

Will you need an "Easy Rider," "Radial Lovin'" or "Full on Swagger"?

Digging tube

InHerTube sizes up the best sex gear for you and for the planet

BY GINA DAGGETT



Amy Pedersen (left) and Katrina Humbert show their wares at home in Camas, Wash.

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

As Amy Pedersen points to the steel cylinders used to burn a hole in each harness, Katrina Humbert swats down her mask and sparks a torch that breathes flame kind of like Drew Barrymore in *Firestarter*.

Pedersen and I jump back, partially out of fear, but also for a better view of the flame that sends flakes of rubber cinders into the air.

InHerTube Harnesses is the brainchild of the Camas, Wash., couple, who custom-make dildo harnesses and bracelets out of recycled rubber (generally from the inner tubes of industrial tires).

"I've wanted to make inner tube clothing for a long time," says Humbert, who has worked as a veterinary technician for nearly 20 years. "I've always dug tube." Unfortunately, the sewing machines couldn't handle rubber, she explains, "no matter how many machines I'd buy."

Then it dawned on her: Just like a flat tire is fixed with repair adhesive, similarly, with the right glue, the rubber from a tube can hold 100 pounds of pressure. Harnesses just seemed like a perfect fit. "When I made my first harness I thought, 'This is the coolest—everybody needs one of these.'"

Pedersen, 31, says leather harnesses have

always bothered her because the buckles pinch your skin, rip and take too much time.

Humbert grabs a harness and splits the heavy-duty Velcro apart. Velcro is easier to work with and more limber, the 38-year-old explains. "It's also easier to clean and more durable. Since it's our product, I'm gonna make it the way we like it."

"Originally, our focus was to cater to the bigger girls," Pedersen says, as she snaps a cuff used for the wearer's pleasure. "There seems to be a fat-positive movement going on. When you're really heavy, it's easy to desexualize yourself...you don't want people to think of you sexually."

The harnesses come in nontraditional InHerTube sizes like "Sex Cruiser," "Easy Rider," "Radial Lovin'" and "Full on Swagger"—a tribute to heavier women reclaiming their sexuality.

While they do offer these handful of ready-to-wear sizes, InHerTube specializes in custom harnesses, fitted to the width and drop of the hips. "We've had a few customers that have pushed the envelope of what we're used to cre-

ating," says Humbert, referring to a request for a harness attached to a Kangaroo Ball.

"We've also had inquiries from husbands for their wives," she continues. And while the InHerTube gals are happy to cater to these unique requests and believe, says

Humbert, "pleasure's great and not something to be ashamed of," their focus is on the lesbian community. "We really try not to waste any rubber," adds Pedersen.

The pieces of rubber also reflect the pair's creative vein, as both are also active artists. Humbert's sculptures decorate their house, and Pedersen's two-dimensional drawings and paintings bring life to the walls.

Although the scope of InHerTube is primarily harnesses (and bracelets, available on the Web), they plan to branch into other areas—like bondage gear—down the road.

"Business is still kind of slow," admits Humbert. "Our Web site has only been up for three

months, and we're looking for creative ways to get our name out." Eventually the women would like to sell enough product to wholesale to retail outlets.

Both women are excited about utilizing castoff material, emphasizing that vegans and environmentalists can finally purchase a harness without concern.

"Just knowing something you're using for sex has also been used to haul who-knows-what," Pedersen laughs, "maybe even the same wheels that Bush drove on are now used for you to have sex with." □



Bracelets are an InHerTube product you can show off to everybody

Buy INHERTUBE products at www.inhertube.com. Their harnesses are also available at It's My Pleasure. The women invite you to their home from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 for Kat & Amy's Christmas Art Sale. Call 360-833-1156 for directions.

While floating down the Clackamas River, GINA DAGGETT never dreamed about the potential of the rubber beneath her derriere. You can reach her at gdaggett@aol.com.



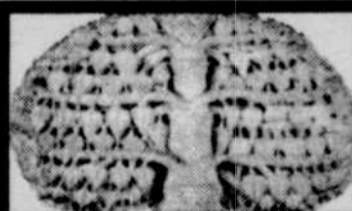
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