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# What to Use when Filling that Gap

## Learning From Experience

by Jamie B

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**I**n my chats and discussions with other transgender men, the one topic which seems to always come up sooner or later, is what to use when filling that gap? You know which one. That open breezeway we (as transgender men) seem to be cursed with. It is very difficult to feel the tiniest bit manly when an inquiring person (of either gender) gives our pouches a little squeeze (to let us know they are interested) and then stands back in open-mouthed shock when nothing "interesting" can be found. Many of us, at one point or another, have found ourselves in this humiliating position.

***Yes, it would be nice to stand at the urinal like the other guys but my life wouldn't end if I can't.***

When this problem became an issue for me, I tried various methods in an effort to give myself the manly profile I craved so much. I started with a small dress sock, rolled up and pinned to the inside of my jocks. I quickly realised that this method was neither realistic nor was it particularly comfortable. In fact, it was downright painful, especially when the pin opened itself, which it seemed to do at the worst possible moments. It is fairly simple to find a toilet in a crowded nightclub but to find one in the Queen Street Mall is another matter altogether. It also made me a candidate for the Ministry of Silly Walks!

My next crotch filler was the use of a substance known in Queensland as "slime". I found it couldn't be purchased here for love or money. I was devastated! However, on a trip to Sydney, I found a similar substance going under the name of "dinosaur gel". I discovered it to be bright fluoro green and felt particularly disgusting to touch (which is probably why the kids love it). I tried several experiments before settling on the gel inside one condom inside another. This was to stop any accidental breakages. The gel is almost impossible to get out of your pubic hair once it finds its way there, whatever the method. I rapidly made the painful discovery that a gel-filled condom jiggling around inside your pants has a few problems. The latex catches on your pubic hair and can pull it completely out if you move. There is also a build up of heat which can break you out in a heat rash that brings tears to your eyes. Popping the condom inside a cloth bag solves the hair pulling problem but not the heat. I quickly became tired of constant heat rash and tossed the whole lot into a drawer with my sock.

So what have I learnt from all of my experiences? Yes, it would be nice to stand at the urinal like the other guys but my life wouldn't end if I can't. And yes it would be lovely to have a great bulge to show off to other men but they won't think any less of me without one. As for sex, well other parts of me are far more talented (with lots more stamina) than any dick I can think of. What I had first thought of as a need to have a dick (therefore making me a man) is really nothing more than a want. And we don't always get what we want. My gender is not made from a bulge in my pants, it is made from what is between my ears and from the way I behave. Being a "self-made" man means I can make myself into the sort of man I can be proud of and not ruled by my genitals. I am man-conscious not dick-conscious. It makes me a better person, I think.

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