is advanced and requires experience and a bit of luck.

The advantages are significant weight savings—even over Universal Standard Tubeless rims—and a greater resistance to pinch flats and punctures. Note that it's still necessary to use UST compatible tires, which have sturdy sidewalls specifically designed to be used without tubes.

Effeto Mariposa offers CafféLatex as a complete kit or à la carte. The kit is similar to others but has some nice, well-thought-out elements like a nicely designed syringe injector for refilling through the valve stem. I also liked the valve stem design, which has a rectangular rubber seal on the inside that leaves ample room for the tire bead. The fiberglass-reinforced rim tape is minimalist and ultra lightweight but did its job without fault.

I've had great luck using tubeless conversion kits and this one was no different. Once set up correctly, they tend to be bombproof. I raced two weekends in a row using the CafféLatex kit with no problems at all. —B. Riepe

