



FreeLander Leather Handle Bar Grip Installation Instructions

Thanks for choosing **FreeLander Grips** for your bicycle. We hope they meet or exceed your expectations for appearance and performance.

PRE-INSTALLATION

Removal of current grips

Loosen brake lever and shifter and push toward stem as far as necessary. Since most levers slide over the bar from the cap end, there will be no opportunity to install levers once the grips are in place. To remove existing grips easily, apply some hairspray or soapy water between the grip and the bar by gently lifting the grip with a thin utensil of some sort (e.g. small screwdriver, old spoke, etc). Do not use a lubricant or solvent to remove the grip. Alternatively, if they are no longer needed you can cut them off with a utility knife.



Clean the bar thoroughly with alcohol or soapy water to remove any residue. Use a scouring pad or extra fine steel wool if the residue warrants.



Sizing your *FreeLander Grips*

With the tape still covered, place the grip over the bar to estimate fit. Depending on your hand size and the length of grip segment of the bar, you may need to cut your grips or move brake levers/shifters further along the bar toward the stem. If you need to cut the grip, measure carefully the length required.



Cutting (if necessary)



You will need a straight edge, utility knife (with a new blade) and a cutting board. Place the grip finished (coloured) side up on the board. Place the straight edge equal distance between the pair of holes on either side of the grip closest to the desired measurement. (If possible leave an even number of holes on each side. This makes lacing slightly easier.)

Hold the utility knife blade firmly against the straight edge applying a moderate pressure as you cut. This is usually sufficient to cut the grip with one pass. If not, repeat until the grip is cut through.

Softening Leather & Placing grips on bar

Many leather producers suggest wetting the grips prior to wrapping. This loosens the fibres and helps prevent cracking if the leather has lost moisture. This is important with our red and blue grips, and also benefits our Monte Carlo leather as well. To moisten the grips, submerge in warm water for 2-3 minutes. Remove from water and use a towel to remove excess water.

Prior to removing the protective tape strip, place each grip on the bar to determine fit and location. The *FreeLander* logo should be located at the end of the handlebar (nearest the plug) and facing the rider so it can be read. The holes for the grips are generally placed directly underneath the bar or slightly to the front. Placing the holes slightly to the front puts the laces directly under the fingers and affords the rider a greater feel for the grip laces.

Depending on the diameter of the bar, the grip edges should meet under the bar. On slightly larger diameter bars there could be a several millimetre gap. In either case, the laces will keep, or pull, the edges together once laced. When you have fitted the grip peel the protective strip from the two-sided tape and press the grip firmly in place as when dry-fitting. Squeeze the grip around the bar, to ensure good adhesion and alignment of the grip.



LACING

Bar position: I find it most comfortable to position the handle bar so that the lacing holes are directly in front of me. To do this I often loosen the bolt holding the bar in position and rotate the bar up or down for easy lacing (figure 1).

Notes: For the easiest lacing, cut each aglet (lace tip) at 45 degrees using a sharp utility knife and cutting board. This will give a nice clean, sharp point that passes through the holes much easier (figure 2).

Lacing: The best and most familiar method of lacing is the over and under pattern. To start count the number of holes along one side of the grip. If you have not cut the grips, there will be 16 holes per side. **If you have an even number of holes...**

1. Start at the end closest to the stem. Insert the ends of the lace through the first pair of holes from the outside to inside. Pull the lace ends through until the lace ends are even (figure 3).
2. Take one lace and thread it through the next hole on the opposite side from inside to outside (figure 4: It doesn't matter how the laces cross at this point).
3. Take the other lace and thread it through the next hole on the opposite side from inside to outside and continue with the same lace to the next (third) hole on the opposite side (inside to outside). (Figures 5&6.)



4. Repeat the previous step until half to 2/3 of the grip is laced (figures 7-9).

- Return to the beginning and tighten the laces by pulling on the lace emerging from the second set of holes. Using your fingers and thumbs work the lace until it is snug across the first holes (figure 10). Continue snugging the lace until it is tightened in the threaded holes (figure 11). Finish lacing the remainder of the grip as before (step 4 & figure 12).



- Once the end is reached, tighten the lace in the remaining holes as before. Tie an overhand knot and pull tight. Create a reef (square) knot by tying a second overhand knot as in figure 16. Tuck the excess lace in the bar end and insert bar end plug and your done!
- Of course, don't forget to return your handle bars to their normal riding position and rerun and tightened the grace levers and shifters as well!

