

Mountain Hardtail Quick Release

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, particularly section “IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION”.

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



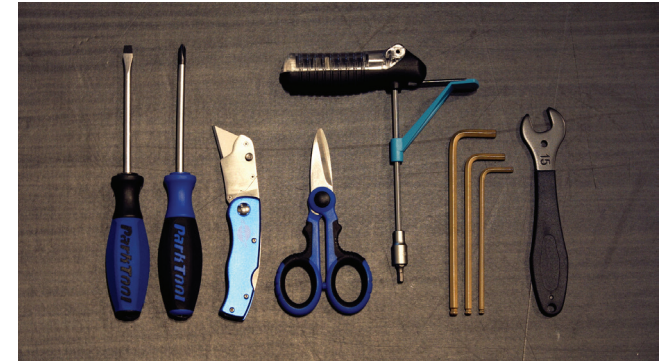
Getting your bike ready for assembly.

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. Remove the small parts box and seatpost/saddle assembly and set them aside.
 - 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.

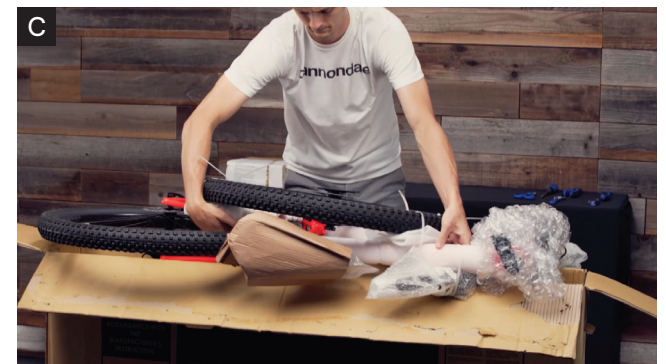


Tools Needed:

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

Tools Included:

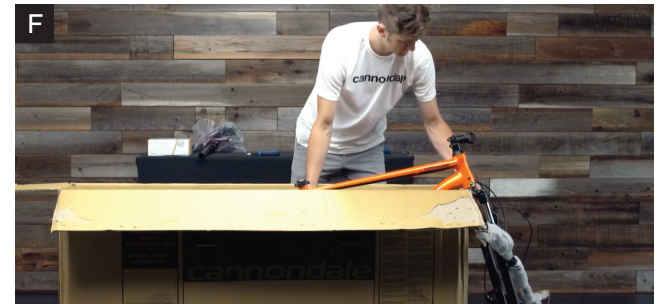
- Torque Wrench
- Allen Keys
- Pedal Wrench



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

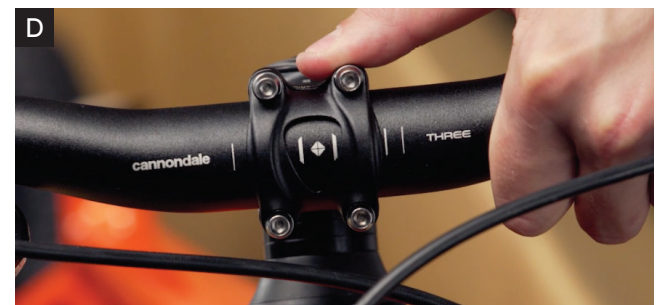
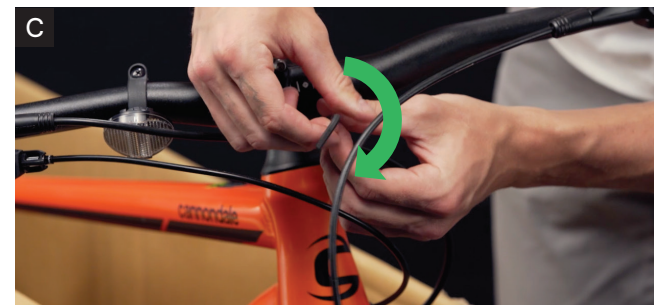
Let's get your bike out of the box.

- E.** Remove all additional packaging from the bike, letting the handlebar gently hang from the frame.
- F.** 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.
- G.** Locate your warranty card and set it aside with your owner's manual.



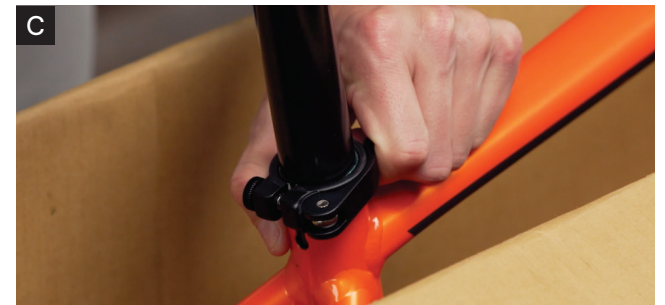
Step 1. Install your handlebars.

- A.** Using the included Allen wrench, loosen and remove the 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 brake hoses and shift 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.
- D.** Center the handlebar in the stem using the markings on the bar, then roll it back into a comfortable position.
- E.** Hand-tighten the stem bolts using the Allen key, ensuring there's an even gap between the stem body and faceplate at both the top and bottom of the stem. You will fully tighten these later.



Step 2. Install your seat post.

- A. Open the quick-release seat clamp.
- B. On the seatpost, locate the minimum insertion line. Insert the seatpost into the frame past this line.
- C. To tighten the quick-release seat clamp, open the lever, then tighten the adjusting nut until the lever is hard enough to close that it leaves a mark, or impression on your hand.
- D. Carefully lift the bike from the box and gently place the fork ends on the ground.



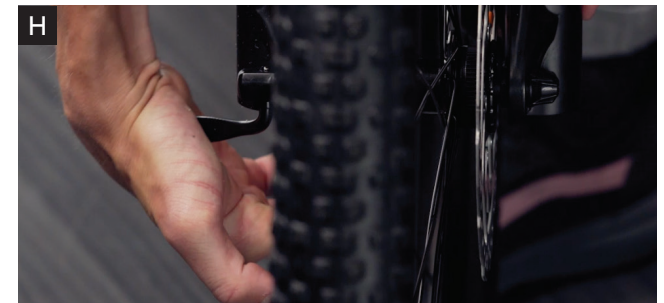
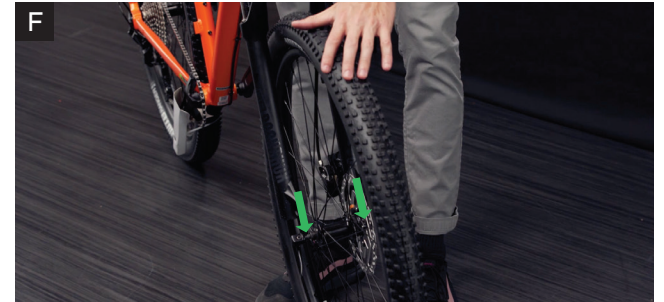
Step 3. Install your front wheel.

- A.** The quick release skewer is comprised of five major parts: two conical springs; an adjusting nut; the skewer; and the lever head. Review the documentation included with the quick release skewer for more information.
- B.** Unthread and remove the adjusting nut and the neighboring conical spring from the skewer.
- C.** While holding the quick-release skewer by the lever head, insert the skewer into the wheel axle on the opposite side of the disc brake rotor.
- D.** Place the conical spring back onto the skewer with the narrow end pointing toward the wheel, then thread on the adjusting nut enough to engage the springs on both sides.
- E.** Remove the disc brake pad spacer. Take care not to pull your front brake lever while the pad spacer or disc brake rotor is not present in the brake caliper.



Step 3. Install your front wheel.

- F.** When installing the wheel, make sure the brake rotor is on the same side as the brake caliper on the fork. Lift the front of the bike and roll the wheel backward into the fork dropouts, making sure the rotor goes in-between the brake pads.
- G.** While holding the lever head of the skewer, begin tightening the adjusting nut in a clockwise direction. Remember, “righty tighty”.
- H.** Close the lever. If you don’t feel significant tension when the lever is closed, open the lever and continue tightening the adjusting nut until adequate tension is achieved. When properly tightened, the lever should leave a mark in your hand.
- I.** Make sure the quick-release lever is positioned behind the fork leg.



Step 4. Install your pedals.

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



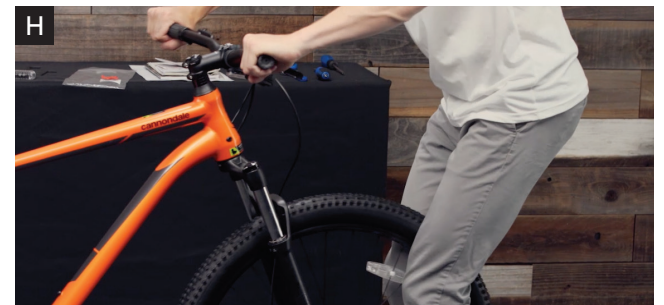
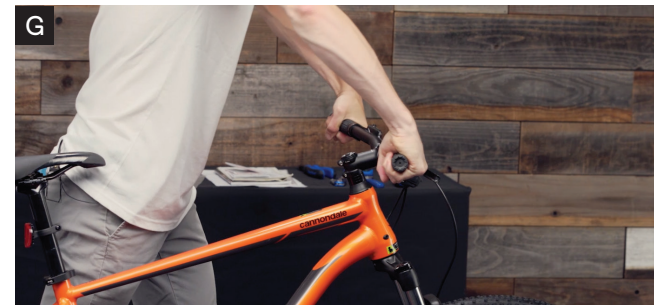
Some final pre-ride checks.

- A. Seat Height.** Adjust seat height by loosening the seatpost collar. Standing next to the bike, position the saddle so it's the same height as your hip. Align the saddle with the frame and tighten the seatpost clamp.
- B.** When riding, you should have a slight bend in your knee when the pedal is at the bottom of its rotation.
- C. Torque Bolts.** Select the correct bit and install it into the torque wrench. Look for the torque specification markings on the front and back of the stem, as well as the seatpost. If these markings are absent, torque all stem, seatpost and seat collar bolts to 7 Nm.
- D.** Confirm the handlebar is centered and at the correct angle, then torque the stem bolts in an "X" pattern to the specified value, ensuring the gap between the faceplate and stem body remains even from top to bottom.



Some final pre-ride checks.

- E. Twist Checks.** To tighten the quick-release seat lever, open the lever and tighten the adjusting nut until the lever is hard enough to close that it leaves a mark on your hand.
- F.** Grab the front and rear of the seat and attempt to tilt it on the seatpost head. It should not move.
- G.** 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.
- H.** 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.



Some final pre-ride checks.

- I. Wheel Engagement.** Confirm front and rear wheel quick releases are tight. When tightened properly, the lever will leave a mark, or indentation on the palm of your hand.
- J. Brake Check.** Confirm the front and rear brakes engage when the levers are squeezed.
- K.** The brake lever and handlebar should not come into contact with the brakes fully engaged.
- L. 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. Gently pull the wheel reflectors toward the rim to ensure they are snugly braced by the spokes.
- M. Tire Pressure.** Inflate the tires to the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure, which is marked on the tire sidewall.



Welcome to the family.



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