



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS MADDOX 2 & 3 BIKE TRUNK CARRIERS

Before mounting the rack to the rear of your vehicle it is important that you observe the following recommendations:

DETERMINE THAT YOUR VEHICLE IS ALE TO HAVE THIS RACK SAFELY ATTACHED TO THE CAR BODY.

Never attach the strap hooks to any vehicle body parts made of glass, plastic, fiberglass, aluminum, or carbon fiber. Doing so may damage the bodywork of your vehicle and cause the rack with the bicycles to fall off onto the roadway potentially causing a car accident. If you have doubts about the material you intend to attach the straps to, use a magnet to test the material. A refrigerator magnet can be used for this purpose. If the magnet sticks, the body part is steel and you can attach the rack. **If the magnet does not stick, do not attach the rack to that part of the car body.**

1. Before each use and prior to installing the carrier onto the car - clean the car surfaces that the rack will contact as well as the surface of the sponge pads on the carrier. Any dirt that is on the paint or the sponge pads can cause scratches to the car's finish therefore it is important to clean these surfaces prior to attaching the carrier to the car.

2. Remove your new bicycle carrier from the box. It comes pre-assembled from our factory but you will have to adjust it to fit your vehicle. Begin by loosening the large black hand knobs on each of the carrier arms **Fig. 1**. As you do this you will notice the round pieces with teeth separate from each other allowing the arms to move.

3. Position the carrier onto the rear of the car approximately where it will rest once the straps are attached and adjust the angle of the arms and the rack to make sure that none of the steel parts of the carrier contact the car's surface. We recommend that there be at least a 1" gap between the steel parts of the rack and the car body. On some station wagons, SUV's or vans the top sponge pads may rest on the rear glass. This is Ok as the weight of the bikes will be supported by the top straps and the bottom sponge pads with little weight on the top sponge pads. In these cases, be sure that the rack placement does not interfere with rear mounted wiper arms.

It is recommended that the arms that hold the bicycles be positioned so that they are parallel to the ground or pointed slightly up **Fig. 2**. You may have to try this a few times until you get the correct fit. Once the arms are positioned to fit correctly on your car, tighten the large round hand knobs to secure the adjustment. Make sure the teeth interlock with each other when you tighten the knobs.

Attach the top straps with the **wide clips** to the top of the trunk or hatch lip. On some cars you may have to open the trunk or hatch slightly to allow the clips to fit. Adjust the length of the top straps so that the carrier rests in its final position.

Next, attach the bottom straps with the **wide clips** to the bottom of the trunk lid or hatch lip.

Note: Depending on the size and shape of the car's trunk or hatch lid you can adjust the fit of the rack by moving the arms to one of the three mounting holes provided on the side of the rack **Fig. 3**. Disassemble the arms by completely unscrewing the hand knobs, remove the parts and reassemble them in the position that best fits your vehicle.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



3 Bike Carrier Only - attach the side stabilizer straps with the narrow clips to the side of the trunk or hatch lid. Tighten the bottom and side straps so that the carrier is secured onto the car.

NEVER ATTACH THE LOWER STRAP CLIPS OR SIDE STABILIZER STRAP CLIPS TO ANY PLASTIC BUMPER! DOING SO MAY CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE CAR BUMPER.

4. Mount the bikes onto the cradles on the carrier arms and secure the top of the bike to the carrier by pulling the rubber straps over the frame of the bike and attaching to the cleat on the cradle (2 cradles for each bike, one on each carrier arm). Do not overtighten the rubber straps since doing so will shorten the life of the straps. **Fig. 4**

If there are brake or gear wires that run along the bike frame where the strap will go, place the rubber strap under the wire so that it does not trap the brake or gear wire and damage the wire or bike finish. **Fig. 5**

For Step through style frames or other Non-Diamond type frame configurations you can rotate the cradles to match the frame tubes so that the frame tube is supported by the cradle as in the photo example. **Fig. 6**

Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Check to make sure that bicycle parts such as handlebars and pedals are not in contact with the car body. You may have to rotate the pedals or handlebars to make sure they do not contact the car.

If a bike tire hangs low enough to be in the way of the engine exhaust pipe, reposition the bike so that it is at least 1 foot away from the exhaust pipe to avoid burning the tire.

5. When loading more than one bike onto the carrier, you may find it easier to fit by alternating the direction of each bike so that the handlebars don't conflict with each other. **Fig. 7**

Figure 7



After loading the rack with the bikes, tighten all straps again as the weight of the bikes will cause the lower and side straps to slacken.

Recommended: For added stability you can use a separate long strap or bungee cords (not supplied) to thread through the bottom section of the bicycle frames or wheels to further secure the bikes to the bottom of the carrier.

CAUTION:

- Once the bikes are on the carrier check to make sure that your brake lights and turn signal indicators are still visible to cars behind you.
- Never mount the carrier to the front of a vehicle as it will reduce your forward visibility and impair the function of other vehicle components such as predictive cruise control features.

- Recheck the tightness of the straps periodically during long trips as they may loosen over time.
- Always slow your vehicle speed when going over speed bumps or rough road conditions
- Do not drive aggressively when rack is on the vehicle. The extra weight of the fully loaded rack may cause your vehicle to handle differently than normal. Drive slowly and carefully over bumps and when entering and exiting driveways as bikes that hang low may drag on the ground. Be aware that the rear of the vehicle is much longer when the rack is installed and needs additional clearance when moving in reverse.
- Never carry more than the number of standard bicycles your rack is designed to carry. **Do not carry Tandems, Recumbents, or Motorized bicycles on this rack.**

Do not exceed the maximum weight capacity of your rack:

2 Bike rack = 70lbs/32kg

3 Bike rack = 100lbs/46kg

WARNING! Improperly installed rack or bikes can fall onto roadway potentially causing a serious accident resulting in bodily injury. Do not use rack on any vehicle where the rack cannot be properly and safely installed.

Removing your carrier from the car:

Once you have unloaded your bicycles and you wish to remove the carrier from the back of your car, loosen the bottom straps and the side stabilizer straps and lift the rack off the vehicle without disturbing the length of the top straps. This will allow you to quickly install the rack the next time you use it.

Storing your bike carrier: simply loosen the hand knobs and fold the carrier flat. Re-tighten the hand knobs so the carrier remains flat during storage.

CAUTION: This bicycle carrier has been designed to fit securely on a variety of vehicles which have traditional steel trunk or hatch lids. Many new vehicles use plastic or composite materials for body parts. This carrier is not designed for use when these materials are present in areas where the carrier must attach to the vehicle. Additionally, body parts such as spoilers or window wiper mechanisms may interfere with the proper and safe installation of this carrier onto a particular vehicle. It is the user's responsibility to determine the suitability of this carrier for their particular vehicle. The user is responsible for properly installing and using the bicycle carrier according to the instructions in this user's manual.

Warranty: Critical Cycles warrants the Maddox carrier against defects in materials and workmanship for the lifetime of the original owner. Critical Cycles will not extend this warranty to cover damages that are beyond defects in materials and workmanship of the carrier including normal wear and tear or damage resulting from day to day use.

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