## How to Assemble a Beach Cruiser Bicycle

## Introduction

Beach Cruisers are simple bicycles for riding in comfort. This manual includes everything you will need to assemble your newly purchased Beach Cruiser bicycle. Assembling your Beach Cruiser will not be difficult with the easy to follow instructions and graphics. For increased clarity graphic only contain parts relevant to the assembly.

## Preparation

## Tools

Before assembling your Beach Cruiser you will want to make sure you have all of the necessary tools. All of the tools you will need can be purchased at any local hardware store, no special tools are required. Socket Wrench set and Allen wrenches along with slotted and Phillips head screw drivers will be needed. Pictures of the tools are given below.


## Parts of a Bicycle



| Frame | The main structure of the bicycle |
| :--- | :--- |
| Wheels | The part of the bicycle that makes contact with the road |
| Handlebars | Where you place your hands to steer the bicycle and keep it balanced <br> while riding |
| Seat | Where you sit while pedaling |
| Chain | The connection between the pedals and the rear wheel |
| Pedals | Where you place your feet on the bicycle |
| Rear Sprocket | Connects to the chain to spin the rear wheel |
| Fenders | Shields that protect you from debris from the wheels while riding |
| Front fork | A rotating fork that attaches the front wheel and handlebars |
| Axle | The center rod about which each wheel rotates |

## Assembly

## 1. Front Fender

a. Slide the tab on the top of the fender over the brake caliper bolt on the rear side of the front fork.
b. Tighten the nut to secure the fender to the fork. Use two wrenches, one on the bolt and one on the nut, to prevent the bolt from spinning while tightening the nut.


## 2. Front Wheel

a. Align the front wheel's axle in between the two $U$-shaped slots at the ends of the front fork, called dropouts.
b. Make sure the wheel is straight and not touching any other parts of the fork before proceeding. The tire should not touch the inside of the fork or fender.
c. Slide the ends of the supports for the front fender onto the ends of the axle.
d. Tighten the nuts onto the ends of the axles. Use two wrenches, one on each nut, to prevent the axle from spinning while tightening the nuts. If the wheel does not spin freely then the nuts
 are too tight. Loosen until the wheel spins freely.

When this step is finished the front wheel should spin freely without rubbing against any part of the bicycle.

## 3. Rear Fender

a. Screw the end tab of the rear fender to the rear side of the tab on the bottom bracket.
b. Secure the top tab of the fender to the rear brake caliper bolt. Use two wrenches, one on the bolt and one on the nut, to prevent the bolt
 from slipping while tightening the nut.
c. Screw the two supports into the two tabs located above the dropouts on the left side of the bicycle.
d. Repeat the step above for the right side of the bicycle.

## 4. Rear Wheel

a. Prepare the rear wheel for attachment by positioning it so that the sprocket will be on the RIGHT side of the bicycle after assembly.
b. Be careful - The chain will be greased, and chain grease can ruin clothing. Make sure one end of the chain is around the crank (it should already be in this position) and place the loose end of the chain on the rear wheel sprocket. Wash your hands.
c. Slide the lever, called the reaction arm, into place on the LEFT side of the wheel. This lever is very important, without it your brakes WILL NOT work.
d. Align the rear wheel's axle in between the two dropouts at the ends of the rear fork. Make sure the sprocket and reaction arm are inside the fork.
e. Tighten the nuts onto the ends of the axles. Use two wrenches, one on each nut, to prevent the axle from spinning while tightening the nuts. If the wheel does not spin freely then the nuts are too tight. Loosen until the wheel spins freely.
f. Clamp the reaction arm by moving the end of the reaction arm into the clamp on the rear fork and tightening the screw until it is secure.

When this step is finish the rear wheel should spin freely without rubbing against any part of the bicycle. After checking the wheel, test the brakes by pulling the crank backwards and trying to spin the wheel. If the wheel spins freely the brakes DO NOT work. Check your installation and test the brakes again.

## 5. Seat

a. Open the quick release clamp at the top of the seat tube by pulling the lever.
b. There is a post attached to the underside of the seat that fits inside the seat tube. Slide the seat post inside the seat tube on the frame of the bicycle.
c. Adjust the seat so the nose points forward.
d. Adjust the height of the seat by sliding the post up and down the tube. The seat should be at the most comfortable height for you, which for most riders is approximately at waist-level when standing.
e. Loosely fasten the nut on the quick release clamp by hand. Close the quick release clamp to secure the seat post. CAUTION - If the nut has been fastened too tightly, the clamp will not close or the seat post could be crushed.


## 6. Handlebars

a. Slide the stem of the handlebars into the top of the head tube, which is located at the front of the bicycle's frame.
b. Align the handlebars so they are perpendicular to the front wheel. When the wheel is straight, the handlebars should be oriented symmetrically.
c. Tighten the bolt at the top of the stem to secure
 the stem to the front fork. This bolt must be fastened tightly, or the handlebar stem might loosen or become misaligned.
d. Rotate the handlebars to your desired height and tighten the bolt that clamps the stem to the handlebars. The height of the handlebars will determine your posture while riding so make sure they are adjusted to a comfortable position.

Once the handlebars and seat are installed check the positions of them by riding the bicycle. Adjust the positions after riding in order to find the most comfortable configuration.

## Safety

The best way to enjoy your newly assembled bicycle is to do so safely. Always remember to wear a helmet and obey all traffic laws.

