

# Two Light!

You don't have to ride carbon fiber to get a light tandem. There's no need to sacrifice ride quality (not mention \$\$\$\$) if you want the lightest, trickiest tandem built.

Here's the tandem that turned all the heads over the last few years.

It's a steel tandem that actually weighs 26.8 pounds with pedals and bottle cages installed. The wheels are hand built specifically for tandem use, and they are much more durable than light-weight road bike wheels. The bottom brackets, hubs, seat posts, etc. are all components that will hold up to tandem riding. Believe it or not, many manufacturers put carbon fiber captain seat posts into tandems! Well, they break. Road bike wheels fall apart quickly under tandem stresses. The first rule of building a tandem is: Use parts that will hold up to tandem riding.

Another problem is a matter of....well....honesty. My philosophy is that if a customer is paying for light weight, they should not accept a bike that weighs more than a manufacturer claims. I've actually weighed some other companies light weight tandems and found that some actually weighed up to 30% more than their claimed weights.



## Trust but Verify:

From what I've experienced, I don't even trust manufacturers printed weights, and neither should you. If weight is important to you, get a money back, written guarantee of the finished weight before you order! We do this for customers who are paying extra for ultra-lightweight bicycles. If you just trust what someone puts in a catalog, you're in for disappointment when I weigh your bike on my digital scale.

Our Trillium ultra-light tandems are THE lightest tandems you'll find at a price that you can afford. Come in today, and feel for yourself the tandem that beats them all!

We're offering this bike in 2 versions. One that weighs a digitally verified 30.8 pounds without pedals and bottle cages, the other weighs 26.8 with pedals and cages (you can come into the shop and lift this one for yourself).



## Specs

	Trillium Tandem 30.8 lbs <u>\$7,999</u>	Trillium Tandem 26.8 lbs <u>\$11,999</u>
Frame	Trillium Lightweight	Trillium Ultra-light
Fork	Trillium Custom Steel	Reynolds Tandem
Head set	FSA Orbit X	FSA Orbit X
Brake/Shift levers	Campagnolo Chorus Carbon	Campagnolo Record Carbon
Crank	Davinci Tandem	Davinci Tandem
Pedals	None	Speedplay X1
Brakes	Campagnolo Chorus	Campagnolo Record
Stoker stem	Rodriguez Custom	Rodriguez Custom
Front Derailleur	Campagnolo Triple	Campagnolo Triple
Rear Derailleur	Campagnolo Comp	Campagnolo Record
Bar tape	Cinelli Cork	Cinelli cork
Tires	Vredestein	Vredestein
Bottom brackets	Phil Wood Titanium	Phil Wood Ti-mag
Rims	Alex DA28 36° 4x	Velocity Fusion 36° 4x
Rear Hub	White Industries Daisy	White Industries Daisy ti
Front hub	White Industries Daisy	White Industries Daisy
Wheels	Handbuilt w/3- year warranty	Handbuilt w/3- year warranty
Handle bars	FSA Carbon K-force	FSA Carbon K-force
Seat Posts	Thomson Elite	Thomson Elite
Spokes	DT stainless steel	DT stainless steel
Cogs	Hyperglide cassette	Hyperglide cassette
Seats	Terry Ti	Terry Ti
Bottle Cages	None	Serfas Carbon x 2

For more information and color photos visit us on the web!

Parts specifications subject to change depending on availability

[www.trilliumcycles.com](http://www.trilliumcycles.com)

# Weight-a-Minute

I don't read a lot of bicycle magazines, but when I do, I see advertisements for bicycles that weigh 17 and 16 pounds all the time. As you all know, we have a full service repair shop at R+E Cycles, and we repair any brand of bicycle. Quite often a bicycle model will come in for repair that I have seen advertised in a magazine as an ultra-lightweight bike. I've been lifting bikes since I could walk, and started to notice the 'heft' in some of these supposed 'ultra-light' bikes.

Last summer I lifted one that I'd just seen advertised at 17 pounds, and it just didn't feel that light. I put it on the digital scale that we use to weigh our bicycles, and low and behold, it weighed 21.3 pounds! It was a \$5,000 carbon fiber racing bike that weighed considerably more than our \$2,800 steel Sport bike. I was perplexed, but soon forgot about it.....until Seattle Bike Expo. Something happened there that just made me say "wait a minute.....".

We had built and assembled an S3 steel tandem that ended up weighing 26.8 pounds with pedals and water bottle cages and put it on display at Seattle Bike Expo. In the world of tandems, any verified weight under 35 is considered light. On Saturday, the first day of the show, our bike got a lot of attention. One guy told me that another tandem manufacturer (we'll call them brand X) had a similar tandem on display that only weighed 24 pounds. Again, I was perplexed because I didn't see how that was possible, so in the back of my mind I assumed he'd just mis-understood the other salesperson.

An hour or so later, I had another customer who said he had decided to buy one of these 24 pound tandems from brand X. I questioned this customer, and he knew the model, parts, weights, etc... That was it I thought, I've got to see this 24 pound tandem! On Sunday, I stopped off at the shop and picked up our digital scale to keep in my pocket, and then headed down town for the final day of the Expo.

When the show slowed down a little bit, I ventured off to check this thing out. When I arrived at the brand X booth, I said "I heard that you guys have a 24 pound steel tandem over here that I just have to see".

The salesperson, noticing my Rodriguez T-shirt, said, "Well, it's really more like 26 pounds right now" as he pointed to a very nice looking tandem. Look at that I thought, it's already gained 2 pounds and it's not even lunch time. I looked down at the cranks and noticed there were no pedals on the tandem, so I jokingly asked "Wow, there's no pedals on it? How do you ride it?" "OK so pedals add a pound, and the bike rides at 27 pounds" he answered. I reached out and tried to lift the tandem, but it was

strapped down. I said to him "Man, I just have to lift a steel tandem that's this light, will you undo the straps for me?" As he grudgingly knelt down to undo the straps, I pulled the digital scale from my pocket and said "but I have to lift it.....with this".

Now, the look on his face kind of told me that this tandem wasn't going to weigh in at 26 pounds, but even I was shocked at the final weight. As I lifted the bike with the scale the digits started fluttering like a digital scale will, and the Brand X sales person kind of backed away as a couple of onlookers gathered behind me. "Ooohhh" I said, "that doesn't look like 26 pounds". "What does it say?" He asked. "32.2 pounds" I answered, as the scale locked in it's final weight. "You can't really build a steel tandem under 30 pounds" came the reply. (I thought this was an odd reply for someone who just told me this bike weighed 26 pounds.) "We've got a 27 pounder over in our booth with pedals and bottle cages" I told him. "It weighs 27 on that scale?!" Said both Brand X sales people as they pointed their fingers at my digital scale. "You come on by the booth, and we'll weigh it together" I said as I headed back to our booth.

Believe it or not, he did come by the booth about an hour later. I whipped out the scale, and we weighed it together like I promised we would. As the scale locked in at 26.8 pounds I jokingly said "I guess I was wrong about the 27 pounds, it only weighs 26.8". He stood and looked over the tandem for a while and said "that's amazing".

It's all fun and games when a fisherman exaggerates to his buddies the size of the fish he caught, just like nobody gets hurt when someone exaggerates to their friends how light their new bike is. Those exaggerations are called something else when advertised to the public, and this is one local company who's tired of competing with those 'exaggerations' unabated. Be careful you guys when you quote those weights, 'cause I've got my digital scale, and I'm not afraid to use it.

I like making light weight bikes, and we build some of the lightest bikes around, but I'm never going to recommend that someone sacrifice a comfortable ride, or a good fit in order to make their bike lighter weight. I would also encourage all of these companies not to sacrifice the truth to try and sell a bike, and if they do, I'll be there with my digital scale. If you want light weight, a comfortable high-performance ride, affordable price, and the quality that comes with a hand-crafted bike made right here in Seattle, then I hope that you'll give us a chance to show you our new S3 frames. Call today to make an appointment to see one, we know you'll love it!

