## BICYCLES TYPES

## I. BICYCLE TYPES

This list gives an overview of different types of bicycles, categorized by function (racing, recreation, etc.); number of riders (one, two, or more); by construction or frame type (upright, folding, etc.); by gearing (single speed, derailleur gears, etc.); by sport (mountain biking, BMX, triathlon, etc.); by means of propulsion (human-powered, motor-assisted, etc.); and by rider position (upright, recumbent, etc.) . The list also includes miscellaneous types such as pedicabs, rickshaws, and clown bikes. The categories are not mutually exclusive; as such, a bike type may appear in more than one category. The more common types include utility bicycles, mountain bicycles, racing bicycles, touring bicycles, hybrid bicycles, cruiser bicycles, and BMX bikes. Less common are tandems, low riders, tall bikes, fixed gear, folding models, amphibious bicycles, cargo bikes and recumbents . The emerging types are electric bicycles and Public bike sharing Bicycles.

Unicycles, tricycles and Quadra cycles are not strictly bicycles, as they have respectively one, three and four wheels, but are often referred to informally as "bikes" or "cycle

This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by expanding it with reliably sourced entries.
BY FUNCTION
Types of Bicycle


|  | mounting points for attachment of various load-carrying baskets or panniers. It sometimes, though not always, has an enclosed chainguard to allow a rider to pedal the bike in long pants without entangling them in the chain. A well-equipped commuter bike typically features front and rear lights for use in the early morning or late evening hours encountered at the start or end of a business day. |
| :---: | :---: |
| City bike | optimized for the rough-and-tumble of urban commuting. The city bike differs from the familiar European city bike in its mountain bike heritage, gearing, and strong yet lightweight frame construction. It usually features mountain bike-sized (26-inch) wheels, a more upright seating position, and fairly wide 1.5-1.95-inch ( $38-50 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) heavy belted tires designed to shrug off road hazards commonly found in the city, such as broken glass. Using a sturdy welded chromoly or aluminum frame derived from the mountain bike, the city bike is more capable at handling urban hazards such as deep potholes, drainage grates, and jumps off city curbs. City bikes are designed to have reasonably quick, yet solid and predictable handling, and are normally fitted with full fenders for use in all weather conditions. A few city bikes may have enclosed chainguards, while others may be equipped with suspension forks, similar to mountain bikes. City bikes may also come with front and rear lighting systems for use at night or in bad weather. |
| Comfort bike | - Essentially modern versions of the old roadster and sports roadster bicycle,[1] though modern comfort bikes are often equipped with derailleur rather than hub gearing. They typically have a modified mountain bike frame with a tall head tube to provide an upright riding position, 26 -inch wheels, and 1.75 or 1.95 -inch ( $45-50 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) smooth or semi-slick tires. Comfort bikes typically incorporate such features as front suspension forks, seat post suspension with wide plush saddles, and drop-center, angled North Road style handlebars designed for easy reach while riding in an upright position. |
| Flat bar road bikes | - are road bikes fitted with mountain bike-style shifters, brake levers and a flat handlebar. They fit into the continuum between hybrids and road bikes. |
| Cyclo-cross bike | - (also known as "cross bike') - A road bicycle frame similar to a racing or sport/touring bicycle, but with more slack geometry, wider rims/tires and cantilever brakes. This bicycle style was originally intended for racing cyclo-cross. However, due to their robust design, strong brakes and more stable geometry, cyclocross bikes are frequently used as commuting, touring and "all rounder" bicycles. |


| - | are designed for commuting, shopping and running <br> errands. They employ middle or heavy weight frames <br> and tires and they often have internal hub gearing. To <br> keep the rider clean, they often have full front and rear <br> fenders and chain guards. To make the bike more useful <br> as a commuter vehicle, they are often equipped with a <br> basket. The riding position varies from upright to very <br> upright. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Freight bicycles |  |
| Porteur bicycles | Roadster bicycles, Dutch bicycles, European city bicycles |
| Typical 1930s Butcher's Bike |  |


|  | simplicity and ease of maintenance of single-speed mountain bikes. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 29ers | - are mountain bikes that are built to use $\underline{700 C}$ or ISO 622 mm wheels. |
| 27.5 bikes | - are mountain bikes that are built to use 650 B or ISO 584 mm wheels. |
| Downhill bikes | - are a specialized type of mountain bike with a very strong frame, altered geometry, and long travel suspension. They are designed for use only on downhill courses. |
| Freeride | bicycles in this category usually have very strong frames and dual-suspension with travel of six inches and up. They tend to have a shorter wheelbase than downhill bikes but otherwise have very similar geometry and components. Whereas downhill racers tend towards strong and light components, extreme freeriders tend not to worry about weight as much as strength of materials so it can withstand the huge drops and gaps that they typically perform. |
| Fatbikes | - are mountain bikes with very wide, ~3.7 in, tires designed for riding on soft surfaces such as snow and sand. |
| Military bicycles, Swedish military bicycles, Swiss army bicycles | - An aluminum racing bicycle made by Raleigh and built using Shimano components. It uses a semi-aerodynamic wheelset with low spoke count. |
| Racing bicycles | (aka road bicycles) are designed for speed, and the sport of competitive road racing. They have lightweight frames and components with minimal accessories, drop handlebars to allow for a powerful and aerodynamic riding position, narrow high-pressure tires for minimal rolling resistance and multiple gears. Racing bicycles have a relatively narrow gear range, and typically varies from medium to very high ratios, distributed across $18,20,27$ or 30 gears. The more closely spaced gear ratios allow racers to choose a gear which will enable them to ride at their optimum pedaling cadence for maximum efficiency. |
| Time trial bicycles | - are similar to road bicycles but are differentiated by a more aggressive frame geometry that throws the rider into (i.e. "aero") riding position, sacrificing manoeuvrability for aerodynamics. They also feature aerodynamic frames, wheels, and handlebars. |
| Triathlon | - bicycles have seatposts that are closer to vertical than the seatposts on road racing bicycles. This enables a greater contribution from hamstring and gluteus muscles. Triathlon bicycles also have specialized handlebars known as triathlon |


|  | barsor aero bars. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Track bicycles | - intended for indoor or outdoor cycle tracks or velodromes, are exceptionally simple compared with road bikes. They have a single gear ratio, a fixed drivetrain (i.e. no freewheel), no brakes, and are minimally adorned with other components that would otherwise be typical for a racing bicycle. |
| BMX bikes | - are designed for stunts, tricks, and racing on dirt BMX tracks. They have a single gear ratio with a freewheel and are built with smaller frames and wheels with wider, treaded tires. |
| Cruiser bicycles | are heavy framed bicycles designed for comfort, with curved back handlebars, padded seats, and balloon tires. They are also called beach bikes or boulevardiers and are designed for comfortable travel. Cruisers were the bicycle standard in the United States from the 1930s until the 1950s. The traditional cruiser is singlespeed with coaster brakes, but modern cruisers come with three to seven speeds. Aluminum frames have recently been used in Cruiser construction, lowering weight. Cruisers typically have minimal gearing and are often available for rental at beaches and parks which feature flat terrain. |
| Cycle rickshaws | - (also called pedicabs or trishaws) are used to transport passengers for hire. |
| Motorized bicycle | - motorbike, cyclemotor, or vélomoteur is a bicycle with an attached motor and transmission used either to power the vehicle unassisted, or to assist with pedaling. Since it always retains both pedals and a discrete connected drive for rider-powered propulsion, the motorized bicycle is in technical terms a true bicycle, albeit a power-assisted one. However, for purposes of governmental licensing and registration requirements, the type may be legally defined as a motor vehicle, motorcycle, moped, or a separate class of hybrid vehicle. Powered by a variety of engine types and designs, the motorized bicycle formed the prototype for what would later become the motorcycle. |
| Gyroscopic bicycle | - uses a detachable gyroscope in front wheel to make it stable and can be easily ridden by a disabled person. The gyroscopic disk can spin several thousand times per minute and has 3 speeds, the fastest rotation for higher corrective effect of stability. |
| Electric bicycle | allows the rider the choice of pedaling or 'coasting'; the bicycle being propelled by an electric motor, which is frequently incorporated into the front or rear hub. Some electric bicycles allow these two functions to be carried out simultaneously, and some motors will match the power the rider has contributed through the pedals; this type of e-bike more commonly known as a Pedelec (pedal electric). Electric bicycles primarily use lead-acid or lithium-ion batteries. |


| Railbikes | - ride on rails. |
| :---: | :---: |
| III. BY SPORTS |  |
| Flatland rider on a BMX bike |  |
| ROAD RACING BICYCLES |  |
| Time trial bicycles | - are road bicycles with an aerodynamic features that are not permitted when the racers ride as a group, such as aero bars and a disk rear wheel. |
| Triathlon | - bicycles have seatposts that are closer to vertical than the seatposts on road racing bicycles. This enables a greater contribution from hamstring and gluteus muscles.[4] Triathlon bicycles also have specialized handlebars known as triathlon bars or aero bars. |
| Track bicycles | - are ultra-simple, lightweight fixed-gear bikes with no brakes, designed for track cycling on purpose-built cycle tracks, often in velodromes. |
| Path Racers | - are an antique type of track bicycle. |
| Cyclo-cross | - bicycles are lightweight enough to be carried over obstacles, and robust enough to be cycled through mud. |
| $B M X$ (bicycle motocross) | - bicycles have small wheels and are used for BMX racing, as well as freestyle with tricks such as wheelies. Freestyle BMXers often ride dirt jumps and skatepark ramps, or in street-style BMXing where a rider navigates through a course of stairs and metal rails. |
| MOUNTAIN BIKES |  |
| Cross Country bikes | - (or XC bikes) are mountain bikes with a light frame, with a front or full suspension. They are designed for long courses and marathons. |
| Downhill bikes | - (or DH bikes) are a specialized type of mountain bike with a very strong frame, altered geometry, and long travel suspension. They are designed for use only on |


|  | downhill courses. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Freeride | (or FR) bicycles in this category usually have very strong frames and dual-suspension with travel of six inches and up. They tend to have a shorter wheelbase than downhill bikes but otherwise have very similar geometry and components. Whereas downhill racers tend towards strong and light components, extreme freeriders tend not to worry about weight as much as strength of materials so it can withstand the huge drops and gaps that they typically perform. |
| Enduro | - bicycles are a middle category between Downhill and Cross Country bicycles. This type of bicycle usually has a strong but lighter frame, and dual-suspension with travel between four to seven inches. |
| Trials bicycles | - designed for trials riding, often without regard for attaching a seat. |
| Artistic cycling bikes | - are used to perform tricks (called exercises) for points in a format similar to ballet or gymnastics. |
| IV . BY FRAME DESIGN |  |
| penny-farthing | - An old-fashioned penny-farthing or ordinary has one high wheel directly driven by the pedals and one small wheel. |
| dwarf bicycle | - Adwarfbicycle has a chain-driven front wheel, exemplified by the Kangaroo. |
| upright bicycle | - On an upright bicycle, also called a safety bicycle, the rider sits astride the saddle. |
| recumbent bicycle | On a recumbent bicycle the rider reclines or lies supine. Recumbent bicycles (also 'bents) are designed to maximise comfort and minimise wind resistance, because the rider in a supine or semi-supine position. Whereas most of the other types of bicycle in this section are designed around a 'diamond frame' geometry, where the pedals and chainset are located at the bottom of the bicycle and handlebars are at the front, recumbent bicycles (recumbents) generally use a "boom" and rear triangle combination with the pedals and chainset located at the front of the boom and the handlebars are located either "over seat" or "underseat" in the center. |
| prone bike | - On a prone bike the rider lies in a prone position. |
| crank forward | - A crank forward bicycle has the rider upright with the pedals far enough forward that the rider can reach the ground with his or her feet without getting off the saddle. |
| Pedersen bicycle | - A Pedersen bicycle has a bridge truss frame. |
| folding bicycle | - A folding bicycle can be quickly folded for easy carrying, for example on public transport. |
| small wheel bicycle | - A small wheel bicycle, such as a Moulton Bicycle, has a traditional seating position and small wheels |
| portable bicycle | - A portable bicycle, such as a Strida, is a folding bicycle |


|  | that is small and light enough to be easily carried afoot or in a cramped vehicle. |
| :---: | :---: |
| exercise bicycle | - An exercise bicycle remains stationary; it is used for exercise rather than propulsion. |
| Step-through frame | - A Step-through frame is a type of bicycle frame, often used for utility bicycles, with a low or absent top tube or cross-bar |
| V. BY MATERIAL |  |
| bamboo bicycle | - A bamboo bicycle has a frame made of bamboo. |
| cardboard bicycle | - A cardboard bicycle is made of cardboard. |
| lugqed steel bicycle | - A lugged steel bicycle has a frame made of steel. |
| plastic bicycle | - A plastic bicycle was an attempt in the early 1980 s to introduce a bicycle made entirely out of plastic materials instead of metal. |
| wooden bicycle | - A wooden bicycle has a frame made out of wood. One example is the Chukudu used in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. |
| carbon bicycle | - A carbon bicycle is made of carbon fiber. |
| titanium bicycle | - A titanium bicycle has a frame made of titanium |
| VI. BY RIDER POSITION |  |
| ElliptiGO users stand up on a seatless treadle bicycle <br> - Upright bicycle <br> - Recumbent bicycle <br> - Crank forward <br> - Sideways bike <br> - Prone bike |  |
| VII. BY NUMBER OF RIDERS |  |
| Two people riding a Sociable |  |


|  | - Most bicycles are designed for a single rider <br> - Bikes with child seats or single-child trailers can carry an adult and a child <br> - Bikes with double child trailers can carry an adult and two children <br> - A Sociable has two riders side by side. <br> - A tandem or twin has two or more riders behind each other. <br> - A triplet has three riders; a quadruplet has four. <br> - Some bicycles carry more riders: for example, the Conference Bike carries seven, the Busycle carries fifteen, and party bikes can carry up to 17 people. <br> - The largest multi-bike had 40 riders. <br> - In most of these types the riders ride one behind the other (referred to as tandem seating). Exceptions are "The Companion", or "Sociable," a side-by-side twoperson bike (that converted to a single-rider) built by the Punnett Cycle Mfg. Co. in Rochester, N.Y. in the 1890s. On the Conference Bike, riders sit in a circle facing each other. On the Busycle, the captain faces forwards, one row of stokers faces left, and one row faces right. |
| :---: | :---: |
| VIII. BY NUMBER OF WHEELS |  |
| Drivetrains | While not strictly bicycles, these devices share many features such as drivetrains and other components with bicycles. <br> - Hydrocycles have no wheels, but they use bicycle cranks, and pedals. Some use bicycle chains and sprockets. <br> - Unicycles have only one wheel, and they use bicycle wheels, tires, cranks, and pedals. Some use bicycle chains and sprockets. <br> - Tricycles have three wheels. <br> - Velomobiles have three wheels and are enclosed for aerodynamic advantage and protection from weather and collisions. <br> - Cycle rickshaws (also called pedicabs or trishaws) have three wheels and are used to transport passengers for hire. <br> - Quadracycles have four wheels. <br> - Conference Bikes and party bikes have four wheels. |
| IX. BY TYPE OF STEERING |  |
| - Two-wheel steering <br> - Sideways bike <br> - Swing Bike <br> - Rear-wheel steering <br> - Center steering |  |


| - Reverse steering |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| X. BY MEANS OF PROPULSION |  |
| A treadle bicycle from 1925 <br> - A human-powered transport uses only human power |  |
| pedal cycle | - A pedal cycle, commonly known as a bicycle is driven by legs and feet on pedals |
| handcycle | - A hand-cranked bicycle or handcycle is driven by arms and hands |
| rowing cycle | - A rowing cycle is driven by a rowing action using both arms and legs |
| treadle bicycle | - A treadle bicycle is driven by a reciprocating, not rotary, motion of the feet |
| bucking bike | - A bucking bike (with one or more eccentric wheels) |
| balance bicycle | - A balance bicycle (a kind of velocipede) and a Footbike use Flintstone power, as the rider pushes themselves along with one or both feet on the ground. |
| caster board | - A caster board or a Trikke is driven forward by pushing a wheel approximately perpendicular to the direction of travel |
| amphibious bicycle | - An amphibious bicycle has paddles and wheels to facilitate operation on both land and water |
| motorized bicycle | - A motorized bicycle provides motor assistance. (Not to be confused with motorcycles or electric motorcycles and scooters.) |
| electric bicycle | - An electric bicycle is primarily propelled by the rider; although this is assisted by the use of an electric motor, usually located in the hub of the front or rear wheel. The electric motor is powered by a battery which is secured to the frame. These are available in various technologies including lead acid, nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion and lithium polymer. Many of these are not classed as a motor vehicle, but as a bicycle if they comply with UK and European regulations |
| moped | - A moped propels the rider with a motor, but it usually includes bicycle pedals for human propulsion. |
| XI. BY GEARING |  |


| Main article: Bicycle drivetrain systems |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| crankset | - The majority of bicycles transmit power from the crankset to the drive wheel with a bicycle chain |
| Derailleur gears | - Derailleur gears, featured on most racing and touring bicycles, offering from 5 to 30 speeds <br> - Shimano XT rear derailleur on a mountain bike |
| Single-speed bicycles | - Single-speed bicycles and fixed-gear bicycles have only one gear, and include all BMX bikes, many children's bikes, city messenger bikes, and many others. The fixed gear has no freewheel mechanism, so whenever the bike is in motion the pedals continue to spin. The pedals can, or sometimes must, be used to slow down |
| Internal hub gearing | - Internal hub gearing is most common in European utility bicycles, usually ranging from three-speeds to eight speeds, however hub gears with fourteen (Rohloffdrive) or eighteen (Pinion-drive) speeds are also available. |
| Retro-Direct bicycles | - Retro-Direct bicycles have two sprockets on the rear wheel. By back-pedalling, the secondary, usually lower, gear is engaged. |
| Chainless bicycles | - Chainless bicycles, either shaft-driven bicycles or beltdriven bicycles use a driveshaft or a belt-drive, respectively, rather than a chain to power the rear wheel. These are often used as commuter bikes because they eliminate inconveniences associated with chains and pant-legs, but shaft-driven bicycles are less efficient than chain-driven bicycles. Chainless bicycles are either single-speed, or employ internal hub gearing |
| Hydraulic bicycle | - Hydraulic bicycle (and pneumatic bicycle) use a fluid. |
| rowed bikes | - Some rowed bikes use a cable or a linkage |
| Stringbike | - Stringbike uses a wire rope and pulley drive system. |
|  |  |
| XII. SOME BICYCLES ARE DEFINED BY THEIR APPEARANCE ( BY STYLE ) |  |
| Art bikes | Art bikes are built so that the frame appears to be made of junk or found objects: Bongo the Clown built several ridable parade bikes which were as much kinetic sculptures as transport |
| Dekocharis | Dekocharis are a form of art bike indigenous to Japan dating |


|  | back to the mid-1970s |
| :---: | :---: |
| Lowrider bicycles | Lowrider bicycles are highly customized bikes with a long wheelbase and styling inspired by lowrider cars |
| Scraper bikes | Scraper bikes are ordinary bicycles that have been modified by their owners, typically with decorated spokes with candycolored pinwheels and matching body and wheel colors, using tinfoil, re-used cardboard, candy wrappers and paint |
| Chopper bicycles | Chopper bicycles are highly customized bicycles whose design, construction and style is similar to that of chopperstyle motorcycles |
| Huck bikes | Huck bikes or Extreme Freeride bicycles are highly customized bicycles whose design, construction and style is similar to that of motocross-style motorcycles. With an heavily reinforced frame, with very long travel suspensions (more than 200mm / 8" in the front fork, and rear suspension), large tires (more than $2.5^{\prime \prime} \times 26$ " or 24 ") <br> The 2005 Giant Innova is an example of a hybrid bicycle. It has 27 speeds and disc brakes for wet-weather riding |
| Clown bicycles | Clown bicycles are designed for comedic effect or stunt riding. Some types of clown bicycles are: - <br> - Bucking bike (with one or more eccentric wheels) <br> - Tall bike (often called an upside-down bike, constructed so that the pedals, seat and handlebars are all higher than normal)-other types of tall bikes are made by welding two or more bicycle frames on top of each other, and running additional chains from the pedals to the rear wheel. <br> - Come-apart bike, (essentially a unicycle, plus a set of handlebars attached to forks and a wheel). <br> - Reverse-steering bike, in which rotation of the handlebars is transmitted to the front wheel through a pair of interlocking cogs, so that turning to the left steers the bike to the right.[11] <br> - Sideways bikes are bikes ridden sideways with the rider steering both wheels. <br> Clown bikes are also built that are directly geared, with no freewheeling, so that they may be pedaled backwards. Some are built very small but are otherwise normal. |

