

# Bicycle Components



## A

**Ahead set** - a type of headset that fits on a non-threaded steerer.

**Aero levers** - road bike brake levers using hidden cables that travel out the back of the level body and under the handlebar tape.

**All-terrain bike (ATB)** - term sometimes used for a mountain bike.

**Adjustable cup** - the left-hand cup in a non-sealed bottom bracket, used in adjusting the bottom bracket bearings.

## B

**Bar Ends** - mini handlebar add-ons that fit on the ends of mountain bike bars to add another riding position.

**Binder Bolt** - the bolt used to fasten a stem inside a steerer tube or a seatpost inside a seat tube or a handlebar inside a stem.

**Bottom Bracket** - the cylindrical part of a bike frame that holds the crank axle, two sets of ball bearings, a fixed cup, and an adjustable cup.

**Brake Pad (block)** - the block of rubber like material which presses against the wheel

rim when the brakes are applied.

**Brake Shoe** - the metal part that holds a brake pad.

**Braze-Ons** - parts for mounting shift levers, derailleurs, water bottle cages, and racks, which are fastened to a steel bicycle frame through a type of soldering process known as brazing.

**Brinelled** - a type of wear in bearing components that is a series of dents in the races or cups.

**Bushing** - a sleeve that fits between two parts to act as a bearing; often found in suspension systems.

**Butted Tubing** - tubing whose outside diameter remains constant but whose thickness is reduced in midsection where less strength is needed.

## C

**Cable end (cap)** - a small aluminum or plastic cap installed to the ends of brake and shift cables to keep them from fraying.

**Cage** - on a front derailleur, a pair of parallel plates that push the chain from side to side; on a rear derailleur, a set of plates in which pulleys are mounted to hold and guide the chain from cog to cog.

**Calipers** - brake arms that reach around the sides of a wheel to press brake pads against the wheel rim.

**Cantilever brakes** - rim brakes with pivoting arms mounted on fork blades or seatstays.

**Cassette** - the set of gear cogs on the rear hub. Also called a freewheel, cluster or block.

**Cassette hub** - a type of rear hub that has a built-in freewheel mechanism.

**Chainring** - a sprocket attached to the right crankarm to drive the chain.

**Chainring nut spanner** - a special tool used to loosen the slotted chainring bolts that fasten a chainring to a crankarm.

**Chainstays** - the two tubes of a bicycle frame that run from the bottom bracket back to the rear dropouts.

**Chainsuck** - when the chain doubles back on itself in the middle of a gearshift and gets jammed either between chainrings or between the inner chainring and the frame.

**Chain whip** - a tool consisting of a metal bar and two sections of chain, used in changing cogs on a cassette.

**Chrome moly**, chromo, (chrome molybdenum) - a type of high-quality steel tubing.

**Clincher tire** (also known as "wired-on" tire) - a tire whose edges hook under the curved-in edge of a rim.

**Clipless pedals** - pedals that use a releasable mechanism like that of a ski binding to lock onto cleated shoes.

**Cleat** - a metal or plastic fitting on the sole of a cycling shoe that engages the pedal.

**Clinchers** - conventional tires with a separate inner tube.

**Coaster brake** - a foot-operated brake built into the rear hub normally found on one-speed kids' bikes and cruisers.

**Cog** - a sprocket attached directly to the rear hub on a single-speed bike and mounted on a cassette on a multi-speed bike.

**Cone** - a bearing race that curves to the inside of a circle of ball bearings and works in conjunction with a cup.

**Cottered crank** - a crankset in which the crankarms are fastened to the axle by means of threaded cotters and nuts.

**Cotterless crank** - a crankset in which the crankarms are fastened to the axle by means of a taper and nuts or bolts.

**Crankarm** - a part, one end of which is attached to the bottom bracket axle and the other holds a pedal, whose forward rotation provides the leverage needed to power the bicycle.

**Crankarm bolt** - the bolt that holds a crankarm on the end of the axle in a cotterless crankset.

**Crankset** - includes the bottom bracket, two crankarms, and one or more chainrings.

## D

**Damping** - the process of controlling suspension action, without which a suspended fork would bounce like a pogo stick.

**Derailleur** - a lever-activated mechanism that pushes the chain off of one sprocket and onto another, thus changing the gear ratio.

**Diamond frame** - the traditional men's bicycle frame, the principal parts of which form a diamond shape.

**Dish** - offsetting of the hub in a rear wheel on a derailleur bike to make room for the cassette and still allow the wheel to be centered within the frame.

**Double-crown fork** - a type of suspension fork that resembles a motorcycle fork due to crowns above and below the head tube, which increase stiffness.

**Downhill bike** - a bike designed for racing down mountains; features include long-travel dual suspension frame.

**Down tube** - the frame tube running from the headset to the bottom bracket.

**Drivetrain** - the derailleurs, chain, freewheel, and crankset of a bike.

**Dropout** - a slot in the frame into which the rear wheel axle fits.

**Dropout hanger** - a threaded metal piece that extends below the right rear dropout, used as a mount for the rear derailleur.

**Drops** - the lower, straight portion of a turned-down-type handlebar.

**Dual-suspension bike** - a bike with front and rear suspension.

**Dustcap** - a metal or plastic cap that fits into a hub shell to keep contaminants out of bearings.

## F

**Fixed gear** - a direct-drive setup using one chainring and one rear cog, as on a track bike. When the rear wheel turns so does the chain and crank; coasting isn't possible.

## G

**Granny gear** - smallest chainring combined with largest cog, used mainly for climbing.

## H

**Headset** - the parts at the top and bottom of the frame's head tube, into which the handlebar stem and fork are fitted.

**Hybrid** - a cross between a road bike and a mountain bike. Not as fast or efficient as the former, and not as well suited to single-track as the latter. Often called a "cross" bike.

## S

**Straight block** - a cassette with cogs that increase in size in one-tooth increments, often used in time trialling.

## T

**Tops** - the part of a drop handlebar between the stem and the brake levers.

**Tubular, tubs** - a lightweight road or track tire that has the tube permanently sewn inside the casing. Also called a sew-up. The tire is glued to the rim.

Source: <http://www.cobr.co.uk/index.php>