

Thule FBA_532002

Thule 532 Freeride Cycle Carrier Instruction Manual

Model: FBA_532002

INTRODUCTION

The Thule 532 Freeride Cycle Carrier is designed for secure and convenient transportation of bicycles on your vehicle's roof. This carrier features a robust design, adjustable quick straps for wheels, and a locking mechanism to secure both the bike to the carrier and the carrier to the load bars. It accommodates various bike frame dimensions, ensuring a wide range of compatibility.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always ensure the carrier and bicycle are securely mounted before driving.
- Check all fasteners and straps regularly, especially before and after long journeys.
- Adhere to the maximum load capacity of 37.5 pounds per carrier.
- Be aware of the increased vehicle height and width when the carrier and bike are installed. Exercise caution in low-clearance areas such as garages, carports, and drive-thrus.
- Avoid using this carrier with carbon frames if the frame clamp directly contacts the carbon, as it may cause damage. Consult your bicycle manufacturer's guidelines.
- Do not exceed the vehicle manufacturer's recommended roof load capacity.
- Drive at reduced speeds, especially in strong winds, over rough terrain, or when cornering.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the safe operation of your Thule Freeride Cycle Carrier. Follow these steps carefully:

1. **Unpack Components:** Carefully remove all parts from the packaging. Verify that all components listed in the product manual are present.



Figure 1: Main components of the Thule 532 Freeride Cycle Carrier.

2. **Attach to Load Bars:** The carrier attaches to your vehicle's roof load bars. The Thule 532 Freeride is compatible with various bar types, including Thule WingBar, SlideBar, SquareBar, and ProBar. Use the appropriate mounting hardware (T-track adapters for WingBar/SlideBar/ProBar or U-bolts for SquareBar) provided with your carrier.



Figure 2: Adjusting a component during installation on the load bars.

- For T-track mounting: Slide the T-track adapters into the top channel of your load bars and secure the carrier base.
- For U-bolt mounting: Position the carrier on top of the load bars and secure it from underneath using the U-bolts and tightening knobs.

Ensure the carrier is centered and firmly tightened to prevent movement during transit.

3. **Adjust Frame Clamp:** The frame clamp arm can be adjusted to accommodate different bike frame sizes. The carrier fits round frames from 22-70 mm and oval frames from 65-80 mm. Adjust the clamp's position along the carrier rail to align with your bike's downtube.



Figure 3: Detail of the adjustable frame clamp mechanism.

4. **Position Wheel Trays and Straps:** The wheel trays and quick straps are designed to secure the bicycle wheels. Adjust their position along the carrier rail to match your bike's wheelbase. The straps are adjustable to fit all wheel dimensions.



Figure 4: The quick-release wheel strap for securing bicycle wheels.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps to load and secure your bicycle:

1. **Prepare the Carrier:** Ensure the frame clamp arm is open and the wheel straps are unfastened and ready.
2. **Lift and Position Bicycle:** Carefully lift your bicycle onto the carrier. Align the downtube with the frame clamp and the wheels with the wheel trays.



Figure 5: A mountain bike securely mounted on the Thule Freeride carrier.

3. **Secure the Frame:** Close the frame clamp around the bicycle's downtube. Tighten the clamp knob until the bike is firmly held. The carrier is lockable, securing the bike to the carrier.
4. **Fasten Wheels:** Use the quick straps to secure both the front and rear wheels into their respective trays. Pull the straps tight to prevent wheel movement.



Figure 6: A road bike mounted on the carrier, demonstrating versatility.

5. **Verify Security:** Before driving, gently shake the bicycle to ensure it is securely fastened and there is no excessive movement. Double-check all locking mechanisms.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will prolong the life of your Thule Freeride Cycle Carrier:

- **Cleaning:** Clean the carrier with mild soap and water after each use, especially after exposure to road salt or dirt. Rinse thoroughly and dry.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically lubricate moving parts, such as the frame clamp mechanism and locking cylinders, with a silicone-based lubricant.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect all bolts, nuts, and straps for signs of wear, damage, or loosening. Replace any worn or damaged parts immediately.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the carrier in a dry, protected area to prevent corrosion and damage from extreme weather conditions.

TROUBLESHOOTING

| Problem | Possible Cause | Solution |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Bike wobbles during transit. | Frame clamp or wheel straps not tightened sufficiently. | Ensure the frame clamp is fully tightened and wheel straps are snug. Re-check before driving. |
| Carrier feels loose on roof bars. | Mounting hardware is loose. | Tighten all bolts and knobs securing the carrier to the roof bars. Refer to the setup section. |
| Difficulty locking the carrier. | Locking mechanism is dirty or stiff. | Clean and lubricate the lock cylinder with a suitable lubricant. Ensure the key is fully inserted. |

| Problem | Possible Cause | Solution |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Bike frame does not fit the clamp. | Frame dimensions exceed carrier specifications. | Verify your bike's frame dimensions against the carrier's specifications (round 22-70 mm, oval 65-80 mm). |

SPECIFICATIONS

- Model:** FBA_532002
- Brand:** Thule
- Color:** Silver
- Dimensions (L x W x H):** 58.66 x 8.27 x 3.31 inches (approximate, as per product dimensions)
- Item Weight:** 7.7 pounds
- Load Capacity:** 37.5 Pounds (17 kg)
- Mounting Type:** Wheel Mount, Strap Mount
- Frame Compatibility:** Round frames 22-70 mm, Oval frames 65-80 mm
- Wheel Compatibility:** All wheel dimensions with adjustable quick straps
- Lockable:** Yes (bike to carrier, carrier to load carrier)
- Thru-axle compatible:** Yes

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Thule products are tested and are subject to strict quality controls and are guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship. For specific warranty details and duration, please refer to the official Thule website or the warranty card included with your purchase.

For technical support, spare parts, or further assistance, please visit the official Thule support page or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt and model number (FBA_532002) handy when contacting support.

Official Thule Website: www.thule.com