



COTIC BIKES GENERAL USER MANUAL

**VERSION 1.0
NOVEMBER 2020**

WELCOME

Thanks for choosing Cotic. We hope your new frame or bike is the start of a lot of fun and some great adventures, and we are so happy you brought us along for the ride.

Our aim with Cotic bikes is simple: **Build bikes we want to ride.**

It sounds simple and obvious, but it's true. It all started in 2002 with the Soul - our now legendary long travel trail hardtail - which we wanted to be a strong, light, fun, durable steel hardtail which could use long forks, big tyres and proper brakes. No one made one at the time, so our founder Cy Turner designed his dream bike and created Cotic to share that with other riders. That's why Cotic exists today. We are a truly independent bike company, not some 'little guy' front to a big distributor or corporation. If you're interested in learning more about our journey, head over to www.cotic.co.uk/15years to see our film about it.

The key thread running through all of our products is that they're all bikes we love to ride, and we're still designing our dream bikes to share with you. All Cotic products are anchored with these five attributes:

- ▶ *FUN*
- ▶ *DURABLE*
- ▶ *CLEAN LINES*
- ▶ *INTERACTIVE*
- ▶ *CONFIDENCE*
- ▶ *INSPIRING*

They are designed and developed in Sheffield and the Peak District with diligence, passion and pride. We back that up with honest, robust customer service and a great warranty.

When we have customers come back to us after their first ride buzzing on how great they find their new bike, that's amazing. When we have customers contact us after nearly 10 years and ask for a decal set because they're repainting their original Soul, that's even better because we know that their Cotic has had them smiling for years and will continue to do so for a long time to come. That's why we do this.

WARNING

Cotic mountain bikes are bicycle frames designed for general off road XC, Trail, All Mountain and Enduro use only. They are not Freeride or Downhill bikes. Performing large drops and jumps may cause damage to or failure of the frame which could result in injury to the rider. Cotic Ltd does not take responsibility for any of these events.

Cotic drop bar bikes are bicycle frames designed for general road, gravel, and light off road use only. They are not mountain bikes. Tackling extreme technical terrain or performing drops and jumps may cause damage to or failure of the frame and/or fork which could result in injury to the rider. Cotic Ltd does not take responsibility for any of these events.

Cotic frames and forks exceed the requirements of BS ISO4210.

Whilst Cotic endeavours to ensure that all items assembled at the factory are correctly and safely installed, it is the responsibility of the owner to check all fasteners and components to satisfy themselves that the bicycle is safe to use. If you do not feel qualified to make these assessments, you must ensure they are carried out prior to use of the bicycle by a qualified bicycle shop mechanic.

ALL FASTENERS, COMPONENT INSTALLATIONS AND COMPONENTS SHOULD BE CHECKED AND MAINTAINED REGULARLY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFE OPERATION OF YOUR BICYCLE. IT IS PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDED TO CHECK PIVOT BOLTS AND STEM BOLTS FOR TIGHTNESS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRST TWO RIDES AND REGULARLY AFTER THAT TO ENSURE SAFE OPERATION.

RIDING SAFELY

Obey all local bicycle laws and regulations. Laws and regulations include, but are not limited to, licensing a bicycle, wearing a helmet, riding with a child carrier, bicycle traffic laws, riding with lights or reflectors, and riding on pavements/sidewalks, bike paths, and trails. You are responsible for understanding and obeying all laws and regulations.

We recommend you wear a helmet. Select one that complies with CPSC or CE safety standards. Failure to wear a helmet when riding may result in serious injury and/or death in the event of an incident.

Watch for hazards while riding, such as potholes, railway tracks, cattle guards, debris, or variations in the road or trail. These hazards can damage wheels and tyres or cause you to lose control of your bicycle and crash, which could result in serious injury and/or death.

Use a proper front and rear lighting system and reflectors for riding in conditions with poor visibility or low light, such as fog, dusk, dawn, or night time. Reflectors alone are not sufficient for riding a bicycle in these conditions. Failure to use a proper lighting system and reflectors in these conditions could prevent you from being able to see, and could prevent you from being seen by other people. Failure to use a proper lighting system or reflectors in these conditions is extremely dangerous and may result in serious injury and/or death.

Wet, muddy, snowy, or loose surfaces will impair traction, steering, and braking ability. The risk of a crash is dramatically increased in these conditions and can lead to serious injury and/or death.

Watch for “toe overlap”, which is when your foot makes contact with the front wheel, tire, or fender as you turn the bicycle at slow speeds. This can cause you to crash, which can result in serious injury and/or death. Test your equipment at slow speeds without pedalling to make sure your foot has clearance during slow speed turns. Check for toe overlap each time you change your cranks, shoes, pedals, or tyres.

Mountain biking and road riding is an inherently dangerous activity, and can result in injury even at slow speeds. Stunt riding, jumping your bicycle, riding at high speeds, lift-access, racing, and other types of extreme riding are considered extremely dangerous, and increase your risk of injury and/or death. Even with the most advanced safety gear, you could become seriously injured or killed when stunt riding, jumping, riding at high speeds, or competing. To decrease your risk of injury, know your limits, use your bicycle correctly, and always wear an appropriate helmet style and appropriate safety gear.

COMPONENTS

If you have bought a complete bicycle from Cotic, these components have been selected to work together correctly through consultation with the component manufacturer and through Cotic’s own testing. If you wish to change any of these components, ensure that the replacements are compatible with the parts on the rest of the bike. Cotic and its component suppliers do not take any responsibility for damage or injury incurred due to the installation different specification components to the original build.

If you have purchased a frame only, please ensure you select parts that are compatible with our frame and each other to ensure safe operation. Only assemble the frame into a bicycle if you have the correct tools and fully understand how to safely assemble and set up a bicycle. We realise some of our customers might be attempting this for the first time, and we encourage that. Plan carefully, watch instruction videos (there are loads on Youtube), and if you have any concerns, get in touch with us for advice. Key thing to remember is that if you are at all unsure, take it to a shop and get them to help. Ask them to show you if you want to learn, but please do not ride your bike if you’re at all unsure about any of the installations. If it is your first time assembling a bike, we strongly recommend having a qualified mechanic check it over before you ride it.

For accurate information on the component sizes and standards in use on your Cotic, simply click the “Components and Sizing” tab on the product page for your frame over on the Cotic website. For example, for the Rocket that would be:

www.cotic.co.uk/product/rocket#compatibility



ASSEMBLING YOUR BIKE OUT OF THE BOX

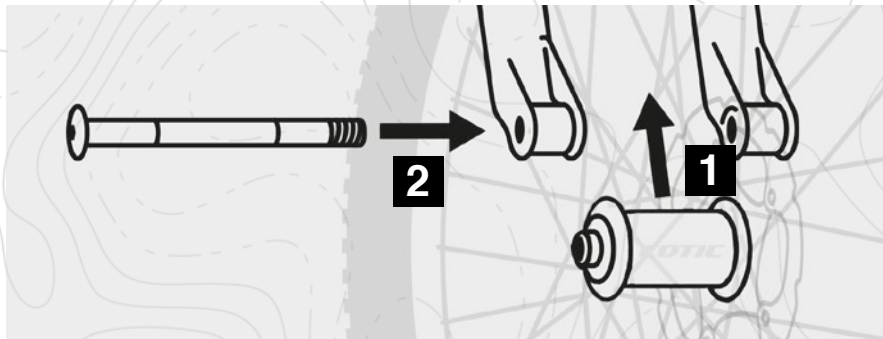
Cotic bikes are shipped in our award winning bike box, with custom designed cardboard inserts to keep your bike safe and sound in transit, as well as being 100% recyclable. When you buy a bike from Cotic, we fully assemble it right here in the UK, from the frame up, with your selected group of parts. Your Bike, Built For You.

We set up the gears, brakes and headset, tubeless the tyres (if tubeless rims purchased) and set up the dropper post (if appropriate). We then remove the front wheel and handlebars, and in some cases the front brake, in order to fit the bike in the box.

To re-assemble your bike when it arrives, you will need 4mm, 5mm and 6mm allen keys. Lift your Cotic bike carefully out of the box and remove the packing. The box on top of the rear wheel will contain your invoice/warranty, and any spares and loose parts included with the bike as appropriate to your order.

Front Wheel

To install the front wheel, undo the thru axle installed in the fork and remove, noting which side of the fork it inserts from. Line up the front wheel with the disc rotor on the left, and carefully slot into the fork (1), lining up the disc rotor between the pads in the caliper. Once in the dropout slot, insert the axle back in (2). On some mountain bike forks compatible with the Rockshox Torque Caps (an oversized hub axle interface), a regular front wheel hub might not naturally align with the axle hole so you may need to move the front fork up a few millimetres to get the axle to fit through. Once through, tighten the axle to the torque shown on the axle or recommended on for the fork if it is an allen key type axle. These usually use a 5mm or 6mm allen key. If it is a lever type axle, follow the manufacturer instructions, but make sure it is tight with no play or rattle on the front hub. These vary from axle to axle and fork to fork, so please check your specific item.



Handlebar

To install the handlebars, check the stem face plate bolts, but most (including Cotic stems) are 4mm allen key fitting M5 size. Undo the bolts and remove the face plate. Rotate the handlebars until the cables have smooth runs and the controls are facing in the correct direction. Place the centre of the bars in the stem cradle, and place the stem face plate on the front and thread in the bolts. With it loosely assembled, centre the handlebars, and sit over the bike and get a feel for where you might want to set them in terms of rotation. If you aren't sure, for mountain bike bars, set the rise section vertical when looking from the side, for road bars, set the bottom of the drops horizontal as a first go. Tighten the stem bolts up to the specified torque, however you must always check that this the parts are tight and not moving under load. Torque wrenches can be as much as 10% out on what the actual torque delivered is versus what it says on the wrench, so if in doubt, go tighter and make sure there is no possibility of bar movement when riding.

Torque Settings for Cotic Parts:

- ▶ Cotic 100/110mm Road Stems **7.5-8Nm**
- ▶ Cotic 35/45mm Shorter/Short Stems **7.5-8Nm**

The position of the shift and brake levers on the handlebar should be adjusted to fit your hand position. There's no firm rules, just what's right for you. Brake and shift levers should be within comfortable reach. For mountain bikes we recommend that a good starting point is angling them so your wrists and forearms make a nice straight line with the brake levers when you are stood up. Get someone to take a photo of you on the bike, from the side. That helps visualise this.

For road bikes, just keep adjusting until you are comfortable. Remember that rotating the levers inwards or outwards can make just as big a difference to your comfort as sliding them up and down the bars. Always make sure the brake/shift levers are tightened to the manufacturer recommended torque if you make any changes.

Tyres

Whilst we do fit tyres, and if they're tubeless they will be set up that way with sealant inside, they inevitably lose some pressure in transit. Please check your tyre pressures and re-inflate as appropriate. We recommend the following to start with:

- ▶ Tubeless Mountain Bike Tyres **19-22psi front, 22-25psi rear**
- ▶ 650b "Road Plus" Tubeless Tyres **35psi front, 40psi rear**
- ▶ Tubed Mountain Bike Tyres **25psi front, 30psi rear**
- ▶ 700c Tubed Road/Gravel Tyres **45psi front, 50psi rear**

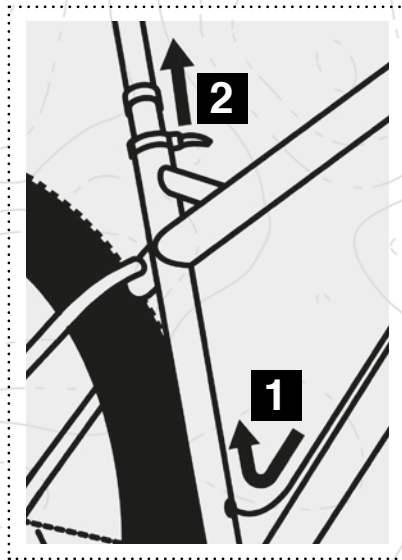
Pedals

Cotic bikes are not supplied with pedals as standard, but if you order a set from us they will be in the box, not fitted to the bike. Fit pedals to the crank, remembering that the left side pedal (opposite to the drivetrain) is left hand threaded, so tightens by turning it left. We recommend putting some grease or anti-seize on the threads. Tighten the pedals to the recommended torque from your pedal manufacturer.

Saddle Height

Your seatpost will have been dropped and inserted into the frame to fit in the box. To set your saddle height, raise the dropper to full height, straight the saddle (lining up with the top tube), tighten the seat clamp to the specified torque or tighten the QR, and sit on the saddle and see how it feels. If you don't have a measured saddle height, a good general rule to set your pedalling saddle height is to have it high enough that with your heel on the pedal, your knee is locked straight, but your hips are still horizontal. This gives you a small bend in your knee when you put the ball of your foot on the pedal.

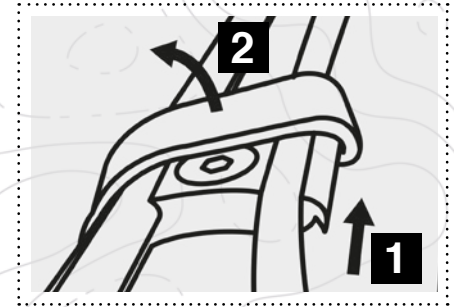
Caution! With dropper post equipped bikes, most posts do not anchor the remote cable to the bottom of the post, so when pulling the seatpost out to increase your saddle height, carefully feed the remote housing into the seat tube from the bottom (1) as you pull the seatpost out at the same rate (2). You may need to unclip the remote cable from the cable guides to allow you to pull more through easily. After moving your saddle height, please ensure correct operation of your dropper post each time. If it's not working quite right, push cable through the bottom of the seat tube to make sure the housing is fully engaged with the bottom of the seatpost. If it's still not working it's possible you will have disengaged the remote housing from the bottom of the post. If this has happened you will need to remove the remote from the bars, undo the seatclamp, and again feeding through from the bottom, pull the seatpost all the way out until you can access the end of the post. Re-install the housing into the stop on the seatpost actuator, then push the seatpost back in carefully. Reinstall the remote on the bars, redo the hose clips and you should be good to go.



Now your saddle is at the correct height, adjust the angle until it's comfortable for you. We recommend slightly tipped forward if you don't know where to start with this.

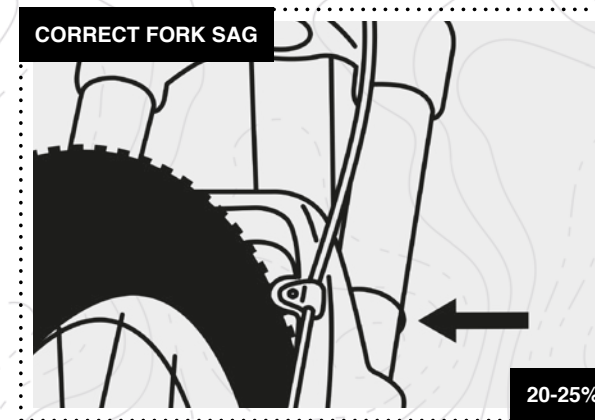
Droplink cable guides

To unclip the cable guides on droplink frames push up on the clasp (1) until it slides away from the grooves holding it in place, then lift up (2). To re-secure it, push the clasp up to align with the grooves on the lower section of the guide and slide down making sure the notch on the clasp is firmly in place.



SUSPENSION

If your Cotic is suspension equipped, then you will need to set up the suspension for sag before doing anything else. There are detailed instructions in the droplink manuals for the full suspension bikes, but here is a quick start guide.



Fork Sag

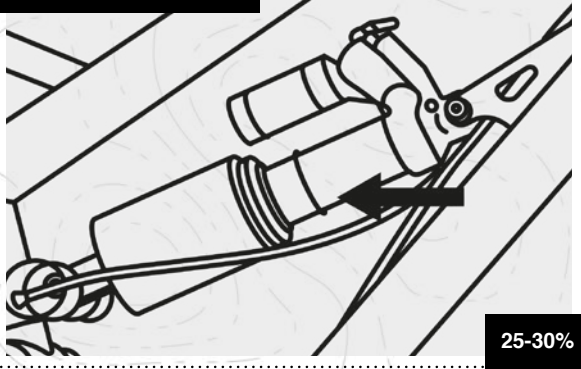
For forks, we recommend running a fairly firmly sprung setup with 20-25% sag. The firmer forks keep your weight centred on downhill sections. Setting your fork sag is easiest if you get someone to help. Again, with your riding gear on, mount the bike and then ask a friend to hold the bars and clamp the front wheel between their legs. Once steady,

stand up on the pedals as if about to descend a trail. Bounce the forks once or twice to free them up, then stand up over the bars in an 'attack' riding position. Get your friend to slide the o-ring on the fork to the seal. Now, without moving the fork any more, move yourself rearward and then step off the bike. Measure the distance from the o-ring to the fork seal. That is your sag. For example, on a 160mm fork, you should be aiming for around 32-40mm sag (20-25%).

Rear Sag

The suspension on your Cotic droplink bike is designed to work at it's best when the suspension 'sags' with the rider on board the bike. 'Sag' is the amount the shock compresses with a rider on board. The suspension works at its best when set with between **25% and 30%** of the available travel as sag.

CORRECT SHOCK SAG



The progressive nature of the droplink rear suspension means running 30% sag gives lots of grip and fluidity whilst still having great support when moving the bike around.

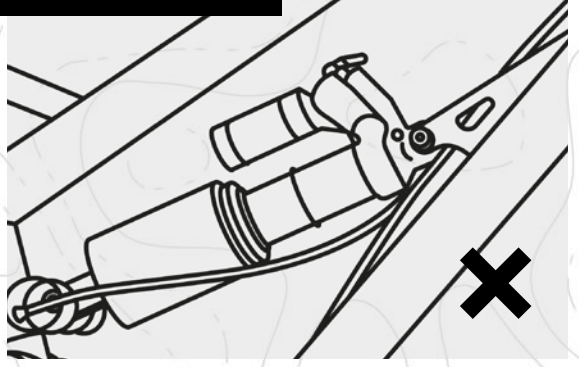
Using a shock pump, put **170psi** in the rear shock. Leave your forks as they are (if you've already set them up) or put the recommended pressure for your weight in them according to the fork manufacturer's manual.

Check the shock and turn off any lockout or Climb Switch. This allows the shock to compress unhindered and ensures a more accurate sag measurement.

Put your riding kit on. Or at least a fully loaded backpack if you usually ride with one. Make particular note of the amount of water in your pack on your bottles. It's probably the heaviest thing you strap to your bike after yourself, and it makes a difference to the suspension setup.

Set the saddle to your correct full pedalling height.

INCORRECT SHOCK SAG



Mount the bike and go for a quick ride in a suitably quiet area. Whilst riding, bounce on the saddle a couple of times to get the rear shock compressing as much as you can.

Pull in somewhere safe, stop, get off the bike and slide the o-ring on the shock down against the seal. Now get back on the bike and with saddle at full height sit down and let your legs dangle off the pedals and make sure the o-ring on the shock is still up against the seal. Now, gently get off the bike without moving the shock (using a kerb or something as a step helps).

Once off the bike, measure the distance between the o-ring and the shock body. Adjust the air pressure in the shock accordingly to get the desired amount of sag. For example, on a bike with a 210x55 shock, which has 55mm stroke, 30% sag is $55 \times 0.3 = 16.5\text{mm}$. As 0.5mm is hard to measure, if you're in the 16-17mm region, you are good.

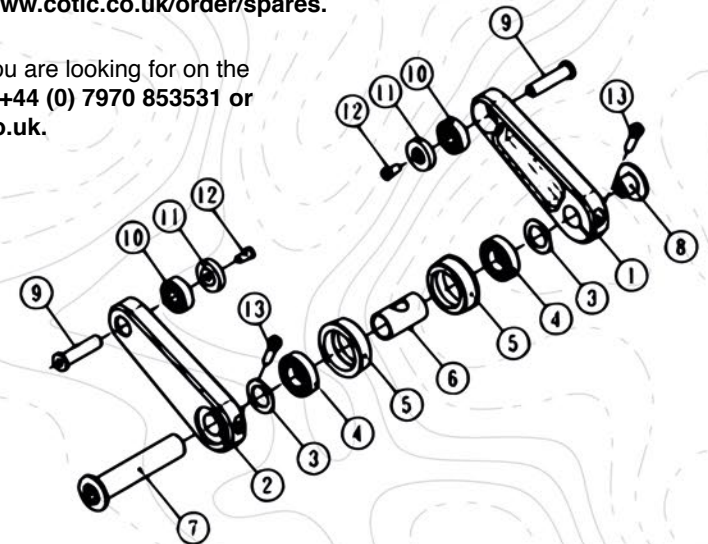
If you need any help or advice, we're always on the end of the phone or email. Get in touch any time, we're happy to help.
+44 (0)7970 853531 or info@cotic.co.uk

SPARES

Need a spare part for your Cotic? Head over to our spares page on our website at www.cotic.co.uk/order/spares.

If you cannot find what you are looking for on the website give us a call on **+44 (0) 7970 853531** or emails us info@cotic.co.uk.

Mech hangers, pivots, bearings, spacers, nuts, bolts, axles. Anything you want or need for looking after your Cotic is right there.



COTIC CC + WOMEN OF STEEL

Now you are the proud owner of a Cotic bike, you are automatically a member of Cotic CC, our owners club. We run events throughout the year exclusively for Cotic owners, sometimes just friendly group rides, and often events designed to help you try something new in a friendly environment. We have done private uplift days for those who have never done one before, hired out skateparks for exclusive evenings and have many more ideas. Keep an eye on the mailing list for news, and feel free to suggest ideas too.

Women of Steel is our Women's only riders group, not exclusively limited to Cotic owners. We run all female group rides, bike maintenance evenings and much more. Head to facebook.com/groups/coticwomenofsteel and get involved.

Cotic CC and Women of Steel events are always welcoming to riders of all abilities. You're only doing it wrong if you aren't enjoying it.

We can't wait to see you on the trails.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Our most up to date information is on our website. Simply head to www.cotic.co.uk/product and select your frame. If your model is no longer current, scroll to the bottom of the main product menu to see all our archive product pages. We will have the information for your bike, always live and always available.

Specific product pages contain all the information including parts sizes, geometry, warranty and lots of great general information and pictures.

If you are looking for a bit of entertainment, head over to www.cotic.co.uk/videos for all our great promo films.

To keep up with us and get involved, sign up to our newsletter at www.cotic.co.uk/contact. You will hear about things we're interested in, new products and promotions first, our Transmission newsletter and all sorts of other things. On social media we are [@coticbikes](https://www.instagram.com/coticbikes) on Instagram, [@coticltd](https://www.facebook.com/coticltd) on Facebook and [@coticltd](https://www.twitter.com/coticltd) on Twitter.

However, the best place by far to get in touch with us is directly, via email to info@cotic.co.uk or on the phone **+44 (0) 7970 853531**. We love hearing from our customers and we're always keen to help.

Happy Trails, and welcome to the Cotic family.





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