



General questions

What's so good about a trailer?

With a good trailer you can; carry more, take it further, feel less tired and do less damage to your bike and than if you had carried the load any other way. Trailers are safe, easy to pack, convenient to hitch, and light to walk around with. See "why trailers" for more?

And what's so good about yours?

They're beautiful, functional and crafted. We have spent year's making them as perfect as is possible. They stand in the field of their own, judge them for yourself; visit www.workbike.org for a comprehensive overview. We like Chariot, Weber, and Radical trailers as well.

I don't carry that much by bike, could I still use one?

Generally cyclists don't carry that much by bike because it's not easy or convenient. Once you own a trailer it becomes practical to use the bike to carry everyday items, and so you use it more and more. As you adjust you will stop bearing loads on your body and let the trailer do it for you. Until you owned a computer you had no use for one but now you depend on it. The flexibility of a trailer allows you to take many items you would otherwise transport by car, bus, train or on foot. A trailer is another carrying choice.

Do trailers slow the bike down?

Yes but not as much as panniers. Trailers are the most efficient way to carry by bike. They offer low wind resistance, are good at conserving momentum, and have a negligible increase in rolling resistance relative to an equivalent pannier set or rucksack. See "trailer science" for more information.

Will a trailer make my bike handle badly?

No, your bike will remain responsive and nimble. However, if you have a one wheel trailer or a trailer that hitches at the seat post then yes, they can cause your bike handling problems. See "Trailer science" for more information.

Is it difficult to learn to ride with a trailer?

No. It's very easy, just take corners slightly wider, maintain your brakes, pedal smoothly and practice.

When should I use panniers?

For loads under about 10kg we would recommend panniers, and for loads under 5kg use a courier bag.

Which bikes can your trailer fit to?

Our bike brackets fit most bikes. For the few that it doesn't fit we make adaptors so it can. The bracket fits to the rear axle stub of the bike by a nut or a quick release.

On road: Two wheels or one?

Two wheel trailers are much better than one wheel trailers on road. They can carry more, are more efficient, and a bike's handling is less affected by them.

Only consider buying one wheel trailers if you carry light loads, and really need to squeeze through traffic. If this is the case you are possibly better with panniers.

Off road: Two wheels or one?

Depends how far off road you go, and what proportion of your cycling with trailers is off road. One wheel trailers are good on narrow paths and side slopes, but a one wheel trailer will want to control and push your bike around. A two wheel trailer will carry more and offers neutral handling, but is not as good through really narrow or rough paths.

I go touring; should I take trailer or panniers or both?

Take a trailer, and if you run out of room then add panniers. Trailers are easier to pack, secure and transport away from the bike. They can carry more, are less tiring, and give you a broader choice of bike. A good trailer is about the same price as a good set of panniers and racks.



What problems are there with trailers?

Dog shit, and bad design. When cycling it is easy not to cycle through dog shit, with a trailer you have another two wheels to remember. Practice by dodging stones, its worth it. Bad designs have given people a wrong impression about trailers. A good trailer is a joy to own, a bad trailer rusts quietly in your garage.

Can I go round the world with a trailer?

The Y-Frame is very durable reliable and robust. The frame is overbuilt and easy to repair if the worst happens. Also it is easy to fabricate spares in out of the way places.

We have a number of trailers on tour in very extreme circumstances and so far they have had no problems.

How easy are your trailers to lock?

Very easy, though the city is better than the Y-Frame and the bArk. The hitch pin can be replaced by a padlock, and a cable or U lock can be passed through the city's frame or the Yframe and bArks wheels. It is also easy to take your trailer with you when you park your bike.

Will my dog be OK in the bArk?

Yes, have a look at our info sheet on how to get your dog comfortable with its new freedom.

Will a trailer take up too much room in my house?

No. Our trailers quickly collapse or fold very flat for storage. The bArk converts into a kennel/dog bed so it earns its space.

How much should I pay for a trailer?

Like any bike product you get what you pay for, it is value for money rather than actual price that is important. In the UK the cheapest trailers are around £80, and the most expensive around £600. Under £150 and you will be getting a cheap trailer that will not last or do the job it claims to be capable of. Our trailers range in price from £180 upwards, and they have a variety of options and accessories to suit most budgets. They are built to last, offering excellent form function and value.

My friend has a trailer he says it "tugs" at his bike, explain?

Some people find when they are cycling with a trailer they experience a pulse or a tug from the trailer. Basically when you cycle you speed up and slow down slightly, every time you turn your pedal cranks. This is not noticeable until a trailer is attached. A heavy trailer has a strong desire to keep going at a steady speed. It tries to force the bike to also go at this steady speed. You experience this as pulsing. This is temporary; a cyclist will very quickly adapt their pedalling to maintain a constant speed and the pulsing will vanish. Cycling smoothly is a good thing to learn, it's less tiring.

What's the craziest trailer you have built?

We have built a hearse, a trailer for a yacht, and a trailer for taxiing a light aircraft. We pass no comment on which is the craziest.

Where do I find out more?

For more information please visit www.carryfreedom.com and go to our download section. Also have a look at some

of our links on our site like www.workbike.org for impartial views. Alternatively please contact us via our email link, or phone us on 845 456 0928 (international +44 (0)1560 600 369)

