



PadLoc™ FAQs

1) Why did you guys do this?

Simple. Last year Jason Moeschler, one of our Team WTB riders and also WTB's Global OEM Sales Manager, broke his back during practice at EWS Winterpark from a slipped grip. It is really not ok that grips slip and that people are still ok with them slipping. So, Jason and our product development team made a grip that cannot slip. It really cannot. Turns out, it's incredibly comfortable too.

2) I have expensive carbon bars, the last thing I want to do is jeopardize the strength of my bar by performing the PadLoc cut modification.

We have done repeated ASTM drop tests on carbon bars we have modified with the PadLoc Park Tool adapter (SGI-7). The results actually improve once you modify the bar because grips no longer slip inward and expose the end of the handlebar – instead the entire end of the grip (and inner sleeve) continues to protect the handlebar from impact.

3) My lock on grips don't slip, I just tighten my lock ring clamps real tight.

At 2014 EWS Crankworx alone, we counted 6 snapped handlebars from this very method of "preventing" traditional lock on grips from slipping on traditional round bars. 6 bars, that's not ok. The more aggressive the terrain, the more grips seem to need to be over-tightened. With the amount of carbon bars out there, this could produce a widespread problem in a high stakes area of the bike – your cockpit.

4) How do I modify the handlebars I have?

Park Tool is releasing the SGI-7 in January 2016. It's an insert that pops right into the Park SG 7.2 Adjustable Saw Guide, which most shops already have. We recommend you take your bike to your shop where they can modify your bar with the SGI-7.

5) I'm a shop, how do I modify a customer's bar?

With the Park SGI-7 (available January 2016 from Park Tool) inserted into the Park SG 7.2 Adjustable Saw Guide (the one that fits in a vice) you have the ability to make an angled cut. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions here: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#), and the PadLoc handlebar cutting video here: [Cutting Guide Video](#).

6) How are PadLoc grips supposed to be oriented? It looks like the PadLoc Wedge could be rotated either forward or backward toward the rider.

We tested these on different riders with different preferences and different setups. Everybody prefers the Wedge (the wedge shaped, different color portion of PadLoc grips) pointed straight upward. There is a lot of rubber on the end of PadLoc grips so you will still feel the comfort benefits even if your hands are rotated further backward or forward.

7) Why are you forcing another standard on us?

We are not. You can modify your existing bar. We are not ok with grips slipping, even if it hasn't yet happened to you, it happens to many riders regardless of riding style, size, ability, type of bar or bike. This prevents that slippage, it also is far more comfortable, and considering how complicated bikes become, this is a relatively simple fix to a high stakes problem – loss of control from the cockpit of your bike.

8) I want PacLoc grips before the Park SGI-7 is available in January 2016.

January 2016 is when the first batch of PadLoc grips, and Park cutting tools will arrive.

9) Can I modify my existing bars now?

No, you cannot modify your bars without the Park Tool SGI-7 and Park Tool 7.2 Adjustable Saw Guide. WTB only recommends having a shop perform the appropriate cut. The Park Tool SGI-7 should be available in January 2016.

10) Is there a way to make cuts without having to make marks on handlebars?

The top of the handlebar must be marked, either manually, or by way of pre-installed PadLoc markings. If the handlebar does not have PadLoc markings pre installed, you must follow the PadLoc handlebar cutting instruction guide found here: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . Future handlebars from SRAM / Truvativ will ship with PadLoc markings pre-printed on the handlebar, even round handlebars that are uncut. For directions on how to cut pre-marked, or un-marked handlebars for PadLoc, please view the instructional video here: [Cutting Guide Video](#) and read the full PadLoc handlebar cutting instruction guide here: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) .

11) When I get new handlebars, I trim the width to be narrower, how do I do this with the PadLoc design?

Easy, you cut the bar to the width you want, then you perform the PadLoc angled cut as explained in the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions, which can be found here: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#), or in the PadLoc handlebar cutting demonstration video, found here: [Cutting Guide Video](#). Cutting handlebars or modifying them to the width that riders prefer isn't a new concept, angling the cut is the new part.

WTB STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU CHECK WITH THE BAR'S MANUFACTURER BEFORE MAKING ANY MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ALTER THE PERFORMANCE OR

SAFETY OF THE BAR IN ANY WAY. DOING SO MAY ALSO VOID ANY MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY.

12) Do PadLoc grips feel any different?

Yes. It's one of those things that you have to ride. Once you've ridden a set, you're spoiled. You can actually press into the handlebar with your palm as you're lining up a turn, your hands and forearms somehow don't feel so beat up or arm pumped after a long descent, your palms just don't hurt, and, of course, your grips don't slip. The list goes on, you really have to try them.

13) Can I use other grips once I've cut my bar for PadLoc grips?

No, once you've cut a bar for PadLoc grips, you cannot use any other type of grip.

14) Are there other PadLoc grips than what I've seen?

We are always working on new stuff, so there's always stuff coming.

15) What is retail on a set of PadLoc grips?

\$34.95 USD

€ 29,95

16) Are there any handlebar makers offering Pre-Cut PadLoc Handlebars?

Yes, SRAM is offering Truvativ Clementz Carbon 750mm 31.8 bars that already have PadLoc cuts made and ship with our WTB Commander 30mm PadLoc grips in the box. Additionally, SRAM is offering Truvativ Boobars in alloy in a 780mm width in a 31.8 clamp diameter also with WTB Commander 30mm PadLoc grips. Both options are currently available from SRAM, the Clementz bar ships with black / green grips, the Boobar ships with black / grey grips.

17) I currently ride slide on silicone/foam grips. These are very comfortable. Why would I choose PadLoc over my current silicone/foam grips?

We agree that Silicon/Foam grips are very comfortable. The design of the PadLoc grip is very different. A Silicone/Foam (or any current grip on the market) is regulated by inner handlebar diameter, and maximum outer grip diameter. The grip can only be so thick before it becomes too big for your hand to comfortably grasp, and if you make it too thin, it is not comfortable at all. Standard grips have a limit to how much padding and shock absorption they can offer. The PadLoc grip design is going to be noticeably more comfortable than any other grip because the PadLoc system actually modifies the outside of the handlebar, removing material from the bar, which allows extra rubber to be layered right underneath the highest pressure point on the grip. For comparison, a very thick Silicone/Foam Grip measures 8mm thick. The thinnest PadLoc grip (ThinLine) offers 16.9mm of padding on the outside

of the grip, and the thickest PadLoc grip (Clydesdale) offers 19.4mm of padding at the outside of the grip.

- 18) I use hairspray to secure my slide on rubber/Silicon/Foam grips, and I never have an issue with my grips slipping. Why would I benefit from PadLoc?

Hair spray does not hold when riding in wet conditions. Riders in the Pacific North West, or the UK can confirm this. If you are a rider that rides every day, in dry conditions, you are correct, your standard slide on grips likely won't slip if applied with hairspray or other adhesive, and PadLoc's anti slip benefit does not apply to you. The benefit that you will be missing from PadLoc is the massive amount of added comfort at the outside of the handlebar, right underneath the Ulnar nerve.

- 19) It looks dangerous to cut my handlebar at the specified angle for PadLoc. It seems like the handlebar could stab through the grip.

We have performed the ASTM drop test on multiple types (riser/flat), materials (Carbon/Aluminum/Steel) and brands. In every case, PadLoc grips did not allow the handlebar to protrude from the end of the grip. PadLoc grips performed far better in the ASTM drop test than any standard grip using a plastic bar plug, and PadLoc also outperformed all dual clamp lock on grips. The only existing grip that offers a comparable amount of handlebar protection as PadLoc is a Single clamp loc on grip with a hard plastic end.

- 20) It looks like the PadLoc grip is multiple pieces, which can be replaced individually.

There are two pieces to the PadLoc grip: 1. The Inner Lock Ring, and 2, the main grip.

- 21) My dual clamp loc on grips feel really comfortable to me. Why would I change to PadLoc?

With a dual clamp lock on grip, the outside of your hand is resting on metal. There are some variations of a dual clamp grip. Some add a thin layer (around 1-2mm) of rubber on top of the outer metal lock ring, which helps, but not much. The PadLoc grip offers, in the place of a metal outer lock ring, 16.9mm-19.4mm of rubber padding. We have yet to see a rider test PadLoc grips, and then be able to go back to their standard favorite grip.

- 22) My single clamp loc on grips feel plenty comfortable. Why would I change to PadLoc?

Single clamp loc on grips (utilizing an inner metal lock ring) have very limited comfort because of three factors: 1. Handlebar diameter. 2. Inner nylon skeleton thickness 3. Desired outer grip diameter. There simply isn't enough room on a single clamp lock on grip to get a good amount of outer layer rubber thickness. Yes, the outside of a single clamp loc on grip is more comfortable than a dual clamp lock on grip, but you are still only getting a max of 2-3mm of outer layer rubber thickness under your hand, compared to PadLoc's 16.9mm – 19.4mm of outer rubber thickness.

23) I use Ergonomic grips, and I love them. Why would I benefit from PadLoc?

Ergonomic style grips are more comfortable than current grips on the market. They relieve pressure on the ulnar nerve, and in general, make riding more pleasant. The big problem with Ergon grips is that they slip forward and backward on the handlebar very easy because of the increase grip surface area and leverage that you have on the grip with your hands. It is pretty much impossible, from our experience, to secure an ergonomic grip to the handlebar without slipping, which makes them a very bad choice. PadLoc grips offer an equal, or even better amount of comfort to the hand, and eliminate the slipping of the grip.

24) Can I install a PadLoc grip on a handlebar which is not cut for PadLoc?

No! To install a PadLoc grip, you must use either a pre-cut PadLoc handlebar, or a round handlebar which has been cut for use with PadLoc grips, following the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#) .

25) I cut my handlebars to work with PadLoc grips, but I want to make sure the cut dimensions are correct. Where can I find PadLoc handlebar cut dimensions?

Please refer to the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions, page using the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#).

26) I have a handlebar that was cut for PadLoc grips, but now I need to install a standard dual clamp/single clamp/slip on grip onto my handlebar. What do I do?

Once you have made the PadLoc handlebar modification, you cannot install a standard grip. You must purchase a replacement handlebar which is not cut for PadLoc grips.

28) I work at a bike shop. I have the Park SGI-7 and Park SG-7.2 tools. I cannot figure out how to clamp the tool into the bench vise. The SGI-7 seems to want to slip out of the SG-7.2.

You have not clamped the tool correctly into the bench vice. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) for instruction on how to correctly clamp the Park SGI-7 and SG-7.2 into your bench vice. You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#) .

29) I work at a bike shop. The handlebar is inserted into the SGI-7, but the SGI-7 will not press all the way into the SG-7.2 cutting guide.

Unscrew (all the way) the tube clamp on the SG-7.2. The tube clamp is screwed in too far, which is blocking the path of the handlebar during the insertion of the SGI-7.

30) My SGI-7 is pressed into the SG-7.2. I am now trying to insert my bar into the SGI-7, but it won't go in all the way. What is the problem?

Unscrew (all the way) the tube clamp on the SG-7.2. It is likely the tube clamp is interfering with being able to press the handlebar into the SGI-7. Also check the SGI-7 tension bolt, by removing the SGI-7 from the SG-7.2. Loosen the SGI-7 enough to allow the handlebar to slide all the way into the final stop on the SGI-7. Then tighten the SGI-7 fixing bolt that the handlebar can not twist or rock within the SGI-7. At this point, you can re-insert the SGI-7 into the SG-7.2. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#).

31) I have performed the PadLoc handlebar cut. I notice that there are some rough edges at the very end of the handlebar. Can I leave these rough edges, or do I need to remove them?

Depending on the quality of your bench vise, Park tools, hacksaw blade, and your skill with the hacksaw, it is possible that the finished cut will be left with some rough edges at the very outside of the handlebar. You can use a file (for aluminum or steel bars) or sandpaper (for Carbon bars) to remove the rough edge. For instructions on how to remove the rough edge, Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#). You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here

32) I started cutting my bar using the Park SGI-7 and SG-7.2. The blade has started cutting the bar, but now the hacksaw blade is stuck. I cant push it forward, pull it back, or pull it up. What is wrong?

There are two potential issues:

1. The SG-7.2 is clamped too tight in the vise, which has reduced the cut slots width as the blade works deeper into the bar. Reduce the bench vice clamp tension.
2. Its possible that you started cutting with too much down force on the hack saw blade, which would make the blade slide down the handlebar, away from the SGI-7 tool, before it begins to cut. This will force the blade to bind between the SG-7.2 cut slot, and the cut in the handlebar, and will likely bend the hack saw blade beyond the point of repair. To remove the blade, loosen the vice, and pull the hacksaw out of the cutting jig. Remove the blade from the hacksaw, and install a fresh blade. Re-install the SG-7.2 into the bench vise, and start the cut again, but be very light on the blade, ensuring that your cut is started as close to the SGI-7 as possible. The rest of the cut will go correct once the start has been corrected, and the finished cut will be correct. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#).

33) I am cutting a carbon handlebar with a carbon hack saw blade. My hacksaw blade will not fit into the SG 7.2 cut slot. What is wrong?

There are two potential issues:

1. You are using the narrower aluminum cut slot. The carbon blade will not fit in this slot. Move the SGI-7 to the other side of the SG-7.2, which has the wider, carbon cut slot. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here [Cutting Guide Video](#).
2. You have clamped the SG-7.2 too tight in your bench vise. Release clamp force on the bench vice, which will open the cut slot. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#).

34) I cut my Aluminum bars using the SGI-7, the SG-7.2, and a metal hack saw blade. The cut is not straight. There is a bit of a wave in the middle of the cut. What is wrong and how can I fix it?

1. You most likely used the aluminum blade in the carbon cut slot. The carbon slot is much wider than the aluminum slot, which allows the aluminum blade to wobble throughout the cut. Move the SGI-7 and your handlebar to the narrow, aluminum cut slot side of the SG-7.2, and re-start your cut. If there is not enough bar left to start your cut, remove the SGI-7 from the SG-7.2. With your bar still clamped in the SGI-7, clamp the SGI-7 in the bench vice with the cut end of the handlebar facing up. You can use a flat file to file the bar flush. The file job will be complete when the handlebar angled surface is flush with the SGI-7. Please view the PadLoc handlebar cutting instructions in the following link: [Cutting Instructional Guide](#) . You can also view a video demonstration of how to perform the PadLoc handlebar cut here: [Cutting Guide Video](#).