

SOMA FABRICATIONS

Porteur Rack Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of the Soma Porteur Rack. Our rack is designed with versatility in mind. While no rack can fit every bike, we have designed a level of adjustability that will fit most 700c and 26" wheel bicycles. Please read ALL the instructions before starting installation.



FIGURE 1:

General Considerations:

The rack should sit as low as possible just above the fender for best appearance and bike handling. If you are attaching your rack to the fender, we recommend the use of a leather washer between the fender and rack mounting bolt. Note: Mounting the rack to fender is optional and adds a level of complexity to the fit process. The rack platform should be level or tilted a couple of degrees back. It should not tilt forward. Angling it too far back may cause load to interfere with cables or bars. Note: With so many styles and sizes for bikes out there, it is impossible for any rack (even a rack with adjustability) to fit every bike.

Parts List

- A) 1- Rack Body
- B) 4 - Stainless screw M5x 14mm (thread) (built-in washer) with stainless Nylock nut
- C) 1 - Stainless screw M5x 36mm (thread) with stainless nut and washer
- D) 4- Stainless screw M5x 8mm (thread) with stainless washer
- E) 3 - Stainless screw M5 x 5mm (thread)
- F) 2 - Stainless screw M5 x 10mm (thread) with stainless washer
- G) 2 - Stainless screw M6 x 12mm (thread) with stainless washer
- I) 1 - Stepped Rear Tang
- J) 2 - Axle mount plates
- K) 2 - Mid fork stays w/plastic end cap
- L) 2 - Spacer and nut for mid fork stays

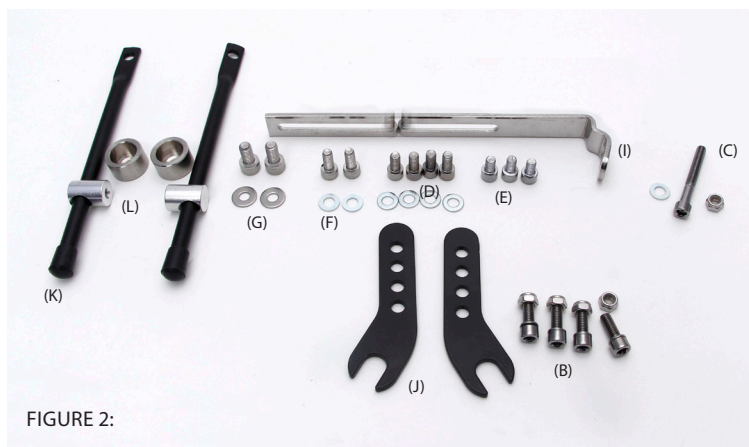


FIGURE 2:

Tools Needed:

- 4 and 5mm hex keys
- 7mm (or adjustable) open wrench

Determining Compatibility and Fit:

The fork must have a drilled crown and an axle and axle to crown distance of 365 to 400mm. Some forks with lugged dropouts may interfere with mounting, but there are workarounds depending on the fork design. Some bicycles with slack head angles or fork offsets above 50mm may have difficulties mounting this rack.

Mounting the Rack:

MOUNTING THE RACK TO THE HUB AXLE:

The axle plates have 4 holes to provide a small amount of height adjustment to your rack. After selecting the correct height of your set-up, tighten the axle plates to the inside of the lower rack tangs with slots facing rearward using the M5x14 screws with Nylock nuts (B). (Use 2 per side. *It is not safe to use just one bolt per side*). (The M5x14 have built-in washers) Loosen your hub quick release (or hub axle nuts if you have a track hub) and slide the rack on. Avoid resting the rack on the QR's springs. Tighten the QR slightly. *If your fork has eyelets at the fork ends, it might be possible to mount the rack to those eyelet instead. See "MOUNTING THE RACK TO FORK EYELETS"*

MOUNTING THE REAR TANG:

The next step is to attach the rear tang to the eyelets underneath the rack. Select the correct one to use.

The Stepped Tang (I) is bikes with a caliper brake equipped bike. The tang should mount in between the brake and the fork crown using the brake mounting bolt. Some bending of the tang may be needed to make it fit correctly.

Attach the tang to the fork with the included M5x36mm bolt, washer, and nut (C). If this bolt is not long enough for your particular fork crown, you will need to source something on your own. If your fork is not drilled, but instead has a fender boss under the fork, you would need to straighten the tang to make it attach to the fender boss.

Then attach the tang to the rack using the M4x 5mm screws and washers (E). Three are included. **For safety use at least 2.**



FIGURE 3: Midfork stays

FIGURE 4:



MOUNTING THE RACK TO MINI RACK BRAZE-ONS OR PANNIER RACK EYELETS

OPTIONAL: The 2nd generation Porteur Rack has an additional mounting point on the mini rack braze-ons that some touring forks have (Fig. 4). Using this mount is **optional**. The rack is safe to use without it. But it does help make the rack stronger and more stable.

Follow the Fig. 3 for hardware order and orientation of the stay. Use the M5 x 10mm screws with washer (F) in this step to attach mid fork stay to rack. Use the M5 x 8mm to attach the stay to the fork. If fork uses M6, a pair of those bolts may be included as well.

MOUNTING THE METAL FENDERS TO BOTTOM OF RACK PLATFORM

Mounting your rack to your fender is an **OPTIONAL** step, but can help to prevent the fender from rattling when going over rough roads. Decide how you will attach the fender struts. The fork's own dropout eyelets are ideal. Having the fenders already attached will make it easier to mount them to the rack.

If your fork does not have eyelets, you can secure it with one of the bolts that attach the axle plate to the rack. If you choose that route, we recommend a slightly longer machine screw, so there is adequate thread engagement. This also means you might have to mount the rack before you completely mount the fenders.

Loosely mount the rack to the axle so it is within a few mm's of the top of the fender. The fourth threaded hole from the rear of the rack is ideal connection point for the fender, if the rear tang doesn't block it. Level the rack and see if that hole lines up with the highest part of the fender. If so, mark the position on the fender, so you can drill a hole that lines up with the hole under the rack. Remove the wheel and fender and drill the hole in the fender at the marked position. Re-install the fender and place a leather washer (optional but reduces rattling) between the fender and the rack. Mount with M5 x 8 screw and washer. (the M5 x 5 screw may be too short.)



FIGURE 5: When mounting to fork eyelets you could turn the axle plates upside down. For smaller wheels, you could just skip using the axle plates.

MOUNTING THE RACK TO FORK EYELETS:

On 26" wheels you can mount the rack directly to the fork eyelets. (Skip the axle plates) On larger wheels you may need to use the axle plates in an upside down position (Fig. 5). Mount the axle plates inverted as shown. Use the M5 x 8mm screw and washer (D) to mount axle plate to fork eyelet. If you are attaching fender struts to the same eyelets, you may need to find a slightly longer machine screw to safely mount.

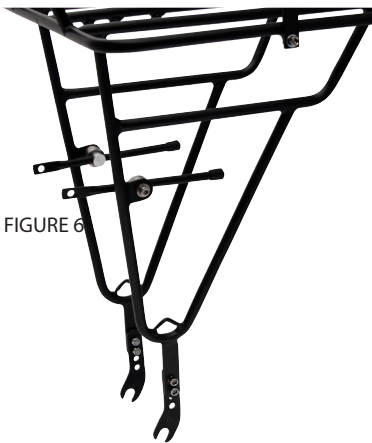


FIGURE 6

MOUNTING THE FENCE:

There is an optional fence (Fig. 6) for our Porteur Rack. It attaches via the four eyelets on the right and left sides of the platform. Bolts come with the fence. Since the rack and fence are constructed by hand and not popped out of the mold, you may need to do a little stretching of fence struts to get all 4 bolt holes to line up. Do not fully tighten any bolt until you get all 4 partially threaded in.

FINISHING UP:

After the rack looks installed in an ideal position for loading, tighten all bolts to 5.5 Newton meters or 45 in. lbs. And clamp down your hub quick-release to manufacturer specs.

Depending on your fork, you may have leftover bolts after you finish. If you have difficulty with any part of the installation process, bring your rack and bike to a professional bike mechanic.

Warnings:

- Do not open your hub quick-release while your rack is loaded. This will put the full load of the rack on your axle which may bend it. Only operate your quick-release with the rack unloaded.
- Riding with any load on the front of your bike will make the bike harder to steer and operate. Some bikes are more adversely affected than others. Be very cautious when you are learning to ride with a front load. Do not ride in traffic until you are comfortable controlling your bike while carrying a front load.
- Do not overload your rack. The rack can handle up to 30 lbs, but many cyclists will have difficulty controlling a load that heavy.
- Be extra careful when carrying a load wider than your rack and handlebars.
- Always strap down your load to prevent it from shifting, swaying or falling off. Do not allow parts of your load to dangle into the wheels or brakes.
- Regularly check bolts for tightness. A loose rack can cause a serious accident.
- Regularly inspect front hub quick-release is tight and the lever is correctly clamped down
- An auxiliary nylon strap ("manny" strap) lashed around the bike and the back of the rack can be an extra layer of safety, in case your rack hardware fails unexpectedly.

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