Rivendell Bicycle Works
2040 North Main Street No. 19 • Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Fax: (925) 933-7305 Ph: (925) 933-7304

A custom Rivendell frame is one I design for your body and the kind of riding you plan for it. You get plenty of input that helps me design it, but when it comes to specifying lengths and angles, I combine my 22 years of experience and a proper dose of humility to come up with what I suspect will be the best bike in the world for you. Fill out the form accurately and completely, but along the way, don't hesitate for a second to ask questions until the cows come home. The lead time varies, and has been as long as 3 years. Right now, it's probably a year. When you send in the information on the other side of this page, I'll assume it is cast in bronze and set in stone. Thanks.—Grant Petersen

Notes

1. **Submit all measurements metrically**. To convert inches to centimeters, multiply by 2.54.

2. **Give us your Pubic Bone Height (PBH) measurement**, and be accurate to, say, 3mm. That's not difficult. I can't do my best work without an accurate PBH figure.

3. **Another critical measurement: Saddle Height (SH).** If there's not a 10cm to 10.5cm difference between your PBH and SH, it's likely you've mis-measured your PBH, or your current saddle is too high or too low.

4. **Brake style:** Every modern medium-to-high end brake is good. Even "old-fashioned" centerpulls such as the Dia-Compe Mod. 750, which is unchanged since 1973 or so, is a fine brake. With that in mind, and as odd as it sounds, consider looks. If you don't like how it looks, you won't like it even if it works well, and since they all work well,you might as well pick a style you like. Cantilever, sidepull, centerpull…they all have their adherents.

   Next is brake reach. The brake should have the capacity to fit the biggest tire you'll ride, the biggest tire you'll ride with a fender, and it should make it easy to mount or remove any wheel you're likely to ride.

   CANTILEVER, V-BRAKES, SIDEPULL, CENTERPULL?

   Cantilevers & V-Brakes make sense when fenders and bigger tires are likely. Stubborn traditionalists think a road bike should have sidepulls. Others love the style & symmetry of centerpulls.

   We have many strong opinions about many things, but not about brakes. We've used, owned, and ridden all the styles enough to like and trust them all.

5. **Wheel size** affects standover height, trail/stability, and the type of brakes most practical, and so I need to know whether you want 700c, 26-inch mountain, or 650B wheels. And how skinny, medium, or fat the tires will be. So, in the “range” blank, just tell me “700x27 to 32” or “all sizes” or “nothing fatter than a 700x28.” In most cases it won’t mean you can’t ride a tire outside that range; but for me to design the bike, I’ve got to have some tire in mind.

6. **Fenders**. I want to know the biggest tire you’ll ride with fenders. If you won’t ride with fenders, just say n/a.

7. **Handlebar type** affects frame design. If you want a super comfy upright position for city and casual country riding—an increasingly popular request—then you might want to ride Albatross handlebars. Since Albatross handlebars sweep back toward you, the top tube can be longer, which will increase the wheelbase and make the bike more gentle and comfy (without making you reach too far for the bars). I can’t say there’s a big difference between how I’d design a bike intended to be ridden with drop bars or Moustache H’bars, but it helps me to have as many questions answered.

8. **Stem type:** Until late mid-2004 we would build frames only for traditional, one-inch threaded headsets and their matching quill stems. And, we still favor that style, as it offers you the tremendous benefit of being able to raise your stem/handlebar easily, for more comfort or to suit how you feel at any moment. But if you flat-out prefer threadless steerers and clamp-on frames and don’t need your bars quite as high, we now offer a threadless option. Don’t let anybody tell you that quill stems will be unavailable in the future. We don’t believe that for a second, and even if that were the case, you could always have another fork made, or a new steerer put into your existing one. But it won’t happen, honest.

9. **Now and then somebody asks,** “Why do you require so few body dimensions? I’ve had other made-to-measure frames, and those builders ask for a lot more.” I don’t ask for anything I won’t use, and I’m really good at using the information I ask for.

The Rivendell Guarantee

Your Rivendell frame will be made without compromises or shortcuts. We will do our best every

step of the way to make it strong, safe, and beautiful. In the unlikely event that your frame actually breaks, we'll repair it free of charge if it's our fault, and if a repaint is needed (as opposed to a touch-up), we'll cover half the cost of that. If your frame suffers an accident and needs to be repaired, you'll pay freight and we'll arrange the fix and the repaint, if needed, at the prevailing rates.

Many inferior frames have a Lifetime Guarantee, and when there's so much built-in profit, it's a sales tool. They can afford to replace it after it brakes. Your Rivendell is made as well as is humanly possible, and that you or somebody will be riding it in thirty, or even fifty years. Much lesser frames are still going strong after twenty.

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Name _____ Day Tele: _____ Email: _____ Fax?

_____

Address: _____ City _____ St_____ Zip

_____

Age: ____ Height (ft/in): _____Weight: _____ Years riding as an adult ____ Est yearly miles

_____

Pubic Bone Height (PBH) _____cm Saddle Height (SH): _____cm

Your current best bike? Model _____ Size _____ Other _____

It fits well? _____ And rides well? _____ Will your Riv replace it or supplement it? _____

Describe the bike you're looking for. If more than one applies, indicated that:

___ versatile, great-handling road bike for pavement; ____all-around road bike, some dirt roads

___ loaded touring bike or trail bike; ____ commute bike/city riding;

___ other, or comments: _____

Wheel/tire size and range: 700c ___ to ____ Mountain 26 ____ to ____ 650B ____ to _____

Toe clip overlap: Small bikes, 700c wheels/fenders almost always have it. I don't think it's a big deal, but some people don't want it. It can be designed around, usually with smaller-than-700c wheels. If you insist on No Toeclip Overlap, check here: _____ If you're OK with it, check here:

_____

List by percentage the time you'll spend riding this bike: on roads _____; on dirt _____.

Fenders (circle): Yes or No If Yes, what is the largest tire you need to ride with fenders?

_____

Handlebar style (circle): Drops Moustache Albatross

other_____

Cranks, pedals: Crank brand/model_____ Length_____ Modern clipless pedals? _____

Stem type (circle): Standard (threaded steerer, quill stems) Clamp-on (for threadless steerers)

Kickstands are useful. Should we braze on a kickstand plate?: Sure_____ No thanks_____

BRAKES

As we've noted, tire choice should dictate your brake choice. If you know all that and know the brakes you want, write the brand and model here: _____

If you don't know which brand and model but would like us to pick the best brake according to your tire notes above, we'll do that. Just check here: _____.

If you'd like to discuss brakes, please contact us. Email is best: mark@rivbike.com.

Price, delivery, deposit: A frame and fork, painted the normal way,with the normal custom extras, costs $3,500, or about $1000 less than the same number of hours of plumbing service. (There is nearly a week into each frame.) Delivery is hard to nail down, but you can call here and ask Mark what he thinks it is. Customs are always late, so add up to three months onto his best prediction. A non-refundable deposit of $500 is required with the order. If you quit the order, you may apply $400 of it toward one of our many fine non-custom frames or bikes, however.

PAYMENT: MasterCard, Visa, check, or money order.

If Credit card, the number: expires:

I have read the notes on the previous pages, and understand them. And I've submitted an accurate Pubic Bone Height.

Name _____

Signature_____

Date _____