# **USER MANUAL**



# **CONTENTS**

1. INTRODUCTION	.1
1.1. INTENDED USE	1
1.2. WARRANTY	1
2. GENERAL NOTES ABOUT ASSEMBLY	. 2
2.1. TOOLS / TORQUE SPECS	3
3. GENERAL NOTES ABOUT MAINTENANCE	. 3
4. SPECIFICATIONS	. 4
4.1. GEOMETRY	4
4.2. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (COMMON PARTS)	6
4.3. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (MECHANICAL COMPATIBLE FRAMES)	
4.4. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (S-WORKS MODELS)	6
5. BRAKE/SHIFT ASSEMBLY	.7
5.1. FRONT DERAILLEUR HANGER INSTALLATION (S-WORKS ONLY)	7
5.2. SHIFTING - ELECTRONIC WIRED SYSTEM	10
5.3. SHIFTING - MECHANICAL SYSTEM (MECHANICAL COMPATIBLE MODELS ONLY)	12
5.4. DISC BRAKES	14
6. SEATPOST ASSEMBLY	. 15
7. FORK / STEM ASSEMBLY	. 17

SPECIALIZED BICYCLE COMPONENTS 15130 Concord Circle, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 (408) 779-6229 0000149312\_UM\_R2, 03/21

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

This user manual is specific to your Specialized Aethos bicycle. It contains important safety, performance and technical information, which you should read before your first ride and keep for reference. You should also read the entire Specialized Bicycle Owner's Manual ("Owner's Manual"), because it has additional important general information and instructions which you should follow. If you do not have a copy of the Owner's Manual, you can download it at no cost at www.specialized.com, or obtain it from your nearest Authorized Specialized Retailer or Specialized Rider Care.

Additional safety, performance and service information for specific components such as seatpost or pedals on your bicycle, or for accessories such as helmets or lights, may also be available. Make sure that your Authorized Specialized Retailer has given you all the manufacturers' literature that was included with your bicycle or accessories. If there is a difference between the instructions in this manual and the information provided by the component manufacturer, please refer to your Authorized Specialized Retailer.

When reading this user manual, you will note various important symbols and warnings, which are explained below:



WARNING! The combination of this symbol and word indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in serious injury or death. Many of the Warnings say "you may lose control and fall." Because any fall can result in serious injury or even death, we do not always repeat the warning of possible injury or death.



indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury, or is an alert against unsafe practices. The word CAUTION used without the safety alert symbol indicates a situation

CAUTION: The combination of the safety alert symbol and the word CAUTION

The word CAUTION used without the safety alert symbol indicates a situation which, if not avoided, could result in serious damage to the bicycle or the voiding of your warranty.



INFO: This symbol alerts the reader to information which is particularly important.



GREASE: This symbol means that high quality grease should be applied as illustrated.



CARBON FRICTION PASTE: This symbol means that carbon friction paste should be applied as illustrated to increase friction.



TORQUE: This symbol highlights the correct torque value for a specific bolt. In order to achieve the specified torque value, a quality torque wrench must be used.



TECH TIP: Tech Tips are useful tips and tricks regarding installation and use.

#### 1.1. INTENDED USE

The Specialized Aethos bicycles are intended and tested for High Performance Road Riding use only (condition 1). For more information on intended use and structural weight limits for the frame and components, please refer to the Owner's Manual.

#### 1.2. WARRANTY

Please refer to the written warranty provisions provided with your bicycle, or visit <u>www.</u> <u>specialized.com</u>. A copy is also available at your Authorized Specialized Retailer.

# 2. GENERAL NOTES ABOUT ASSEMBLY

This manual is not intended as a comprehensive assembly, use, service, repair or maintenance guide. Please see your Authorized Specialized Retailer for all service, repairs or maintenance. Your Authorized Specialized Retailer may also be able to refer you to classes, clinics or books on bicycle use, service, repair, and maintenance.

- Tire sizes vary significantly from brand to brand. CEN standards require a minimum of 6mm of clearance between the frame/fork and the tires. When choosing a wheel and tire combo, factor in enough clearance for the conditions, setup and wheel flex.
- The Aethos frames use a 68mm standard BSA threaded design. Grease the threads. Install and torque according to the bottom bracket manufacturer's instructions.
- Before installing the bottom bracket and crank, make sure all housings and wires are routed through the frame.

The Aethos frame is available in two frame configurations, 12R (S-Works models) and 10R (all other models).

The 12R frames are compatible with electronic shifting systems only. A custom backing plate is required to mount the front derailleur hanger. Information specific to 12R frames is covered in section 5.1 (highlighted in BLUE).

The 10R frames are compatible with electronic or mechanical shifting systems. Information specific to mechanical shifting system installation is covered in section 5.3 (highlighted in PURPLE).



WARNING! Never modify your frame or components in any way. Do not sand, drill, file, or remove parts. Do not install incompatible forks or components. An improperly modified frame, fork, or component, can cause you to lose control and fall.

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In order to successfully build the Aethos bicycle, it is very important to follow the order of operations as outlined in this manual. Modifying the order of assembly will result in a longer build process.

Assembly of the front end of the bicycle is easiest with the rider's fit already determined (the steerer tube doesn't need to be cut at this time, it can stick out the top of the stem), prior to routing all the housings and wires through the frame and fork.

To determine fit, it is recommended to use a fit tool. If this is not possible, perform a basic assembly of the wheels, drivetrain and front end components, without the brakes and housings. Once the fit is complete, all the components will have to be removed in order to route the housings and wires.

WARNING! Due to the high degree of complexity of the Aethos, proper assembly requires a high degree of mechanical expertise, skill, training and specialty tools. Therefore, it is essential that the assembly, maintenance and troubleshooting be performed by an Authorized Specialized Retailer.

WARNING! Many components on the Aethos, including, but not limited to, the handlebars and the stem, are proprietary to the Aethos. Only use originally supplied components and hardware at all times. Use of other components or hardware will compromise the integrity and strength of the assembly. Aethos specific components should only be used on the Aethos and not on other bicycles, even if they fit. Failure to follow this warning could result in serious injury or death.

CAUTION: Do not face the bottom bracket shell! This can prevent proper installation of the crank. Your Specialized frame does not require any bottom bracket shell pre-installation preparation, as all surfaces have been precisely machined to specific tolerances at the factory for proper interface with a compatible crankset. Please refer to the manufacturer instructions for crank and bottom bracket installation.

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CAUTION: Always use a bottom bracket equipped with a sleeve between the two cups. Running a bottom bracket without the sleeve can result in housings and/or wires contacting the bottom bracket spindle, which can result in wear.

#### 2.1. TOOLS / TORQUE SPECS

WARNING! Correct tightening force on fasteners (nuts, bolts, screws) on your bicycle is important for your safety. If too little force is applied, the fastener may not hold securely. If too much force is applied, the fastener can strip threads, stretch, deform or break. Either way, incorrect tightening force can result in component failure, which can cause you to lose control and fall.

Where indicated, ensure that each bolt is torqued to specification. After your first ride, and consistently thereafter, recheck the tightness of each bolt to ensure secure attachment of the components. The following is a summary of torque specifications in this manual:



CAUTION: Ensure that all contact surfaces are clean and bolt threads are greased or have a threadlocking compound (refer to the instructions for each bolt) prior to installation.

The following tools are required for installation of this product:

	2, 2.5,	3, 4,	5,	6mm	socket-style	Allen	key bits
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- Torque wrench
- High-quality grease
- Cable housing cutters
- Carbon assembly compound (fiber paste)
- Blue threadlocker

# **3. GENERAL NOTES ABOUT MAINTENANCE**

The Aethos is a high performance bicycle. All regular maintenance, troubleshooting, repair and parts replacement must be performed by an Authorized Specialized Retailer. For general information regarding maintenance of your bicycle, please refer to the Owner's Manual. In addition, routinely perform a mechanical safety check before each ride, as described in the Owner's Manual.

- Great care should be taken to not damage carbon fiber or composite material. Any damage may result in a loss of structural integrity, which may result in a catastrophic failure. This damage may or may not be visible in inspection. Before each ride, and after any crash, you should carefully inspect your bicycle for any fraying, gouging, scratches through the paint, chipping, bending, or any other signs of damage. Do not ride if your bicycle shows any of these signs. After any crash, and before you ride any further, take your bicycle to an Authorized Specialized Retailer for a complete inspection.
- While riding, listen for any creaks, as a creak can be a sign of a problem with one or more components. Periodically examine all surfaces in bright sunlight to check for any small hairline cracks or fatigue at stress points, such as welds, seams, holes, and points of contact with other parts. If you hear any creaks, see signs of excessive wear, discover any cracks, no matter how small, or any damage to the bicycle, immediately stop riding the bicycle and have it inspected by your Authorized Specialized Retailer.
- Lifespan and the type and frequency of maintenance depends on many factors, such as frequency and type of use, rider weight, riding conditions and/or impacts. Exposure to harsh elements, especially salty air (such as riding near the ocean or in the winter), can result in galvanic corrosion of components such as the crank spindle and bolts, which can accelerate wear and shorten the lifespan. Dirt can also accelerate wear of surfaces and bearings. The surfaces of the bicycle should be cleaned before each ride. The bicycle should also be maintained regularly by an Authorized Specialized Retailer, which means it should be cleaned, inspected for signs of corrosion and/or cracks and lubricated. If you notice any signs of corrosion or cracking on the frame or any component, the affected item must be replaced.
- Regularly clean and lubricate the drivetrain according to the drivetrain manufacturer's instructions.

- Do not use a high pressure water spray directly on the bearings. Even water from a garden hose can penetrate bearing seals and crank interfaces, which can result in increased bearing and crank wear, which can affect the normal function of the bearings. Use a clean, damp cloth and bicycle cleaning agents for cleaning.
- Do <u>not</u> expose the bicycle to prolonged direct sunlight or excessive heat, such as inside a car parked in the sun or near a heat source such as a radiator.

WARNING! Failure to follow the instructions in this section may result in damage to the components on your bicycle and will void your warranty, but, most importantly, may result in serious personal injury or death. If your bicycle exhibits any signs of damage, do not use it and immediately bring it to your Authorized Specialized Retailer for inspection.



# **4. SPECIFICATIONS**

	4.1. GEOMETRY						
	FRAME SIZE 49 51 54 56 58 61						61
Α	STACK (MM)	514	527	544	565	591	612
В	REACH (MM)	375	380	384	395	402	408
С	HEAD TUBE LENGTH (MM)	109	120	137	157	184	204
D	HEAD TUBE ANGLE (°)	71.75	72.5	73	73.5	73.5	74
Е	BB HEIGHT (MM)	266 268					
F	BB DROP (MM)	7	4	72			
G	TRAIL (MM)	63	5	58 55 5			52
Н	FORK LENGTH, FULL (MM)			30	69		
Т	FORK RAKE/OFFSET (MM)	4	7		4	4	
J	FRONT CENTER (MM)	T CENTER (MM) 574 577 579 591 606		606	613		
К	CHAINSTAY LENGTH (MM)			4	10		
L	WHEELBASE (MM)	973	975	978	991	1005	1012
М	TOP TUBE LENGTH, HORIZONTAL (MM)	508	531	540	562	577	595
Ν	BIKE STANDOVER HEIGHT (MM)	776	800	818	839	866	894
0	SEAT TUBE LENGTH (MM)	431	462	481	504	532	567
Р	SEAT TUBE ANGLE (°)	75.5	74 73.5 73				73



#### 4.2. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (COMMON PARTS)

The S-Works models are compatible with electronic shifting only (wired or wireless). All other models are compatible with electronic or mechanical shifting systems.

	PART #	DESCRIPTION	TOOL SIZE	in-lbf	Nm	
Α		FRAME				$\square$
В		FORK				
С	S201900005	*FRONT DERAILLEUR (FD) HANGER	2.5mm	18	2.0	
D	S201900002	RUBBER FD BLOCK OFF PLATE				
Е	S206000001	REAR DERAILLEUR (RD) HANGER	4mm	40	4.5	
F	S174700006	SEAT COLLAR	4mm	55	6.2	
G	S204900004	SEATPOST (FRONT RAIL CLAMP BOLT)	4mm	27.4	3.1	
U	3204900004	SEATPOST (REAR RAIL CLAMP BOLT)	4mm	55	6.2	
Н	S186800006	Di2 BATTERY SLEEVE				
1	S200200010	FRONT AXLE	6mm	133	15.0	
J	S200200011	REAR AXLE	6mm	133	15.0	
К		WATER BOTTLE	3mm	25	2.8	
L	S179900013	CABLE HOUSING FERRULE				
М	S202500013	STEM TOP CAP	4mm			
Ν		HEADSET COVER				
0	S202500012	COMPRESSION RING				
Р	3202300012	UPPER HEADSET BEARING				
Q		LOWER HEADSET BEARING				
R	S202500011	EXPANDER PLUG	6mm	55	5.1	
S	S209900054	REAR DERAILLEUR PLUG (WIRED)				
Т	S179900015	REAR DERAILLEUR PLUG (WIRELESS)				
U	S200700001	FRONT BRAKE CALIPER PLATE				

#### 4.3. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (MECHANICAL COMPATIBLE FRAMES)

	PART #	DESCRIPTION	TOOL SIZE	in-lbf	Nm	
۷	S186500003	DOWN TUBE ICR COVER PLATE	2.5mm	7	0.8	
W	S186500004	DOWN TUBE ICR MECHANICAL PORT	2.5mm	7	0.8	
Х	S206500011	BOTTOM BRACKET CABLE GUIDE				
Υ	S172000002	CHAINSTAY CABLE GUIDE	3mm	25	2.8	

#### 4.4. SMALL PARTS SPECIFICATIONS (S-WORKS MODELS)

	PART #	DESCRIPTION	TOOL SIZE	in-lbf	Nm	
С		*FRONT DERAILLEUR (FD) HANGER	2.5mm	18	2.0	
Ca	S201900005	FRONT DERAILLEUR HANGER BACKING PLATE				

The Aethos frame is available in two frame configurations, 12R (S-Works models) and 10R (all other models).

The 12R frames are compatible with electronic shifting systems only. A custom backing plate is required to mount the front derailleur hanger. Information specific to 12R frames is covered in section 5.1 (highlighted in BLUE).

The 10R frames are compatible with electronic or mechanical shifting systems. Information specific to mechanical shifting system installation is covered in section 5.3 (highlighted in PURPLE).

Many bolts have a blue threadlock patch on the threads to help secure the bolt under torque. Repeated installation and removal of a bolt may reduce the effectiveness of the patch. However, it can be replaced with the application of a liquid blue threadlocker.

\*Part C (Front derailleur hanger): The same hanger is used on all models. However, the S-Works model also requires a backing plate. For additional information, refer to section 5.1.

### **5. BRAKE/SHIFT ASSEMBLY**

#### 5.1. FRONT DERAILLEUR HANGER INSTALLATION (S-WORKS ONLY)



The front derailleur hanger on all models is the same. However, the S-Works model requires the installation of a backing plate, while all other models use rivets integrated into the frame.

S-WORKS (12R) FRAMES: The front derailleur hanger is mounted by inserting bolts through the hanger and threading them into the backing plate. This backing plate must be held in position while installing the screws. To hold the mounting plate in position, follow the steps below:

- FIG. 1: Insert a shift cable sheath through the upper bolt hole and out the bottom bracket shell.
- FIG. 2: Insert a shift cable through the backside of the backing plate, then guide the shift cable up the cable sheath until the cable exits the upper front derailleur bolt hole.





- FIG. 3: Pull on the cable exiting the bolt hole, while guiding the backing plate up into the seat tube, until it rests against the inside of the seat tube.
- FIG. 4: Guide the front derailleur hanger over the cable, then with the cable still pulled taut, thread the lower bolt into the backing plate.

If a Di2 wire will be installed, keep the lower bolt loose while still threaded into the backing plate, while keeping the cable in place, rotate the front derailleur hanger out of position so the wiring hole is exposed, then guide the wire through the seat tube and backing plate hole until it exits the bottom bracket shell.

**FIG. 5:** Remove the cable by guiding it down the seat tube, then thread the upper bolt into the backing plate.



#### 5.2. SHIFTING - ELECTRONIC WIRED SYSTEM

#### FRAME WIRING LENGTHS:

LOCATION	QTY	LENGTH
JCT B BOX TO COCKPIT (SHIFTER)	1	1400mm
JCT B BOX TO REAR DERAILLEUR	1	750mm
JCT B BOX TO FRONT DERAILLEUR	1	500mm
JCT A BOX TO BATTERY (SEATPOST)	1	1000mm

FIG. 1 (Shimano Di2): Route the wires through the frame.

 Route a 1400mm wire from the head tube ICR port, down the down tube and out the bottom bracket hole.



The Di2 wire must be routed into the down tube before the rear brake housing.

- Route a 750mm wire starting from the chainstay port and out the bottom bracket hole.
- Route a 500mm wire starting from the seat tube front derailleur port and out the bottom bracket hole.

#### To insert the front derailleur wire, follow the steps in section 5.

- Route a 1000mm wire down from the top of the seat tube and out the bottom bracket hole.
- Install the grommets and clips on the battery, then install the battery/grommet assembly in the seatpost.
- Plug the 1000mm battery wire into the battery, then install the seatpost as described section 6, page 15.
- Plug the four wires exiting the bottom bracket shell into a Junction B box, then place the Junction B box and the wires in front of the bottom bracket shell.



To prevent the JCT B box from rattling, wrap the box in a bit of foam before placing it in front of the bottom bracket shell.



#### 5.3. SHIFTING - MECHANICAL SYSTEM (MECHANICAL COMPATIBLE MODELS ONLY)



FIG. 2: Install the cable guides.

- Install the down tube cable guide (S186500004) in the down tube ICR port.
- Install the chainstay cable guide (S172000002) on the chainstay.



FIG. 3: Install the cable housings.

Install the cable sheaths in the cable guide followed by the front and rear shift housings, then trim
and install according to the manufacturer's instructions.



It is recommended to route the shift housings from the shifters to their opposing ports on the downtube ICR port (fig. 1), then cross the cables inside the down tube before going through the bottom bracket cable guide.

- Install a section of rear derailleur housing from the rear derailleur to the chainstay cable housing stop, then trim and install according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Insert the cables in the shifters, then guide them down the down tube until they exit at the bottom bracket ICR port.



FIG. 4: Install the bottom bracket cable guide.

- Determine which cable is which, then insert the rear shift cable in the drive side hole of the bottom bracket cable guide (S206500011) and front shift cable in the non-drive side hole.
- Place the bottom bracket cable guide in its cavity under the bottom bracket shell, then route the shift cables to their derailleurs.
- Finish installing the shift cables according to the manufacturer's instructions.



#### 5.4. DISC BRAKES

FIG. 1: Route the rear brake housing.

- Run the rear brake housing in through the chainstay ICR port, over the bottom bracket shell, up the down tube.
- Install a Churro (foam sleeve) over the brake housing and into the down tube.
- Route the brake housing out the head tube ICR port.
- Install a grommet over the brake housing and into the head tube ICR port.
- Install the caliper on the chainstay. Complete the rear brake installation according to the brake manufacturer's instructions.
- FIG. 1: Route the front brake housing.
  - Run the front brake housing in through the lower ICR port in the fork and guide it up the fork leg until it exits at the ICR port on the fork crown.
  - Install a grommet over the brake housing and into the upper fork ICR port.
  - FIG. 1a: Install the caliper on the Specialized Flat Mount front brake adapter (A), then bolt the adapter to the fork mount holes (B).

# FIG. 1a: Only use the Specialized Flat Mount front brake adapter (S200700001) on the Aethos fork.

• Complete the front brake installation according to the brake manufacturer's instructions.



FIG. 1: Install the saddle.

- Grease then install the M6 barrel nut inside the seatpost.
- Grease and assemble the M6 bolt and M6 cradle washer, then install them in the upper cradle.
- Install the lower cradle, followed by the saddle (with greased rails) and upper cradle assembly.
- Grease and assemble the M5 bolt and M5 cradle washer, then install the bolt and spacer through the seatpost bolt hole and through the lower cradle.
- Grease then install the M5 nut onto the M5 bolt.
- Adjust the saddle fore-aft position, then adjust the angle of the saddle by turning the M6 bolt.
- Torque the M5 bolt, then check the saddle angle. If the angle still needs to be adjusted, loosen the M5 bolt, loosen or tighten the M6 bolt accordingly, then torque the M5 bolt again. Repeat until the saddle is at the desired angle.

FIG. 2: Install the seatpost in the frame.

- Make sure the seat collar is facing toward the front of the bike.
- If using Shimano Di2, install the battery in the seatpost using the grommet assembly (S186800006), then plug the seat tube wire into the battery.
- Apply carbon assembly compound (fiber paste), then insert the seatpost into the seat tube.



FIG. 3: Determine the saddle height.

- Both the frame and seatpost have minimum insertion requirements. In addition, the frame has a
  maximum insertion requirement to prevent damage to the tire cutout area.
- MINIMUM INSERTION: The seatpost must be inserted into the frame deep enough so the minimum insertion/maximum extension (min/max) mark on the seatpost is not visible. The frame requires a minimum of 75mm of insertion.
- MAXIMUM INSERTION: The seat tube can accommodate up to 215mm of seatpost insertion.
- If the post is at the minimum or maximum insertion and the saddle is not at the desired position, the seatpost must be replaced with a longer or shorter seatpost.
- Fig. 2: Once the saddle height is determined torque the seat collar bolt to 55 in-lbf (6.2 Nm).



Do not apply grease to the contact surfaces between the seatpost and the seat tube. Grease reduces the friction, which is critical to proper seatpost grip. Specialized recommends the application of carbon assembly compound (fiber paste), which can increase friction between carbon surfaces. Please visit your Specialized Authorized Retailer for additional information.

WAI (fig. caus

WARNING! Failure to follow the seatpost and frame insertion requirements (fig. 3) may result in damage to the frame and/or seatpost, which could cause you to lose control and fall.



WARNING! For general instructions regarding the installation of the seatpost, refer to the appropriate section in the Owner's Manual. Riding with an improperly tightened seatpost can allow the saddle and seatpost to slide down, which can damage the frame and cause you to lose control and fall.

WARNING! Inspect the seatpost and seat tube to ensure that there are no burrs or sharp edges. Remove any burrs or sharp edges using fine grit sandpaper.

### 7. FORK / STEM ASSEMBLY



- FIG. 1: Install the headset and stem.
  - Install the front end (fork, headset, headset spacers, stem, handlebar, wheels) on the frame then
    determine the rider's fit. Do not install more than 35mm of spacers between the stem and the
    headset cover (fig.2).
  - Trim the steerer tube so the final cut is 3mm below the top of the stem (or 3mm below the top of the spacer if a 5mm spacer is used).
  - Install the steerer tube expander plug, then torque the plug to 45 in-lbf / 5.1 Nm.
  - When installing the headset for the final assembly, grease the bearings and compression ring.
  - Install the headset cover, spacers and stem, followed by the top cap and bolt.
  - Once the bike is fully assembled, adjust the headset, using the front brake to determine if there's any headset looseness.

Placing more than 5mm of stem spacers above the stem is acceptable for fit purposes only. For actual riding, the stem requires full support from the expander plug inside the fork to function safely and as intended.

8

Once the bike's fit has been determined, the steerer tube should be cut 3mm below the top of the stem. Alternatively, no more than one 5mm spacer can be placed above the stem (fig. 2).

If a 5mm spacer is used, cut the steerer tube 3mm below the top of the 5mm spacer.

WARNING! The stem must be fully supported by the expander plug. The maximum combined height of the stem and optional 5mm spacer (from bottom of stem to top cap) must not exceed 45mm. Exceeding 45mm can result in an insufficiently supported stem, which can cause the steerer tube to fail.

ALI tall

ALPINIST COCKPIT: Please note the Roval Alpinist steerer tube clamp is 45mm tall. To ensure full support from the expander plug, no spacers can be installed above the stem.

WARNING! Do not apply grease or carbon assembly compound (carbon paste) between the stem and the steerer tube, and do not twist the stem onto the steerer tube. This can result in damage to the composite surface, which may result in a catastrophic failure of the fork, resulting in serious personal injury or death.

CAUTION: The Aethos is supplied with one 5mm solid spacer (consistent inner diameter) and 35mm of scalloped spacers.

Only use the 5mm solid spacer above the stem, between the stem and the top cap.

Only use the 5mm and 10mm scalloped spacers below the stem, between the stem and the headset cover.



FIG. 2/3: Stem interface specifications.

- The headset cover measures 7mm thick. The maximum spacer stack height between the headset cover and the stem is 35mm, for a total of 42mm.
- The maximum combined height of the stem's steerer tube clamp and any spacers placed above the stem (max 5mm) must not exceed 45mm.



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