

SOMA FABRICATIONS

PortFolder Rack (v.2) Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of the Soma PortFolder 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:

FIGURE 2:



General Considerations:

The rack should sit as low as possible just above the fender or tire for best appearance and bike handling. 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 of 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) Height adjustment assembly: Comes pre-assembled on the rack. (Nut and bolt, hook, drilled stay)
- C) 1 - Tongue
- D) 1 - Stainless screw M5 x 36mm (may not fit every fork) (nut may not be included)
- E) 2 - Stainless screw M5 x 12mm with stainless washer and Nylock nut
- F) 2 - Mid fork stays w/plastic end cap
- G) 2 - Nut for mid fork stays
- H) 2 - Larger Spacer for midfork stay
- I) 2 - M5 x 12mm screw
- J) 2 - M5 x 8mm screw w/washer
- K) 2 - M5 x 12mm screw w/washer (Hardware subject to change)

Tools Needed:

- 4mm hex key
- 7mm (or adjustable) open wrench

Mounting the Rack:

MOUNTING THE RACK TO THE FORK DROPOUT EYELETS:

This rack requires your fork to have integrated eyelets at the dropouts or near the end of the fork. First determine how far above the front tire you want the rack. Usually 2cm is adequate. Unscrew the nut and bolt at the (B) Height Adjustment Assembly and move the drilled stay to the achieve the right height and retighten the nut and bolt.

Use the M5 x 12mm bolt (L) with medium washer to attach the rack to the fork eyelets. Tighten lightly.

Determining Compatibility and Fit:

The fork must have a drilled crown and an axle and axle to crown distance of 365 to 410mm. Your fork needs eyelets at the dropouts. Some forks with thick lugged dropouts may interfere with rack mounting, but there are workarounds depending on the fork design. Some bicycles with steep head angles (< 73 degrees) or low rake (<40mm) may have difficulties mounting this rack.

MOUNTING THE TONGUE:

The next step is to attach the tongue to the eyelets underneath the rack platform.

Some bending of the tongue may be needed to make the rack fit optimally.

If your bike has caliper road brakes, you can attach the tongue to the same bolt that attaches the brake to the fork. Just unbolt the brake and thread the bolt through the hole in the tongue. Reinsert the brake bolt back into the fork and see how the Tongue aligns to the rack. Bend it to improve alignment if needed.

If your bike does not have a caliper road brake and has a simple drilled hole in the crown, attach the Tongue to the fork with the included M5x36mm bolt, washer, and nut (D). **If this bolt is not long enough for your particular fork crown, you will need to source something on your own.** The hole at the end of the tongue can fit M5 or M6 bolts. Find the best width and length that fits the fork's crown.

Then attach the tongue to the rack using the 2- M5x 12mm screws and nuts (E). Two must be used for safety.

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

Lift the sides of the platform up to help you get better access to this area

Follow the Fig. 3 for hardware order and orientation of the stay. Use parts G, H, and I to attach mid fork stay(F) to rack(B). Use the M5 x 8mm bolts (J) to attach the stays to the fork's mini-rack braze-ons.

For forks with wider set legs your may need to mount the stays on the outside of the rack.



FIGURE 3: Midfork stays (Parts F to J)



FIGURE 4:

Mini-rack braze-ons

Pannier Rack braze-ons

Because there isn't a standard of fork leg widths we cannot guarantee this will fit your particular fork.

If your fork does not have mini rack mounts, you will still be able to use these stays by purchasing some rack P-Clamps.

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.

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.

An auxiliary nylon strap ("manny" strap) is included and can be lashed around the bike and the back of the rack for an extra layer of safety, in case your rack hardware fails unexpectedly.



FIGURE 5:
Manny Strap

Operating The Folding Platform:

OPENING: Gently lift the "wing" up until it locks into place. Both red buttons should pop out about 1cm when the "wing" is properly engaged. If the red button does not pop out or the hex bolt head on the opposite side does not slide into the curved slot, push the head into the slot. From time to time this area may need a touch of grease to maintain smooth operation.



FIGURE 6: Push both red buttons at the same time to unlock one side of the platform.

CLOSING: Push both red buttons in on one side and gently push down the platform until fully closed. If the button sticks, make sure the wing is in its full upright position.

General Tips:

- This large platform rack is helpful in carry wider items that a standard rack or bar bag can. (a pizza box, a flat box of fruit, etc)
- Fold the platform down if you need more room when parking your bike or want a narrower profile such as when rolling your bike through a crowd or mounting your bike to a bus or car rack.
- Fold down the platform if you want to hook on a small pannier bag. Note: Not all pannier bags have hooks that can be positioned to fit on the rails of the PortFolder.

WARNINGS:

- 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 23 lbs, but many cyclists will have difficulty controlling a load that heavy.
- Do not sit on or place a heavy load solely on the "wings". That can damage the rack and cause a crash.
- 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.
- 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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