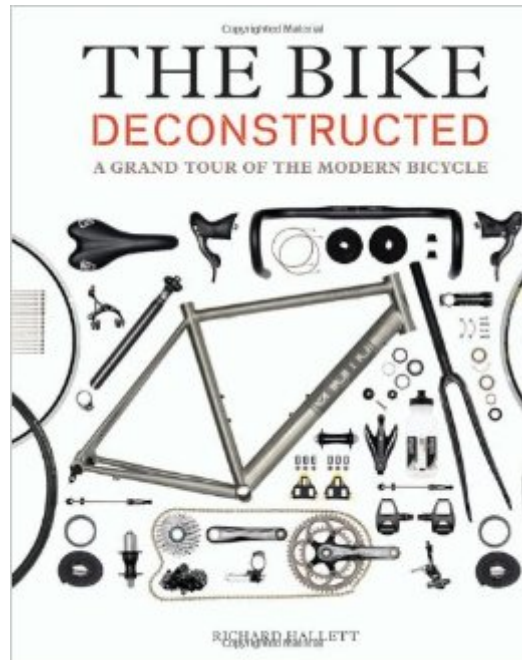


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# The Bike Deconstructed: A Grand Tour Of The Modern Bicycle



## Synopsis

A metal frame, two wheels, pedals, a seat, and handlebars—on first glance, bicycles look pretty straightforward. And yet, even today's most stripped-down bicycles can feature as many as two hundred parts, each with a critical role to play. The unbelievably efficient way they work together is what makes modern bicycles such marvels of compact engineering, and sometimes frustrating to diagnose and repair. In *The Bike Deconstructed*, bicycle guru Richard Hallett dismantles the modern bicycle to uncover the origin, design, and evolution of every integral part. Through stunning photography, accessible writing, and clear diagrams, Hallett examines every aspect of the bike in detail—from the anatomy of the drive chain to the geometry of the main frame, and from spoke weaving patterns to the effect of fork rake on steering and stability. So whether you are a leisurely cruiser or have dreams of entering the Tour de France, *The Bike Deconstructed* is your must-have cycle resource.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*The Bike Deconstructed* is an elegant book. Subtitled "A Grand Tour of the Modern Bicycle" this 8 by 10 inch volume is a nearly 200 page visual and textual examination of the various mechanisms that combined make the delightful machine we call a bicycle. It is a book best browsed, taken in small chunks and contemplated over time. For that is exactly what Richard Hallett did in constructing this book. With clear photographs and prose, Hallett examines each bit of the bicycle. As each part is contemplated histories are revealed and options explored. Hallett's gaze is through the lens of now, but the past is not forgotten, indeed as Faulkner noted, it's not even past. So we

see electronic shifting but also hub gears. Carbon fiber is here but so is steel, aluminum and titanium. This is a book a child will find fascinating but *The Bike Deconstructed* will also reveal some new insights to the even the most grizzled of bike gurus. This is a book for those that gaze at bicycles with a sense of wonder. This book informs that wonder and the knowledge of the parts increase our appreciation of the whole. Fans of recumbents and mountain bikes may lament that their machines are not considered here but Hallett has chosen to restrict his scope in this volume primarily to the conventionally framed modern road bicycle. I cannot call this a fault of the book, for the extreme focus has brought forth great clarity. This book, like the bicycle itself, offers something for both the poet and the engineer. That something is beauty and it is presented beautifully in the words and photographs that fill the pages of this book.

Well I'll start by saying I'm really impress with this book its well put together, explains about the advantages and disadvantages about the different frame structures like Steel, Titanium, Allimunum and Carbon Fiber. Gives you a lot of details, good explanations, amazing pictures. Overall I'm satisfied with my purchase, great book.

I've been getting more involved with the mechanical side of bicycling and this book was an interesting addition to my library. It gives a brief history of the components and was very easy to read and understand. The photos are excellent. The reason I give it four or of five stars is that I probably won't come back to read it or reference it. For me being a newbie in bicycling mechanics it was a nice course in getting to know the bike. The book itself isn't designed as a how-to book but rather the course of events that led to modern road bicycles and their components.

Incredible book. There are parts where a better understanding of metalurgy and/or carbon science would come in handy, and others where diagrams would be helpful, but even as it was, the book was a wonderful guide to the bike. I'd recommend it to anyone that really likes to ride and admires their bike.

This book did a wonderful job fully explaining the evelution of the bicycle. Each chapter explains the function of one part on your bicycle and goes in to fairly good detail about different manufacturer's efforts to make their component the best, which sadly didn't always work out that way. Components are a highly competitive market and the consumer always benefits from that. It seems to take an honest and objective look at the considerations you should make in your effort to get your bike to

handle the way you want and need it to, whether it's cyclocross, road, mtb or commuting (sorry, BMX'ers needn't purchase this book unless you're going to move up to a real bike). The author goes into significant detail about the stress that each part takes in the overall ride, and these are considerations you should make if you're putting together a bike of your own.

Do you know the history quick release levers? Back in the 1920s, if you wanted to change gears on a bike, you had to take the wheel off. Tullio Campagnolo was trying to change gears during a race and his hands went numb from the cold, so he couldn't get the rear wheel off because he couldn't get his hands to move the wingnuts that held the wheel on. Yes, QR levers are that old. That's the kind of thing that makes *The Bike Deconstructed: A Grand Tour of the Modern Bicycle* such a fascinating read. Not only does it cover the current technologies, it gives the history of how we got to this point. And it's full of historical tidbits. Granted, *The Bike Deconstructed* isn't for everyone. If you're not into cycling, it may hold limited interest for you, but even then it's still a pretty cool book. If you are into cycling, it's a wondrous exploration of the history of the sport. *The Bike Deconstructed* focuses primarily on road bikes, so mountain bikers may find it less interesting, but it's still worth checking out.

As a new cyclist, this was a great introduction to the different parts that make up a road bike specifically. However, I have a hybrid bicycle and I'm interested in bicycling as a car replacement, not how to build the best road bike for weekend races. The book goes into detail on the differences between frame materials and options for individual pieces and how they affect performance. However I found myself wanting a bit more on the history and a focus on aesthetics and not just pure performance. The dryness of some sections had me skipping ahead a few pages several times. If you're new to cycling, but are specifically interested in road bikes, this is a great introduction to those beautiful machines. But if you're more interested in the history or in learning about mountain bikes, cargo bikes, etc., you could easily skip this. This does make a great companion piece for *It's All About the Bike: The Pursuit of Happiness on Two Wheels*, which does go into more details about the history of the bicycle, different types of bikes, and injects a good story and passion that *The Bike Deconstructed* lacks.

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