



SILCA **Heritage** Pump Stories

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Eugene A. Sloane, Bicycle Author and Commuter

By Keith Larson

Eugene Sloane (1926-2008) was the leading American writer about bicycle riding and maintenance during the bicycle boom era. During a 25-year period beginning in 1970, Eugene authored twelve best-selling books including "The Complete Book of Bicycling," and became the Popular Mechanics Bicycle Editor with a monthly column.

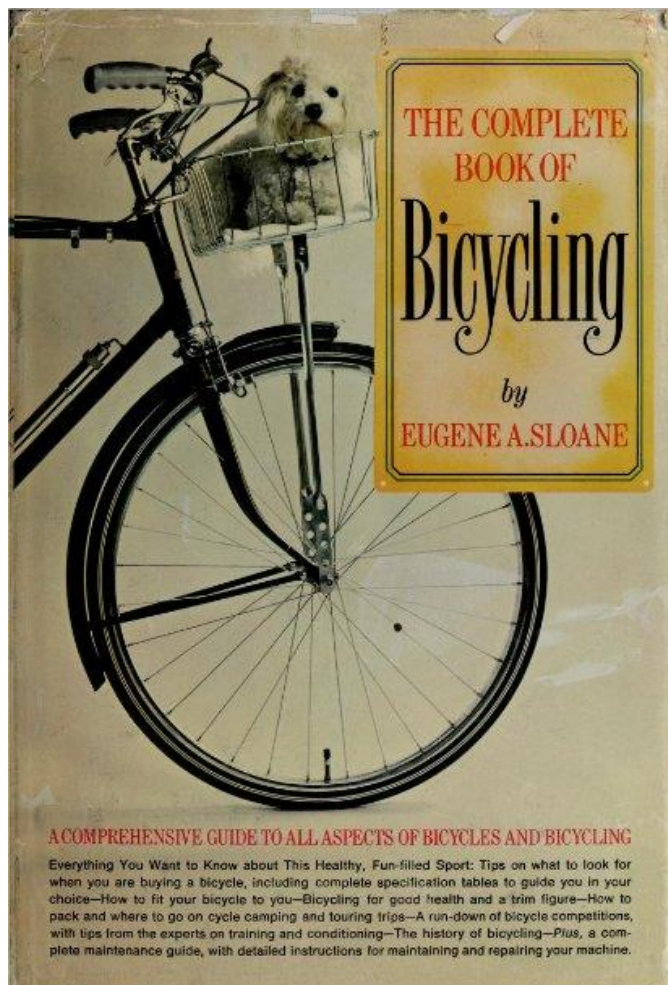


Photo Credit: Sloane, Eugene A. *The Complete Book of Bicycling*.
New York: Simon & Schuster; 1st edition, 1970.

Eugene's interest in cycling began at the age of 48 when he began a 12-mile commute to work in downtown Detroit on a 3-speed. He would later upgrade to a Frejus 10-speed imported from Italy and learn how to maintain it. He was able to become a full-time bicycle writer by 1972. His "Complete Book" was frequently updated and revised to include not only road bicycles but also mountain bikes and hybrids. New and used copies of his books are readily available in both hardback and paperback format.

The **SILCA Impero** frame pump was often included in his response to reader's questions, and in descriptions, illustrations and photographs of tire maintenance procedures and essential accessories. Here follows a sampling from his writings.

ABOUT PUMPS

"A pump that can be seat-tube mounted is a "must" if you tour or take trips very far from home. After having used a number of pumps, I find the **Silca** or the Campagnola (@SILCAHERITAGE note - Campagnolo pump head No. 1030/2) plastic pump the best and easiest to use. These pumps can be obtained with either a Presta head for tubular tire valves, or Schraeder for American tube valves. They cost about \$4.00 and are well worth it. Other pumps I have tried soon fell apart or became dented and were therefore useless." [Sloane, Eugene A. *The Complete Book of Bicycling*, New York: Simon & Schuster 1st edition, 1970, page 199]

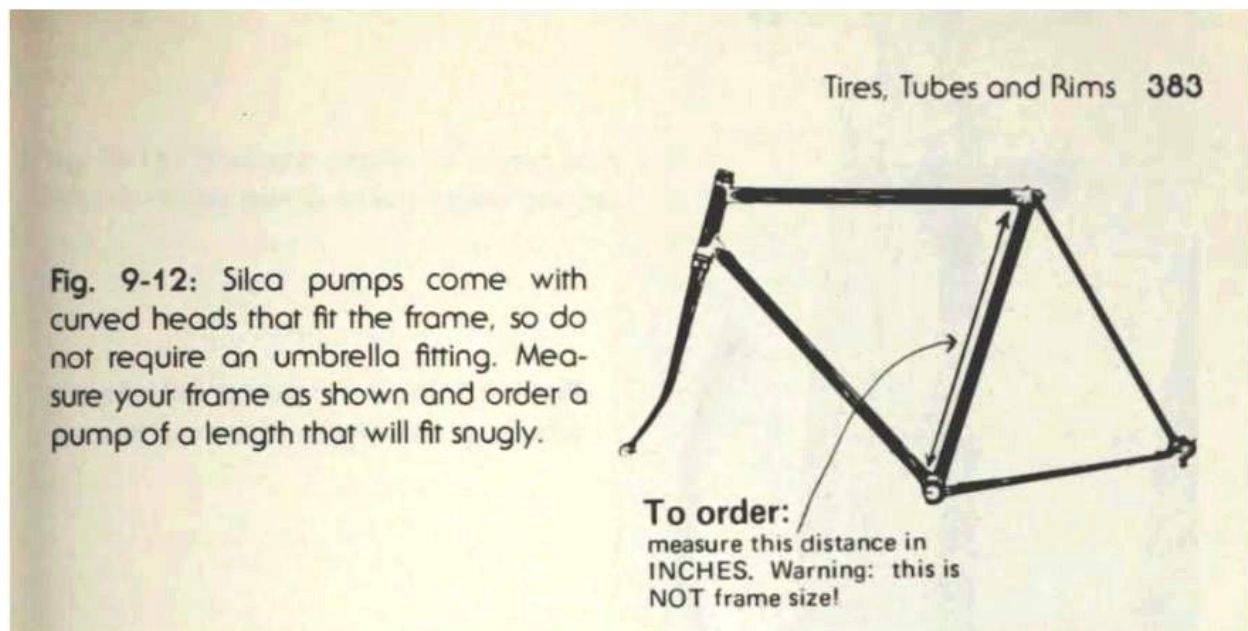


Photo Credit: Sloane, Eugene A. *The All New Complete Book of Bicycle Maintenance*. New York: Simon & Schuster; 3rd edition, 1980, page 383.

"For Presta valves, there is really only one... that is the **Silca Impero** fitted with a Campy steel head \$10.50. This pump comes in two modes, one that requires an umbrella clip (the Campagnolo) fit, which does not require the umbrella clip to a good bike that will spoil the finish. **Silca** pumps come with curved heads that fit the frame, so do not require an umbrella

fining. Measure your frame as shown and order a pump of a length that will fit snugly. I note that some bike catalogs sell the **Silca** pump with Campy steel head, the frame fit kind, for \$14.88, others for \$10.50. As far as I can tell, this is the same pump. Pays to shop around.” [Sloane, Eugene A. *The All New Complete Book of Bicycle Maintenance*. New York: Simon & Schuster; 3rd edition, 1980, pages 382-3.]

USING YOUR FRAME PUMP

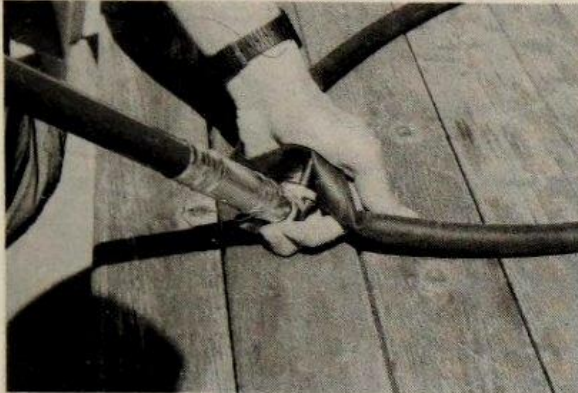


Fig. 10-4: Pump up the tube to check for location of leak.

Photo Credit: Sloane, Eugene A. *Sloan's New Bicycle Maintenance Manual*, Simon & Schuster; Fireside edition, 1991, page 217.

Fig. 10-21: Hold the pump tightly, as shown, especially on Presta valves, to prevent valve breakage.

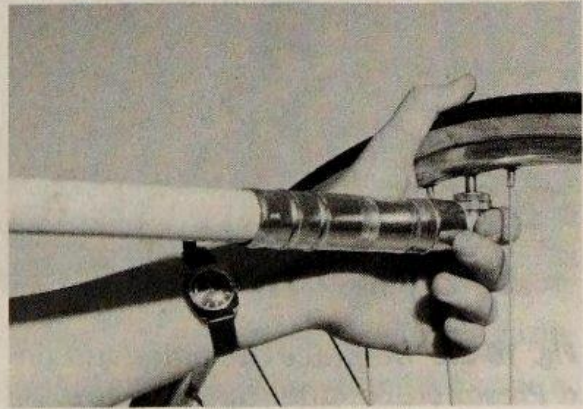


Photo Credit: Sloane, Eugene A. *Sloan's New Bicycle Maintenance Manual.*, Simon & Schuster; Fireside edition, 1991, page 223.



THE BICYCLE SHOP

BY EUGENE A. SLOANE

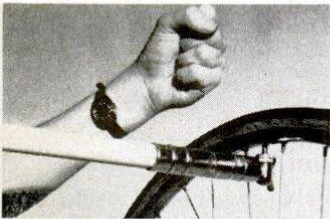
Just can't get up the wind

I have never had tubular tires or Presta valves before and I am a little confused. I have the type of pump you recommend, but can't pump the tire to the recommended 90 p.s.i. Air just leaks out around the pump and valve.—John Neidigh, Bremen, Ind.

You have to unscrew Presta valves before you can pump them up. Photo shows Presta valve unscrewed, ready



to be pumped. I recommend a Silca pump, but any good Presta valve pump should get you up to 90 p.s.i. If you can't pump that pressure, at least pump enough to get to a service station, where you can screw on a Schraeder (American) valve adapter and use their pump. You can buy such an adapter from any good bike store. When using a Presta valve hand pump, be sure to knock



it off with a blow (as shown) or you can break off the valve.

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Sloane, Eugene A. "The Bicycle Shop." Popular Mechanics, March 1975, page 14.

WHAT TO TELL A CUSTOM FRAME BUILDER

"I would also have a pump holder brazed on the underside of the top tube, just underneath the saddle—the bottom of the pump can fit where the seat and downtubes meet. This fitting is a simple piece that looks like a sawed off nail measuring 1/16-inch in diameter and about ¼ inch in length. You will then need a **Silca** pump the proper length for your seat tube. Any good bike shop can fix you up with such a pump. Many of the better custom frame builders can supply you

with this pump painted the same color as your frameset. Use a **Silca** pump with Campagnolo ends. [Sloane, Eugene A. *The All New Complete Book of Bicycle Maintenance*. New York: Simon & Schuster; 3rd edition, 1980, page 129.]

REFERENCES

You can read more about Eugene Sloane and review his many bicycle books and index of magazine articles at Tom Howe's excellent web page and article:

Eugene Sloane - Author and Bicycle Commuting Pioneer

<http://www.cedmagic.com/sloane/>

Author and cycling pioneer Eugene Sloane had ties to Portland area

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His bicycle books are available for purchase and can also be viewed at the ***Internet Archive Open Library*** https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL590626A/Eugene_A._Sloane