



OWNERS MANUAL

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OWNER'S MANUAL HALFWHEELER™ TRAILER CYCLE

Before you go riding with your new Halfwheeler trailer cycle for the first time all of us at GIANT strongly encourage you to read this manual. In return for the time spent reading this manual and learning about your new GIANT Halfwheeler you will be rewarded with many hours of safe bicycling.

IMPORTANT! If a minor will be riding a bicycle with this trailer attached, it is essential that a responsible adult/parent read and explain this owner's manual to the minor.

Like anything else in life - and particularly in sporting activities, bicycling involves risk. The risk is that riding a bicycle may lead to injury or death. By choosing to ride a bicycle, with or without a trailer, you assume the responsibility for that risk. Not the people who sold you the trailer. Not the people that made it. Not the people who distribute it. It's all about you!

If you have questions that are not answered by this manual, or cannot be answered by your GIANT Dealer, please contact GIANT directly: Toll free - 1.800. US.GIANT
Or- www.giantbicycle.com



 **GIANT**[®]
BICYCLES

WARNING!



GENERAL WARNING:

Bicycling is a hazardous activity! Proper maintenance of your bicycle and trailer is your responsibility, as it will reduce the risk of injury. This manual contains many "Warnings" and "Cautions" concerning the consequences of failing to maintain or inspect your trailer. Be sure to read and understand all of the Warnings and Cautions. Many refer to circumstances that may cause you to lose your balance and fall, which may result in personal injury or death, to you and/or your passenger.

TRAILER USE:

Use of a trailer changes the handling characteristics of your bicycle, and entails its own unique risks. Be sure to carefully read and understand the "Trailer Use" section in this manual. Failure to be aware of and responsive to the special characteristics of riding with a trailer may lead to serious personal injury or death, to you and/or your passenger.

TRAILER USE

- Extra caution must be exercised when riding with your trailer. Your bicycle will perform much differently when pulling your trailer. The additional weight of the trailer, passenger and cargo will make your bike less responsive. You will need to ride slower than you normally would without a trailer. Also, be aware that your bicycle with the trailer attached will be much longer than it is without the trailer. Use extra caution in all situations.
- It will be more difficult and slower to get started and up to speed because of the extra weight.
- It will take longer to cross streets and paths because of the extra length.
- A greater distance and increased effort will be required to stop because of the extra weight.
- While riding down hills with a trailer you will accelerate more quickly and will reach higher speeds if unchecked by the rider. While riding down hills you will need to use your brakes sooner and more frequently to keep your speed under control. Remember to apply your rear brake before using the front brake.
- Negotiating corners should be done slowly and with caution. Your bicycle will handle corners differently with the trailer attached than it does without the trailer.
- Do not ride your bicycle over curbs, potholes or other obstacles with the trailer attached. It is highly recommended that you ride your bicycle and trailer in an open area without traffic to get used to how your bicycle rides with the trailer attached before riding elsewhere.
- The Halfwheeler was design for use on smooth roads. The trailer could be damaged and your passenger injured if the trailer is used off-road.
- Using the safety flag – included – will help make others aware that you are towing a trailer. Always use the safety flag when using the trailer, and avoid riding at night.

WARNING!

Failure to be aware of and respond to the special characteristics of riding your bicycle with a trailer may lead to serious personal injury and death, to you and/or your passenger. Be sure to practice riding your bike with the trailer in an open area without traffic until you are comfortable and familiar with the handling characteristics.

DANGEROUS RIDING CONDITIONS

CAUTION!

Riding a bicycle – with or without a trailer attached – in wet conditions requires earlier braking, greater stopping distances, and slower riding speeds.

WET RIDING CONDITIONS

Stopping a bicycle – with or without a trailer attached – in wet conditions is a potentially dangerous situation. It will require a much greater distance to come to a safe stop, and even more with a trailer attached. There is always the chance that you could be caught in a rainstorm while riding, and you will be surprised by how much it affects your brake performance! We recommend that you ride more slowly, allow more time and distance for stopping, and feather the force used while applying the front and rear brakes together to prevent skidding.

NIGHT RIDING

Riding at night with a trailer is strongly discouraged due to reduced visibility. It is both harder to be seen as a cyclist at night, and harder to see at dusk and at night.

LIGHTS

If you must ride at night, the best way to improve your visibility and your vision is to use a high quality front headlight and a bright blinking red rear light. Do not ride at night without front and rear lights, as well a rear light for the trailer.

REFLECTORS

Federal regulations require every bicycle (except children's "sidewalk" bikes) to be equipped with front, rear, wheel and pedal reflectors.

The size, performance and location of each reflector are defined by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (the CPSC).

The GIANT Halfwheeler comes equipped with reflectors in accordance with CPSC guidelines.

The purpose of these reflectors is to protect you from accidentally being hit by a car or other road user, as well as to warn others of your presence.

The reflectors are designed to reflect light from cars, streetlights and other ambient sources in order to identify you as a moving cyclist. Removing the reflectors will reduce your visibility to others using the roadway and put you and your passenger in great jeopardy.

Be forewarned that reflectors are not a substitute for front and rear lights.

CAUTION!

If you must ride at night:

Be sure to check that an operating front headlight and flashing red taillight are installed on the bicycle and trailer before riding.

Inspect the bicycle and trailer to ensure that the front, rear, wheel and pedal reflectors are installed, clean and in their proper positions. Have your GIANT Authorized Retailer replace any damaged reflectors, or secure any that may have loosened.

Reflectors are not substitutes for lights – use a front headlight and flashing red taillight for both your bike and trailer.

Wear reflective clothing and be sure those accessories - such as: racks, bags, etc. - have reflectors.

State or local authorities may require that you equip your bicycle and trailer with a lighting system in addition to the reflectors. Contact your local authorities for the bicycle codes in your area.

Always wear a CPSC approved helmet!

NEVER LET CHILDREN RIDE AT NIGHT!

The GIANT Halfwheeler folds for easy storage and transportation.

FOLDING YOUR HALFWHEELER TRAILER

Folding the trailer is an easy 4-step process:

1. Do not attempt to fold until the trailer rider has dismounted, and the trailer has been disconnected from the towing bike.
2. Remove the safety flag from the flag holder by pulling up on the flagpole.
3. Lift up on the quick release lever on the hinge located on the tow bar. Unscrew the quick release lever from the hinge by turning the lever counter clockwise. See Fig. 1
4. Fold the tow arm down and store. See Fig. 2



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

UNFOLDING THE TRAILER

1. Un-fold the tow arm and screw the quick release lever in the full open position into the threaded hold by turning the lever clockwise.
2. Tighten the quick release lever until the lever can be easily moved 90 degrees, but requires a significant force to close any further. Then close the quick release lever fully until the lever is parallel to the tow tube and the word “closed” is showing on the top of the lever. In the closed position, the quick release lever should not be able to move without significant effort to open it.
3. Insert the safety flag.

ATTACHING THE TRAILER TO THE BIKE

The Q-Link™ hitch mechanism is designed to adjust to fit a wide range of seat post sizes. There is a quick release cam lever that locks the Q-Link clamp to the seat post. The Q-link needs to be adjusted to fit your specific bicycle during the initial set-up using a 5mm Allen (hex) wrench – it must be re-adjusted each time it is fitted to a different bike.

Initial Q-Link™ Set-up

1. Inspect the seat post for any cracks, dents or scratches – replace the seat post if any signs of damage exist.
2. Remove the seat post from the frame and measure the seat post wall thickness. The seat post wall thickness should be at least 3 mm (1/8”). See Fig. 3
3. Open the Q-Link clamp by pulling the free end of the quick release lever away from the center of the clamp mechanism so that word “open” – stamped on the underside of the lever – is visible. Once the lever is open, you may still need to loosen the quick release mechanism in order to free the quick release lever from the clamp slot and open the clamp. Do so by turning the nut on the end of the quick release skewer counter clockwise while the lever is in the open position.
4. Position the Q-Link clamp around the seat post. See Fig. 4
5. Reposition the quick release lever in the Q-Link clamp slot. Tighten the nut on the quick release assembly about down the threaded skewer and close the quick release lever by flipping the lever 180 degrees (position the lever so that the end will point towards the center of the Q-Link clamp when closed). The word “closed” – stamped on the top side of the lever – should be showing.
6. Using a 5mm Allen (hex) wrench, adjust the 2 limit screws so that the hitch is tight on the seat post. (Note: the Q-Link hitch should not move on the post) See Fig. 5



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Attaching the Q-Link™ Hitch Mechanism After the Initial Set-up

1. Inspect the seat post for any cracks, dents or scratches – replace the seat post if any signs of damage exist.
2. Open the Q-Link clamp by pulling the free end of the quick release lever away from the center of the clamp mechanism so that word “open” – stamped on the underside of the lever – is visible. Once the lever is open, you may still need to loosen the quick release mechanism in order to free the quick release lever from the clamp slot and open the clamp. Do so by turning the nut on the end of the quick release skewer counter clockwise while the lever is in the open position.
3. Position the Q-Link clamp around the seat post.
4. Reposition the quick release lever in the Q-Link clamp slot. Tighten the nut on the quick release assembly about down the threaded skewer and close the quick release lever by flipping the lever 180 degrees (position the lever so that the end will point towards the center of the Q-Link clamp when closed). The word “closed” – stamped on the topside of the lever – should be showing. If the lever closes but the hitch still rotates on the seat post, then open the lever, tighten the quick release skewer nut and try again. See Fig. 6



Fig. 6

WARNING!



WARNING!

Attaching a trailer to a tow bike with seat post dents, cracks, scrapes or deep scratches, or to a seat post with less than 1/8" (3 mm) wall thickness, can result in a seat post failure – causing the trailer to separate from the bike and/or loss of control of the trailer and the bike, which may result in severe personal injury or death to the rider and/or passenger.

WARNING!



WARNING!

Using the trailer with a bent, dented or scratched tow arm may result in the tow arm breaking, causing the trailer to separate from the bike and/or loss of control of the trailer and the bike, which may result in severe personal injury or death to the rider and/or passenger.

IMPORTANT!

ALWAYS PERFORM A PRE-RIDE CHECK

TOW ARM FOLDING JOINT QUICK RELEASE LEVER

Inspect the quick release lever at the tow arm folding joint to insure that it is the fully closed position – the word “closed” stamped onto the quick release lever arm should be visible.

q FLAG

Make sure the safety flag is assembled and installed in the flag holder.

q HELMETS

Both rider and passenger should be wearing CPSC approved helmets, properly fitted and secured.

q Q-LINK™ LINKAGE

Inspect linkage to make sure that it is securely fastened. Check the quick release lever to insure that it is the fully closed position – the word “closed” stamped onto the quick release lever arm should be visible.

q TIRE PRESSURE

Check the tire pressure on both the towing bike and the trailer. Inflate the tires according to the manufacturers recommendations noted on the tires.

q LOANING YOUR TRAILER

If you allow someone else to use your trailer, perform the preceding inspection before allowing that person to use the trailer. Be sure that the person is aware of the differences between riding with the trailer attached and normal riding conditions. Also, make sure that they practice riding with the trailer without a passenger before using it with a passenger.

GENERAL

Safe biking is everyone's concern. At GIANT we strive to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable cycling experience. A lot of your safety and enjoyment while cycling depends upon you though. Common sense is your most important ally. The following are some common sense suggestions to keep in mind whenever you ride a bike, with or without a trailer: (For more advice on safe riding visit www.bikeleague.org, the website of the League of American Bicyclists)

q Understand State and Local Bicycle Laws

Laws vary from state to state and municipality. Many require different safety devices, or enforce different traffic codes. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the laws of the state where you ride, and to comply with all applicable laws - including properly equipping your bicycle.

q Be Sure That You Thoroughly Understand How to Operate Your Bicycle and Trailer Before You Go Riding

Talk to local GIANT Authorized Dealer if you have any questions. You should practice riding in a quiet area to get a feel for how your bicycle functions with the trailer attached before riding in the street.

q Inspect Your Bike to Ensure That It is Functioning Safely Before Riding

Be sure that all your equipment is adjusted properly, especially the brakes and quick releases. If you are not sure how to check or adjust your bike contact your local GIANT Authorized Dealer.

q Ride Defensively

Regardless of whether you are legally in the right, when it's question of car versus bike, the car wins - no matter whose right. Always be on the defensive to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

q Always Ride Single File

Riding side by side is potentially dangerous. Don't invite trouble - ride single file.


q Never Bike With Personal Radios or Headphones On

Know what's going on around you. Headphones and stereos can distract you and cover up important sounds like traffic noise and emergency sirens. Safe bicycling requires you to be aware of your surroundings at all times. In addition use of headphones while cycling is illegal in many states, check your local laws.

HELMETS, APPAREL & BEING SEEN

ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET WHILE RIDING!

Always wear a helmet when riding your bicycle. Your trailer passenger must always wear a helmet as well. Make sure that the chinstrap is properly adjusted and securely buckled. Quality helmets provide impact resistance and protection against head injuries. Quality helmets are ones that are approved by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). However, even good quality helmets will not be affective if they have not been fit or adjusted properly. Contact your local GIANT Dealer for assistance.

	<p>Always wear a helmet while riding a bicycle. Make sure that your trailer passenger always wears a helmet as well. Keep the chinstrap properly adjusted and fastened. Failure to wear a CPSC approved helmet while riding may result in serious personal injury or death for you and/or your passenger.</p>
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APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Proper footwear is essential for a safe and enjoyable cycling experience. Never ride barefoot or in loose sandals.

Proper cycling footwear should either have a soft rubber sole for use with platform pedals, or the proper bolt pattern and cleat for compatibility with binding type pedal systems.

Stiff soled shoes help to prevent fatigue and increase power transfer to the pedals. GIANT padded cycling gloves can reduce hand fatigue and provide protection against hand injuries in the event of an accident.

Wear brightly colored, highly visible clothing.

Always use the safety flag that comes with the trailer. If you absolutely must ride at night use extra caution and install a headlight as well as a flashing taillight on both the bicycle and the trailer.

Protective eyewear is highly recommended.

Dirt, bugs or other airborne debris can interfere with your vision while riding and lead to a loss of control.

Protective eyewear can prevent such occurrences, as well as protecting against bright sunlight and wind.

TIPS FOR RIDING ON THE STREET OR IN TRAFFIC

Sharing the road with cars is a fact of life for cyclists. You can make your cycling experience more enjoyable and safer by following one basic rule:

Do whatever you can to make it easier for drivers to share the road with you.

Put yourself in position to be as visible as possible while minimizing the chance for conflicting with drivers and their cars. It is your responsibility to know and obey all traffic laws.

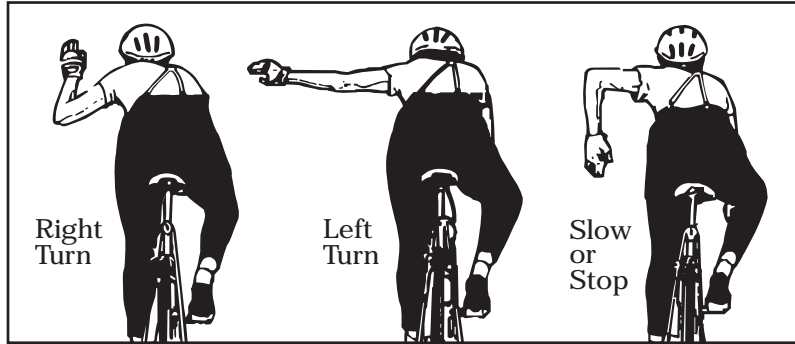
The following are a few common sense ideas for riding on the street safely:

1. Stay to the right – this is the most basic rule of the road for cyclists. Never ride against traffic. Always consider the added length of the trailer.
2. Familiarize yourself with local laws. The traffic laws for motor vehicle apply to you as well. Additionally, many states and municipalities have specific bicycle codes – such as riding on the right hand side of the road and riding single file. Contact your local authorities for the bicycling laws in your area.
3. If you absolutely must ride at night, wear light colored clothing, and always use a headlight and flashing red taillight on your bicycle and the trailer.
4. Watch for pedestrians.
5. Various riding surfaces can be hazardous. Be aware that even apparently smooth surfaces can be dangerous due to potholes, cracks and other surface conditions that can change suddenly. Always watch out for broken glass and other obstacles.
6. Never ride your bike over railroad tracks – dismount and walk you bike across. Tracks that run diagonally across a road are particularly dangerous.
7. Be careful when cornering to avoid loose gravel, oil spots and other debris.
8. Avoid busy roads – study a local map to find less trafficked routes and secondary roads.
9. Most “bike paths” are in fact multipurpose areas used by joggers, skaters and other non-biking activities. Remember that with the trailer attached you will require much more room to pass. Also, do not ride with your trailer in crowded areas. Warn others of your approach by using a horn, bell or verbal signal.

10. Be very cautious when approaching parked vehicles. Be wary of people who are in or are approaching a parked car, they may open the car door or pull out suddenly into your path without seeing you.
11. Ride defensively. Assume that the people with whom you are sharing the road are unaware of you or can't see you.
12. Ride on designated bike lanes or bike paths or on the right side of the road and in the same direction as traffic.
13. Always stop at stop signs and traffic lights. Slow down and look both ways before crossing unmarked intersections. Observe and yield the right of way. Remember that it will take longer to cross streets while towing the trailer because of its length and weight.
14. Use hand signals to alert others of your intent to turn or stop.
15. Never ride with headphones. They mask vehicle sounds and emergency vehicle sirens, and they may distract you from what is going on around you.
16. Never carry or wear anything that obstructs your vision, or limits your ability to control the bicycle.
17. Never attempt to tow yourself by holding onto another vehicle.
18. Do not attempt to do stunts, wheelies or jumps – particularly while pulling the trailer. Attempting to do so may lead to injury or damage to your bike and trailer.
19. Do not weave through traffic or make any unnecessary sudden moves that may surprise other vehicles.
20. Never ride your bicycle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

HAND SIGNALS

Check behind and around you for approaching traffic before making a turn, stopping or changing lanes. If traffic will be impeded by your turn, give the proper hand signal 50' before executing your turn.



WHEEL INSPECTIONS

Bicycle and trailer wheels must withstand a great deal of force and weight. Keep an eye out for bent, loose, or broken, spokes that may cause a wheel to go out-of-round. Wheels that are out-of-round are much weaker than wheels that are true. Truing or repairing a wheel is a difficult process that requires an expert's knowledge; visit your local GIANT Dealer for service.

CAUTION!

Wheel truing and repair is a skill that requires special tools and experience. Do not attempt to true a wheel yourself unless you have the appropriate tools and knowledge to do so correctly.

TIRE INSPECTION

Inspect your tires regularly for tread wear, cuts and punctures. Replace your tires if there is little or no tread remaining, and if there is any cuts or damage. Also, check to see that each tire is seated properly on the rim and there are no bulges or defects.

TIRE INFLATION

WARNING!



Avoid filling tires at gas stations, or with powered air compressors. The greater pressure and volume delivered by these pumps may cause blowouts which may result in serious injury or death.

All tires lose air pressure over time. Keeping the tires pressurized properly is necessary for the safe operation of your bicycle and trailer. Use a hand or foot operated pump to inflate tires to the recommended pressure, which is molded on the sidewall of the tires. Check them for cuts and wear. Do not over or under inflate your tires. Use a tire pressure gauge to check for proper inflation.

WARNING!



Never inflate a tire beyond the maximum pressure marked on the tire's sidewall. Exceeding this pressure may cause the tire to blow off of the rim, causing you to lose control, which may result in serious injury or death to you and your passenger.

NOTE:

Pencil-type automotive tire gauges and gas station air hose gauges are generally inaccurate and should not be depended upon for consistent, accurate pressure readings.

SPOKES:

The spokes in the wheels of your bicycle and trailer need to be proper tensioned for your wheels to remain straight, round and strong. Periodically check for bent, broken or loose spokes, as they cause wheel failure or at least a wobbly ride. Truing or repairing a wheel is a difficult process that requires an expert's knowledge; visit your local GIANT Dealer for service.

STORAGE

Improper storage can lead to damaging your trailer. Clean and lubricate your trailer before storing it. Preferably, hang the trailer off the ground with the tires at half pressure.

CAUTION!

Do not store your trailer near electric motors. Ozone - a byproduct of electric motors - destroys rubber and paint.

CAUTION!

After removing your trailer from storage, be sure that it is in proper working condition. Refer to the "Pre-Ride Check".