

Grassroots Motorsports

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Wrap It Up

Heat is fine if you're cooking a burger, but the same heat that makes ground beef so delicious can also be detrimental to the performance and longevity of an engine. For this reason, finding techniques and materials to control under-hood heat can pay dividends in the long run.



Wrapping headers with a heat-resistant material is a economical way to substantially lower those temps. Header wrap provides a layer of insulation that keeps the heat inside the header and prevents the under-hood

temps from getting out of hand.

DEi's header wrap is a good solution for your naked headers. Most four-cylinder applications will need a single 50-foot roll of 2-inch wrap, which retails for \$50.95. We also like to use their

stainless steel band clamps, which are as easy to use as a zip-tie, but can withstand some serious heat. A package of eight clamps will run you \$15.

Actually wrapping the headers is pretty straightforward. Start at the engine side, provide plenty of overlap (we tried to overlap at least half of the width of the wrap) and work your way down. At some point, you will be faced with the pipes coming too close together to wrap any further. At this point, clamp off the wrap, start on another pipe, and go as far as you can. Once you've wrapped all the individual pipes possible, then you can wrap pipes in bundles.

The DEi header wrap handles nicely during the wrapping process. It stretches enough to go around odd-shaped curves without bunching, but it's not so flimsy that the weave comes apart when you stretch it. The stainless steel band clamps provide a nicely finished look to the job. To keep the wrap looking good and to seal out grease and grime, DEi recommends that you spray the wrap with their HT Silicone Coating. For \$8.34, the 12-ounce can will coat a pair of headers.

While DEi sells their products through speed shops around the country, they can also be found at www.designengineering.com or by calling (800) 264-9472.

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