

4x4 Equip - Tyre Deflators

Adjusting tyre pressures to suit different terrain is the key to maximising traction and minimising wheel spin when four wheel driving. It's quite normal to lower tyre pressures when driving off bitumen onto bush tracks and pressures can be lower again for mud driving or rock climbing. Beach sand often requires low speed driving at very low pressures – down as far as 16psi in extremely soft conditions.



Lowering pressures is a time-consuming business, involving depressing the valve core so air escapes, then checking with a tyre pressure gauge every few seconds to make sure of the current pressure.

Several devices are available to make this job quicker and more precise. The most popular type is a brass screw-on arrangement for each valve, to lower pressures to a pre-set point. Problems with this design are a propensity to get out of calibration when stored in a high-vibration area, such as a 4WD vehicle door pocket.

Also, although the unit can be calibrated for different pressures, there's only one pre-set pressure available at any one time.

The new 4x4 Equip Tyre Deflator is a multi-setting unit allowing one of six pre-set pressures to be selected.

The 4x4 Equip Tyre Deflator settings are in 2psi increments and there are two models available: one with a range from 10psi to 20psi and the other from 14psi to 24psi. This latter model is the one most 4WD owners will need.

The desired pressure is selected by simply pushing in the plunger and rotating to the marked pressure required. The 4x4 Equip Tyre Deflator is then screwed onto the tyre valve and the pressure automatically drops before shutting off. A lower pressure can be dialled in and that new pressure achieved with a twist of the plunger and reattachment to the valve stem.

The 4x4 Equip Tyre Deflator is a quality product, manufactured in the UK to military specifications, with an accuracy of +/- 1 psi. The indexing ramp is protected from contamination by pressure-driven sand by a clear neoprene sleeve that slides over the deflator body.

Both deflators have a RRP of \$99.95