

# Wheelchair Buddies

*Who says your wheelchair can't come?*

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## Attaching Wheelchair Buddies to Handcycle and Use- WB2

### Attachment

1. Separate the wheelchair buddies by undoing the screws and removing the bolts. The shape of the opening that will go around the handcycle axle is an oval, rather than a perfect circle so it can accommodate multiple size axles, whereas a perfect circle would be limited to one size diameter.
2. Place the two separated pieces around the back crossbar of your handcycle and then reinsert the bolts and screw down until tight, but still movable. See picture for illustration. Some riders have left the pieces slightly loose so they can rotate (ie. movable), while others tightened them down so they stay in a desired position and they do not rotate. Experiment with both options to see what works best for your setup. The distance between the two wheelchair buddies will vary depending on your wheelchair, but that can be set later.



3. Attach one of the carabiners to the back of the handcycle. See picture above. The second carabiner will attach to the back bar of your wheelchair when loaded. This setup will keep the

wheelchair rotated backward and the front wheels off the ground. Handcycle frames vary, and in the case where you cannot fit the carabiner onto your handcycle, you may need to purchase a carabiner with a larger opening, or you can use the Velcro strap that is provided. Both systems work perfectly, but the carabiner setup is a little faster.

### Loading wheelchair

1. The wheelchair buddies will cradle the cross-bar of your wheelchair.



2. Now you are ready to do the loading. Transfer to the handcycle and remove the tires from your wheelchair. After that is done, slide your wheelchair around to the back of your handcycle. See picture below.



3. After you have it behind the handcycle, you will slide your wheelchair axle into the cradle of the wheelchair buddies. This is when it is recommended that you adjust the distance between the 2 WB's so they are as wide apart as they can. Aligning them wide apart increases the stability of your wheelchair.



4. Now that the wheelchair is on the wheelchair buddies, pull the backrest of the wheelchair towards yourself to incline the wheelchair up and take the wheelchair castors off the ground. Attach the strap and carabiner setup to the back of your wheelchair to sustain the wheelchair in that position (see figures below). The strap can be made in a simple loop, like the figure on the left, but the system is stronger if the loop is made and then double backed, like the figure on the right. Which type of attachment will be decided by the individual setup, but the guiding rule will be how far the wheelchair's castor wheels are off the ground. Preferably you want the wheelchair castors off the ground about 10 inches, but anything above 5 should work. Also, if possible, you want to attach the strap to the back bar in such a way that it cannot slide down the bar. Notice in the figures below that the strap is not solely on the angled back bar. This is so the strap cannot slide down the bar loosening the whole setup and possibly having the wheelchair slip off the Wheelchair Buddy attachments.



5. Now you can load the wheelchair wheels on top and you'll be ready to go. Make sure to secure the wheels on top with straps or bungee cords. For the system on my bike I use one long bungee cord where one end attaches to my wheelchair, I bring it up and through the spokes of the wheels, and then back down to the other side of my wheelchair where I latch the other side. You can also load other things too onto the seat of your wheelchair, like a lunch, laptop computer, sleeping bag, backpack, etc. These would be put on the seat of the wheelchair under the wheels.



6. Try out the whole setup before going on big trip. Make adjustments as necessary, like tightening or loosening the strap and carabiner setup. Have fun!



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