

TECH SHORTS

Automated No-Fog Fan Technology

Tired of fogged-up goggles while snowmobiling? The Haber Eliminator Automated No-Fog Fan Technology from HaberVision eliminates this problem with the flip of a switch.

The concept is simple; when humidity rises inside your goggle a tiny sensor activates a fan, greatly reducing the possibility of internal condensation (fog) on the lens.

The Eliminator is a clever device that allows you to retro-fit most goggle brands into a fan goggle instantly. It's a lightweight, low-profile module that can be installed on almost any pair of goggles, and then removed and attached to another pair of goggles.

The fan can operate in either a manual or automatic mode. You can turn it to 'on' and it will run continuously or, set it to 'automatic' mode and rely on the built-in humidity sensor to activate the system only when needed.

The fan module is self-contained with no wires or external battery packs. It runs on a single AAA battery and can be easily attached to the goggle with a pair of thumb-twist screws. In our testing, we have found the Energizer Lithium AAA cells to work best in the cold, and for longest battery life, as lithium batteries are far more stable in cold temperatures than alkaline batteries.

The Eliminator is available online at www.habervision.com for \$65.00.



The Haber Eliminator is a lightweight, low-profile battery-powered fan module that helps keep the inside of your goggle from fogging when you get warm. It can be installed on almost any pair of goggles, and then removed and attached to another pair of goggles.

Xtremely Practical Tow Strap

Yamaha calls this their "XP" tow strap, which is kind of funny because the strap is yellow. Officially, it is called the Xtremely Practical tow strap, and it is quite unusual. There are no hooks, so shackles, and no knots. Yep. It uses a "wrap and weave" technique that makes it stupid-simple and easy to use. Wrap one end around the bumper or ski spindle, weave the end of the strap through the strap itself, pull it tight. Done deal.

You can weave it through the strap up to seven times for an 8,600 pound maximum working strength. The fact that you weave the end of the strap through the strap itself makes it quick to attach, quick to unattach, and you can make it the perfect length every time. This is the smartest and simplest strap you will ever use, for sleds or most anything. It is available from any Yamaha dealer for \$39.95, part #SMA-XPSTP-00-XL.

Trailer Tire Rot

One of the problems with snowmobile trailers is that they usually sit outside somewhere during the summer. When this is the case, the tires are exposed to the sun, which means ultra-violet radiation. Ultra-violet degradation, or "sun rot", will slowly break down the rubber in tires, and by the time you come back to get the trailer the sidewalls can be cracked and the tires are not going to last as long as they could have.

Exposure to UV radiation causes all sorts of other problems, from fading plastics and fabrics to weakening skis (bad deal). This is why you never want to buy a used sled that has been sitting outside for an extended period of time with plastic skis on it; the skis will be weakened by the UV exposure. (Black skis are always stronger than colored ones due to how the color dilutes the carbon black in the UHMW material.) Even though manufacturers add UV stabilizers to many materials in the manufacturing process, these protective agents weaken over time and must be replenished if continuing UV protection is desired.

Back to your trailer tires; blocking them from exposure to the sun is your best option. This is why you see RV owners putting covers on their tires when their RVs sit for extended periods of time. Another effective treatment we have been using for years is to apply a UV protectant to the tires (and anything else that sits in the sun for extended periods of time). The one we use is "303". Spray it on, let sit for five minutes, then wipe off any excess that didn't absorb into the surface. This stuff is like sunscreen for your plastics, fiberglass, rubber, vinyl, all of the materials that fade and degrade from exposure to the sun. It works great on seat covers, too. You can order it from places like Cabelas or Overtons, and many marine dealers now stock it.



Catalytic Converters for Snowmobiles?

Catalytic converters for snowmobiles are coming soon. Environmental Control Corporation has partnered with Michigan-based Vconverter Corporation to design a catalytic muffler for high-performance snowmobiles. Vconverter is a Tier-1 provider of catalyst and exhaust emission solutions to over 25 major OEM's, suppliers, and non-automotive customers.

Over the course of the project, EVCC and Vconverter will be designing an exhaust system based on EVCC's patented Reverse Flow Catalytic Muffler technology. The catalytic muffler will be manufactured by Vconverter and shipped to a university for initial testing. Performance parameters being evaluated will include: emissions, durability, sound attenuation, and engine performance.

Albert Hickman, President and CEO of EVCC, comments: "We are very pleased with the prospects of this latest project. The snowmobile industry in North America will be facing new emission standards in 2012, making this a timely venture for the company."

Hickman added, "Given the close relationship between the snowmobile and ATV industries, a breakthrough in the snowmobile industry would offer great exposure to the ATV segment as well. We look forward to the timely completion of this project so that we can market our technology to key players in both market segments."

Glenn Knight, inventor of EVCC's reverse flow technology, stated, "Our goal is to help manufacturers drastically reduce the emissions numbers - bringing emissions down to a more tolerable level in years to come."