

# Mountain Hardtail Thru Axle

Quick Start Guide



Applies to: Trail, Cujo, Fat CAAD

**cannondale**

## Welcome to the Cannondale family.

First up, thank you for buying a new Cannondale bike – we’re excited to have you on board and to get you out riding as soon as possible. Our new assembly process is easy-to-follow – using methods outlined in this guide to assemble your new Cannondale at home, plus it’s even easier to do so with a friend. Our guide will take you through the simple steps from start to finish – you can also follow along with a how-to video, as you build your bike, just visit: **ridersupport@cannondale.com**

If you still have any questions, then our Cannondale rider support staff are ready to help you. Feel free to give us a call at **1-800-245-3872 (BIKE USA)**.

Also, when your new bike is all assembled and ready to ride, we’d love to check it out – please don’t forget to tag #ridecannondale in your social media. Enjoy the ride!



### WARNING

This is a Quick Start Guide, not an Owner’s manual.

Bicycling is an active sport with inherent risk. A wide range of injuries are possible. Due to the nature of bicycle riding, the situations you encounter while riding, you will be exposed to the risk of serious injury, paralysis or death. This risk cannot be eliminated. You can minimize the risk in many ways. Begin by reading the complete Cannondale Bicycle Owner’s manual accompanying this bike and available online at [www.cannondale.com](http://www.cannondale.com), particularly section “IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION”.

## The 4 major steps to getting your bike ready to ride.



## Getting your bike ready for assembly.

This video applies to one Cannondale Platform:

- Trail, Cujo, Fat CAAD

## Let's get your bike out of the box.

- First, locate the staples on the top of the box and carefully remove them with a screwdriver. Use caution: the staples are sharp.
- Push the hand flaps from the inside to the outside of the box. This will make removing the bike easier.

Inside the box, you'll find a smaller box of parts, necessary tools, documentation and manuals. Once the bike is assembled, but before you ride, please read the owner's manual.

- Carefully lift the bike out of the box and set it onto the top of the box.
- Remove the front wheel from the bike by carefully removing the zip ties or Velcro. Then, remove all packaging from the wheel and set it aside.
- Remove all additional packaging from the bike, letting the handlebar gently hang from the frame.
- Carefully lift and rotate the bike, lowering it gently back into the box with the fork overhanging the box side. The stem should be pointing forward and the disc brake caliper should be on the left (non-drivetrain) side of the bike.

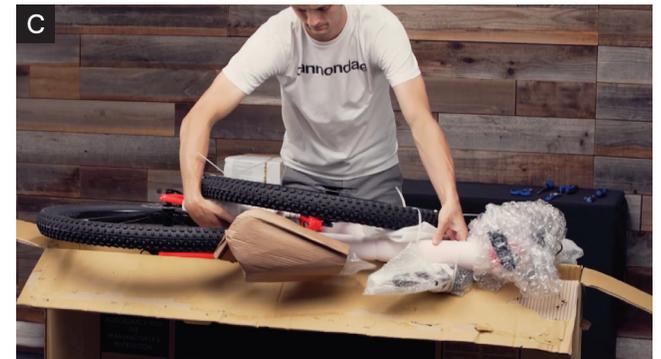


### Tools Needed:

- Flat-Head Screwdriver
- Phillips-Head Screwdriver
- Box Cutter
- Scissors

### Tools Included:

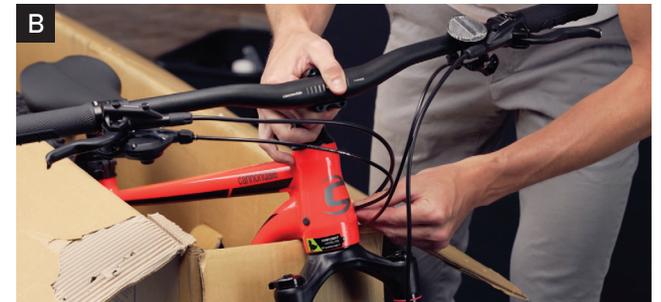
- Torque Wrench
- Allen Keys
- Pedal Wrench



Gently lift your bike out of the box and set it on top of the box. Make sure the attached wheel is facing upwards

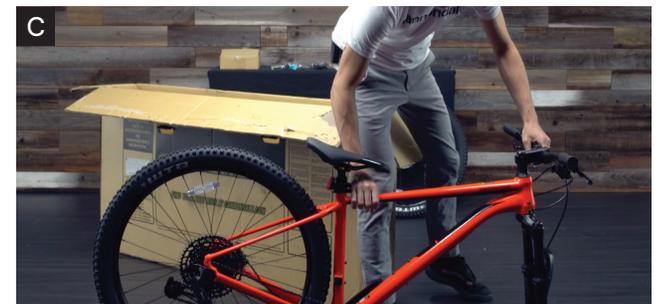
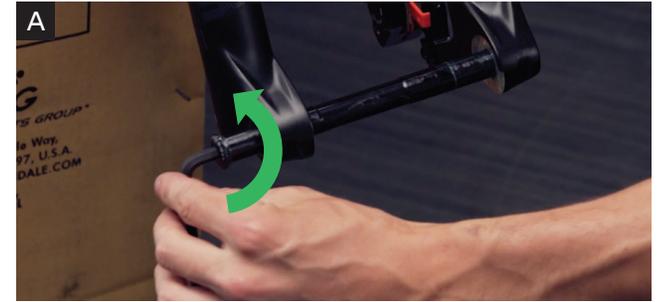
## Step 1. Install your handlebars.

- A.** Using an Allen wrench, loosen and remove the four bolts and faceplate from the stem. The stem connects the handlebar to the fork. Set the bolts and faceplate aside together, so you don't lose anything.
- B.** Insert the handlebar into the stem and verify the hoses and cables wrap around the frame cleanly, without kinks to any of the lines.
- C.** Loosely reattach the faceplate to the stem. Take care to not tighten one bolt more than another. Your goal is a consistent gap between the stem and faceplate from top to bottom.
- D.** Center the handlebar in the stem using the markings on the bar, then roll it back into a comfortable position. Hand-tighten the stem bolts using the Allen key, ensuring there's an even gap between the stem and faceplate. You will fully tighten these later.



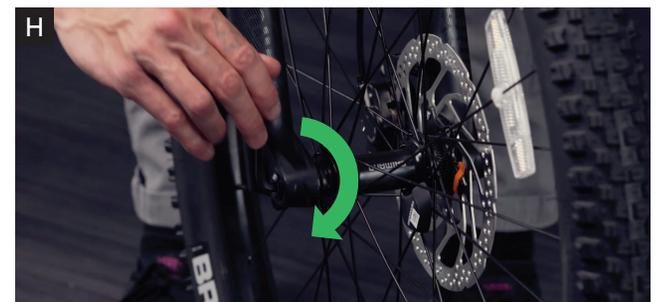
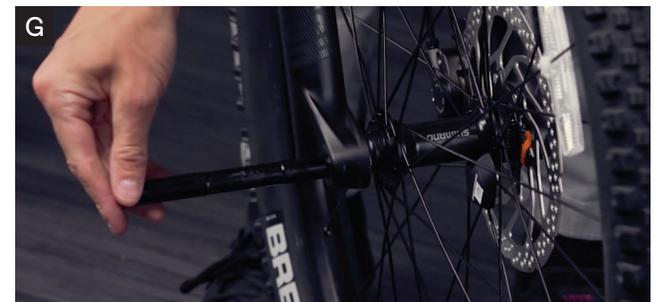
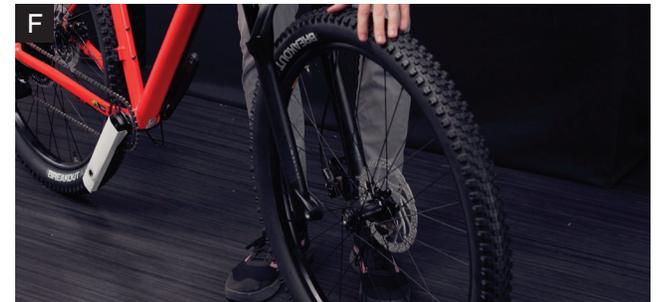
## Step 2. Install the front wheel.

- A. Unthread and remove the thru-axle from the fork and place it on a clean surface.
- B. Remove the front brake pad spacer from the brake caliper. Take care not to pull the front brake lever without the pad spacer or brake rotor present in the brake caliper.
- C. Carefully lift the bike out of the box and gently lower the fork onto the ground.
- D. A thru-axle is basically a bolt that secures your wheel to the bike. To tighten, simply insert the hex wrench and rotate clockwise, or “righty tighty”.



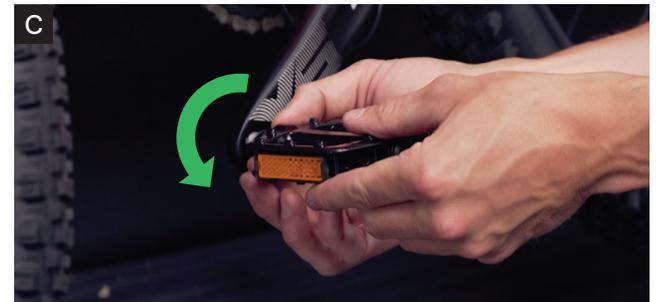
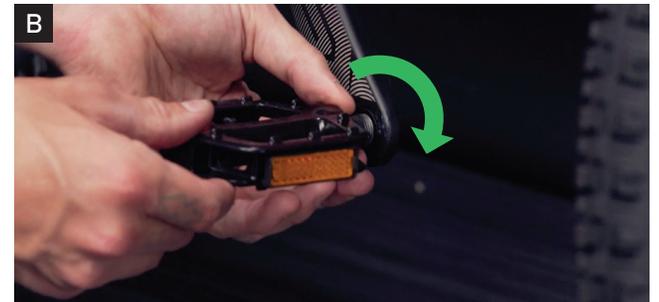
## Step 2. Install the front wheel.

- E.** Identify the disc brake rotor side of the front wheel. Orient the wheel so the disc brake rotor is on the left side – the same side as the front brake caliper on the fork.
- F.** Gently lift the front of the bike and roll the front wheel back into the fork dropouts, taking care to guide the disc brake rotor into the brake caliper.
- G.** Insert the thru-axle from the right/drivetrain side of the fork.
- H.** Use a 6mm hex wrench to firmly tighten the thru-axle. When properly tightened, the wrench should leave a mark on your hand.
- I.** Remove any remaining packaging from the bike.



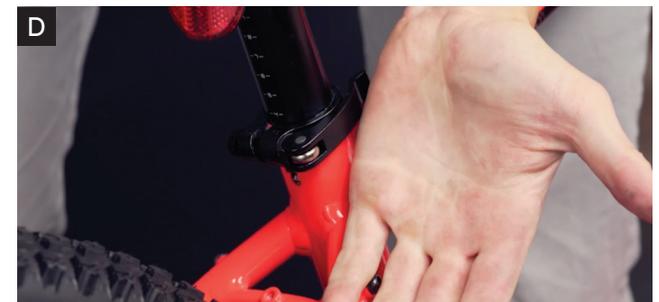
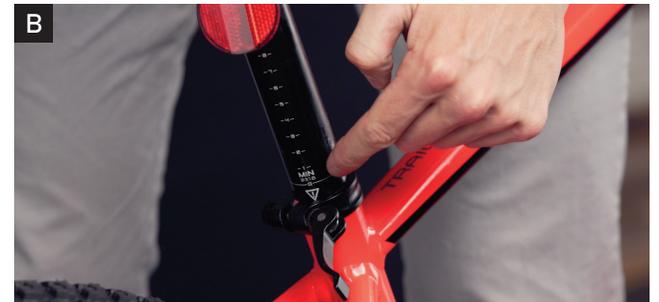
## Step 3. Install your pedals.

- A.** Install your chosen pedals by turning the pedal spindle in the direction of the front wheel.
- B.** Insert the right pedal (marked with R on the spindle) into the crank and tighten with your fingers.
- C.** Repeat with the left pedal (with an L on it).
- D.** Tighten both pedals down very firmly using the provided pedal wrench.



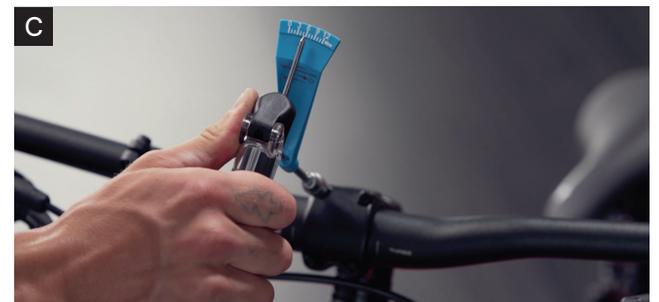
## Step 4. Set your saddle height.

- A. To set saddle height, first verify the dropper seatpost is fully extended.
- B. Loosen the seat collar and pull the seatpost out to expose the minimum insertion line. The seatpost needs to be inserted into the frame beyond this line.
- C. Raise the saddle to roughly the point of your hip.
- D. To tighten the seatpost quick release, tighten the adjusting nut until the lever is hard enough to close that it leaves a mark, or imprint on the palm of your hand.
- E. When riding, you should have a slight bend in your knee when the pedal is at the bottom of its rotation.



## Some final pre-ride checks.

- A. Torque Bolts.** Select the correct bit and install it into the torque wrench.
- B.** Look for torque specification markings on the front and back of the stem. If these markings are absent, torque all bolts to 7 Nm.
- C.** Torque the stem faceplate bolts in an “X” pattern, ensuring the gap between the stem body and faceplate is consistent at the top and bottom.
- D.** Once you’ve found your correct dropper seatpost height, you may have some excess cable slack. Gently pull the dropper post cable from the handlebar toward the front of the bike to take out the additional slack.



## Some final pre-ride checks.

- E. Reflectors.** Ensure the rear reflector is pointing straight back, and the front reflector points straight ahead, perpendicular to the ground. Tighten both reflectors with a screwdriver.
- F.** Gently pull the wheel reflectors toward the rim to ensure they are braced by the spokes.
- G. Brake Check.** Confirm the front and rear brakes engage when the levers are squeezed.
- H.** The brake lever and handlebar should not come into contact with the brakes fully engaged.



## Some final pre-ride checks.

- I. **Twist Checks.** Secure the front wheel between your legs and turn the handlebar. If the handlebar and wheel move independently, the stem bolts are not tight enough. Use the torque wrench and correct bit to properly torque the bolts.
- J. Attempt to rotate the handlebar forward and backward in the stem. If it moves, the stem faceplate bolts are not tight enough. Use the torque wrench and correct bit to torque the faceplate bolts to specification, using the same “X” pattern as before.
- K. Grab the front and back of the seat and attempt to tilt it on the seatpost head. It should not move.
- L. **Wheel Engagement.** Before you ride, tighten the front and rear thru-axles until the wrench leaves a mark, or imprint on your hand.



## Some final pre-ride checks.

**M. Tire Pressure.** Inflate the tires to the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure, marked on the tire sidewall.

**N. Set Suspension.** Review all suspension and dropper post documentation prior to riding to ensure the setup is correct.



**Welcome to the family.**



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