FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bike Shift Levers from Cans and Bottle Caps

Prescott, Arizona – December 2, 2014 – A new bike gadget has hit the streets, but this one does not use electronics or hydraulics. The Bike Shift Lever from One Street Components is made from scrap aluminum, a bottle cap, a hose clamp, and a common bolt and nut. These shifters can now be purchased through OneStreet.org, an international bicycle advocacy nonprofit.

Sue Knaup, One Street’s executive director, designed the shift lever in response to countless complaints from their bicycle program partners around the world. These programs provide bicycles to people who ride daily—to work, for work, and hauling their families and mobile businesses by bike. They can no longer find basic, durable bike parts, especially shift levers.

“A bike shift lever only has to pull a cable,” said Ms. Knaup. “Everyday cyclists should not have to choose between junk shifters made from plastic and pot metal or race-designed shifters that cost a month’s wages. Both types wear out within months of daily use and cannot be repaired.”

Not only does the Bike Shift Lever work with both front and rear derailleurs through all gear ranges, its design includes a simple production method to ensure that anyone, even in the remotest areas of the world, can produce them. Ms. Knaup began the design process by talking with metal casters and mold makers. A permanent mold along with a charcoal furnace to melt scrap aluminum offered the easiest production method even in areas without electricity. The first molds were funded through a Kickstarter campaign in October 2013.

Three years ago, as she began the design, Ms. Knaup knew little about aluminum casting. As a former bike shop owner and welder, she understood metallurgy basics, but not the intricacies of casting. After working with local casters and reading many volumes, she built her first charcoal furnace using a flower pot and a hand pump to ensure anyone could build one with common items. This furnace produced the first Bike Shift Levers. She has since upgraded to a brick furnace that uses a hair dryer for its air supply. With future license partners in mind, she captured every step in One Street’s new book, Backyard Aluminum Casting.

One Street is now seeking license partners to produce the shifters in other parts of the United States as well as all regions of the world. Any nonprofit that focuses on bicycle programs can apply. After qualifying and paying a one-time fee, licensees receive a casting mold, casting training, a finishing jig, network marketing, and One Street support. They keep all proceeds from the shift levers they produce and sell.

Learn more at OneStreet.org. Click Blog in the upper menu and choose the category “Making Bikes & Parts” to find articles and photos from the Bike Shift Lever production process.

For more information, please contact Sue Knaup, Executive Director: +1- 928-541-9841, sue{at}onestreet.org

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