



## QUICK START GUIDE



# TerraTrike QUICK START GUIDE

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## **STOP: Please Read**

Before anyone (yourself included) rides your TerraTrike they should be familiar with safe operational procedures and all aspects of the trike's functions and must read and understand this Quick Start Guide completely.

## Congratulations!

**You are now the proud owner of a TerraTrike!**

Welcome to our growing family! Every one of our models is designed and built to maximize comfort without sacrificing performance. This guide will help you prepare your trike for your first ride and help you keep it in tip-top shape for all of the miles to come. For more specific or complex maintenance/adjustment on your trike please contact your local dealer.

## Online Resources for New Owners

### MyTerraTrike:

Sign up to gain access to the Owners Club by visiting: [www.TerraTrike.com/mytt.php](http://www.TerraTrike.com/mytt.php)

### Online Forum:

Discuss TerraTrike with our loyal community at: [www.TerraTrike.com/ttforum](http://www.TerraTrike.com/ttforum)

### Manuals:

Downloadable PDFs for technical instruction at: [www.TerraTrike.com/manuals](http://www.TerraTrike.com/manuals)

## Safety Notes and Cautions

- The first step in having a safe and enjoyable ride is using common sense. Make sure your trike is operating safely and ride as if you are invisible to other traffic. Always use caution.
- Remember your helmet and wear it on every ride!
- Inspect your trike before each ride by checking tires for proper inflation and any damage; brakes for functionality; and anything that may have worked its way loose.
- Keep your feet securely on the pedals while riding to prevent them from slipping off the pedals. There are many pedal and shoe options through which your dealer can guide you.
- Making yourself noticed is a key to riding safely.
- Front and rear lights are always recommended but absolutely necessary in low light conditions.
- Safety flags stick up above rider height and can grab the attention of motorists (the use of safety flags and flag extensions are highly recommended because they make you more visible).
- Avoid being hidden by traffic while riding.
- When riding on public roadways, you are a vehicle and are subject to local traffic laws. Know them. Obey them.
- Look for traffic when turning or changing lanes. A rear view mirror is also highly recommended.
- Use caution when cornering. Learn to use safe speeds for negotiating corners and going down hills. Your trike can be "rolled" if turned too sharply for a given speed. The laws of physics do apply.

## Safety Notes and Cautions (continued)

- The disk brake rotors can be extremely sharp and will get very hot after braking. Use caution around them!
- Your TerraTrike is designed with front brakes only. Brake evenly with both hands to avoid brake-steer. Avoid sudden, hard braking unless necessary. It is possible to lift the rear wheel and tip the trike forward when braking hard.
- Do not ride your trike off of the pavement unless it is properly equipped. Unpaved but well-maintained bike paths: i.e. crushed limestone are okay. Even when your trike is so equipped with more aggressive tires and proper gearing, keep in mind the limitations of the trike when riding “off road.” The trike is a rear wheel drive vehicle and can bog down in sandy or loose soil conditions and it is wider than a bicycle so it will probably not be able to go everywhere a mountain bike can go.
- TerraTrikes are strong enough for most riding conditions, but that is not a license to ride in a hazardous or abusive manner (which will void the warranty)! Anyone can damage a TerraTrike if they try hard enough.

## Adjusting Your Trike

**Tire Inflation** Inflate tires to their recommended pressure indicated on the tire sidewalls. It is very important that both front tires have the same pressure for balanced steering and good handling. You can have a slightly lower pressure in the rear tire to add “cushion” to your ride if you so desire. Please note that, unlike Schrader valves (like car tire valves), Presta valves (skinny valves found on some models) must be “opened” before you can add air to the tire. To do this take off the black valve cap and then unscrew the very top of the valve until it stops. Remember to close the valve and reinstall the black cap after adjusting the air pressure.

**Seat Adjustment: Fore and Aft** Note: It is very important that all of the seat mounting bolts are checked for tightness before each ride. The seat is an integral part of the frame design and, if loose, it will cause poor handling which can result in loss of control at higher speeds.

## Seat Adjustment

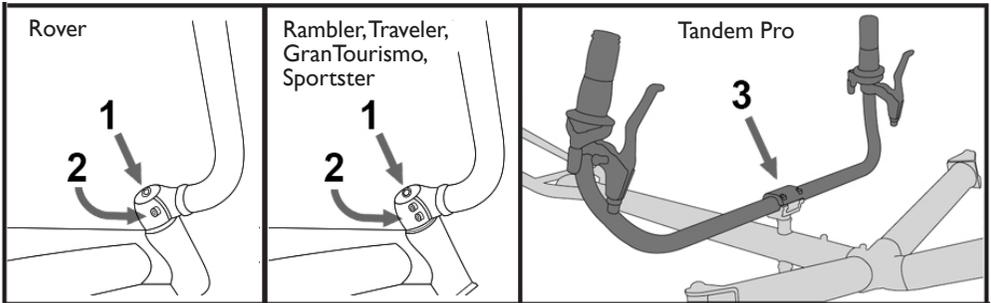
**Rover** Open the quick release lever under the frame on the seat clamp and slide to desired position. Make sure the quick release lever is re-tightened enough to keep the clamp from sliding while riding. If you are not familiar with how a quick release lever operates, consult your local bike shop or give us a call.

**Rambler / Traveler / Gran Turismo / Sportster** The fixed seat is held in place using a single thru axle type bolt. To adjust the fore and aft position of the seat, loosen and remove the seat bolt using an 8mm allen wrench. Once removed, place seat at desired position, reinsert the seat bolt and tighten to 16-20 Nm.

**Tandem Pro** The seat is held in place with a nut and bolt. Fore and aft adjustment is accomplished by choosing different holes in the seat clamp.

**Seat Adjustment: Incline/Recline** Remove the seat stay pins from the seat stays behind the seat. The stays can then be telescoped to a new position. Line up the holes in the seat stays, and re-insert the seat stay pins. These pins can be replaced with nuts and bolts for more rigidity if the angle will not be changed frequently.

## Handlebar Adjustment



### Rover / Rambler / Traveler / Gran Turismo / Sportster

Adjust the handlebars while sitting on the trike. Loosen the top cap bolt (1) and handlebar clamp bolt(s) (2) that secure the handlebar to the trike. Move the handlebar to the desired position. Tighten (just snug, do not overtighten!) the top cap bolt (1) first (this is the bolt that adjusts the feel of the steering resistance) and then proceed to tighten the handlebar clamp bolt(s) (2). To obtain your preferred steering resistance feel, you may have to go through this more than once because the top cap bolt will tighten or loosen the steering unless the handlebar clamp bolts are loose first.

### Tandem Pro

Loosen the 4 small bolts (3) in the steering clamp. Adjust the handlebar to the desired angle and tighten the bolts incrementally, so the top cap clamps down parallel to the base.

## Boom Adjustment

**Note:** If you decide to adjust the boom, the chain will also need to be lengthened or shortened two inches for every inch the boom is moved. For this reason we recommend taking it to your local TerraTrike dealer or bike shop to make sure it's done correctly.

**Rover** Loosen the four set screws along the bottom left corner of the main tube with a 4mm Allen wrench. Slide the boom to the desired length and re-tighten the set screws to 8-10Nm. Adjust the chain length appropriately.

**Rambler / Traveler / Gran Turismo** Using a 5mm Allen wrench, loosen the two boom clamp bolts at the point where the boom slides into the frame. Slide the boom to the desired position and re-tighten the clamp bolts to 11-14Nm. Adjust the chain length appropriately.

**Tandem Pro** These are "fixed boom" trikes, meaning they are not adjustable but come in different sizes. If you feel a different size is needed, contact your authorized TerraTrike dealer.

**Sportster** Using a 6mm Allen wrench, loosen the boom clamp bolts where the boom slides into the frame. Slide the boom to the desired position and re-tighten the clamp bolts to 11-14Nm. Adjust the chain length appropriately.

## How to Ride

### Entering and Exiting the Trike

Before sitting down on the trike, make sure that it cannot roll away from you by using the locking brake levers or parking brake strap (refer to Parking section below). Straddle the boom and begin lowering yourself into the seat while supporting yourself using the tires, optional VersaBars or the sides of the seat frame. Do not put weight on the handlebars as they are not load bearing members of the trike and can be damaged by doing so.

When exiting the trike, lock the brake lever(s) and use the tires, optional VersaBars, boom stub tube, or seat frame to provide assistance when standing up from the seated position.

### Turning

Lean your body into the center of your turns or you risk lifting the inside tire and possibly rolling your trike. The faster you are riding, the more critical this becomes. This leaning counteracts the lifting force (caused by fun things like your center of gravity, instantaneous velocity and centrifugal force) and encourages the inside tire to stay on the ground. Since trikes cannot lean like regular bikes, you have to counter these forces with your body movement.

### Braking

We use disc brakes on our trikes and they are very efficient. To stop, squeeze both brake levers smoothly and with equal pressure. Each brake lever activates a corresponding brake on the front wheels. You will experience “brake steer” (pulling) if you brake only one side or if you use unequal pressure on the brake levers. It is possible to tip the trike forward by trying to stop too fast.

### Parking

Most of our trikes are supplied with locking brake levers. The spring loaded pin on the brake levers is the locking pin. To engage the locks, simply squeeze the brake levers, press the locking pin and, while holding the pin, release the lever. To disengage, simply squeeze the lever. On trikes that do not come with locking brake levers a parking brake strap is supplied.

### Shifting

Shifting allows you to maintain a comfortable pedaling cadence while riding over varied terrain. Twist the shifter or activate the trigger or thumb shifters to what feels like a comfortable and maintainable pedal speed rather than worrying about what gear you are in. Internally geared hubs can be shifted while stopped or during a pause in pedaling. These hubs will not shift well while pedaling. Externally geared hubs (trikes with multiple cogs on the rear wheel) can only be shifted while pedaling. Anticipate your shifts so as to not get caught at a stop or on an incline in too high of a gear. Attempting to shift under substantial load can cause damage and premature wear to the drivetrain.



## Maintenance of Your TerraTrike

### Wear Items

Items such as steering bushings, brake pads, tires, hinges, drivetrain, etc. are all parts on your TerraTrike that will slowly wear out over time. It is important to keep an eye on these parts from a safety and functionality standpoint. If an issue creeps up over time it may be a sign that one of these items is ready to be adjusted or replaced. Some drivetrain noise is normal; loud, grinding noises are not and can indicate the need for service, adjustment, and/or part replacement. Contact your local TerraTrike dealer or bike shop for proper service.

### Lubrication

Your chain and cables need regular lubrication with a good quality bike lube to reduce wear and maintain proper operation. Keep these parts clean and lubricated.

### Brakes/Shifters

Brake cables and shift cables will stretch during the initial break-in period of your TerraTrike. To compensate for this, you can make minor adjustments by turning the barrel adjusters near the ends of the cable housing. Make small adjustments, rechecking the functionality with each rotation so you do not overcompensate for the cable stretch. We strongly recommend taking your trike to your local TerraTrike dealer or bike shop to make sure these adjustments are done correctly.

### Cleaning

Wash your TerraTrike with soap and water occasionally, but especially after riding in inclement weather. It's important to dry and lubricate it right after cleaning. Wash the seat mesh separately (by hand or on a gentle cycle in your washing machine) and let it air dry if needed. Do NOT put the mesh in your dryer. Road salt is very hard on all trike components, including the frame. Clean it off immediately! Likewise, salty air can corrode your TerraTrike over time. It's a good idea to wax the frame (only glossy finished areas) occasionally with a good quality car wax.

### Regular Tune-up

We recommended taking your TerraTrike into a dealer or quality bike shop at the beginning of each riding season to make sure it is in good working order. They will most likely charge you a nominal fee for a tune-up, but it is worth it because often times they can see small problems before they become big problems.

- For more info on these tips and your TerraTrike in general, go to: [www.TerraTrike.com](http://www.TerraTrike.com)

## And Finally...

Complete warranty, liability waiver, and choice of law documents are online at [www.TerraTrike.com](http://www.TerraTrike.com), under the resources tab. Additional terms, conditions, waivers, cautions, FAQs, testimonials and safety notes can also be found on the TerraTrike website. Have each rider review them before riding. TerraTrike and our dealers want you to be safe and enjoy your trike for years to come. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your TerraTrike, please contact your authorized TerraTrike dealer. We've been taking care of our customers for years and take pride in providing exceptional customer service. Thank you for supporting our company, our dealers and our families by choosing TerraTrike.

## TerraTrike

Grand Rapids, MI | [www.TerraTrike.com](http://www.TerraTrike.com)



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