

# TWO LIGHT!

Did you know that you can have all the advantages of a steel frame and still have the lightest tandem in your group? There's no need to sacrifice ride quality, durability, safety (not to mention \$\$\$\$) if you want one of the lightest, sweetest tandems built.

## How'd we do that without carbon?

This tandem has been turning heads all over Seattle's tandem community over the last few years. It's a real steel tandem that actually weighs just 25.8 pounds (26.7 as pictured with pedals and bottle cages installed). Of course, the weight varies by size, and the one that is pictured here is a medium size. The bottom brackets, hubs, seat posts, etc. are all components that will hold up to tandem riding. The wheels are tandem rated, the frame and fork are steel, the frame has a stiffener tube, and the cranks and seat posts are aluminum. These are all the areas that other companies use carbon, but why not use stuff that will hold up the rigors of our customers we ask?

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 Rodriguez 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 we weighed at a digitally verified 29.9 pounds without pedals and bottle cages, the other can weigh 25.8 (26.7 with pedals and cages). We'd like to invite you to come into the shop and lift this one for yourself.

*\*\*We have made tandems with these parts that were this light, but please note frame size, paint choice, and parts substitutions can all add weight to your tandem.*

## FRAME ONLY FROM



	 Ultra-Light Chorus Tandem <b>\$8,999</b> (As light as 30.8 pounds)	Ultra-Light Record Tandem <b>\$12,999</b> (As light as 25.8 pounds w/o pedals)
Frame	Rodriguez Lightweight	Rodriguez Featherweight
Fork	Rodriguez Custom Steel	Rodriguez Custom Steel
Head set	FSA Orbit X	FSA Orbit X
Brake/Shift levers	Campagnolo Chorus Carbon	Campagnolo Record Carbon 10x
Cranks	Davinci Tandem	Davinci Tandem
Brakes	Campagnolo Chorus	TRP Magnesium 979
Stoker stem	Rodriguez Custom	Rodriguez Custom
Front Derailleur	Microshift Triple	Microshift Triple
Rear Derailleur	DaVinci Custom X9	Campagnolo Record
Bar tape	Cinelli Cork	Cinelli cork
Tires	Panaracer PT folding	Vredestein Senso
Bottom brackets	Phil Wood Stainless/Alloy	Phil Wood Ti-mag
Wheels	Handbuilt w/3- year warranty	Spinergy Tandem
Spokes	DT stainless steel	Spinergy Tandem
Rims	Velocity Fusion 36° 4x	Spinergy Tandem
Rear Hub	White Industries MI6	Spinergy Tandem
Front hub	White Industries MI5	Spinergy Tandem
Handlebars	FSA K-force	FSA K-force
Seat Posts	Deda Zero 100	Deda Zero 100
Cogs	Hyperglide cassette 9x	Ultra-light cassette 9x
Seats	Terry Titanium	WTB Silverado Carbon

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

[www.rod bikes.com](http://www.rod bikes.com)

Parts specifications subject to change depending on availability

# 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 its 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!

