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› TEKTRO RL721 Cyclo Cross Top Mount Bicycle Brake Levers Instruction Manual

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Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

The TEKTRO RL721 Cyclo Cross Top Mount Bicycle Brake Levers are designed to provide an additional braking position on handlebars, commonly used on cyclo-cross or road bikes with drop handlebars. These levers allow for braking from the top, flat section of the handlebar, enhancing control and safety in various riding conditions. This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your new brake levers.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always ensure all components are securely fastened before riding. Loose parts can lead to loss of control.
- Brake systems are critical safety components. If you are unsure about installation or adjustment, consult a qualified bicycle mechanic.
- Regularly inspect brake cables, housing, and levers for wear or damage. Replace worn components immediately.
- Test brakes at low speed in a safe area before riding in traffic or at higher speeds.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all parts are present before beginning installation:

- TEKTRO RL721 Brake Lever(s)
- Mounting Screw(s)

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

1. **Handlebar Compatibility:** These levers are designed for handlebars with a 31.8mm outer diameter (OD). Ensure your handlebar matches this specification.
2. **Positioning:** Identify the desired location on the top, flat section of your handlebar. The hinged clamp design allows for installation without removing handlebar tape or other components from the ends of the bar.
3. **Mounting:** Open the hinged clamp and position the lever on the handlebar. Secure the clamp using the provided screw. Tighten the screw sufficiently to prevent the lever from rotating, but do not overtighten, as this can damage

the handlebar or lever.

- 4. **Cable Routing:** The RL721 levers are designed to be installed inline with your existing brake cable housing. This typically involves cutting your main brake cable housing and inserting the RL721 lever into the cable path. You will need to route the brake cable through the lever body. This process may require new brake cables and housing for proper length and tension.
- 5. **Cable Connection:** Connect the brake cable to your primary brake levers (e.g., STI or traditional drop bar levers) and then route it through the RL721 lever, ensuring smooth operation. Finally, connect the cable to your brake caliper/cantilever.
- 6. **Reach Adjustment:** The levers feature reach adjustment. Use a small hex key (not included) to adjust the distance of the lever blade from the handlebar to suit your hand size and preference.
- 7. **Final Adjustments:** After installation, ensure the brake cable tension is correct, and the brakes engage firmly without excessive lever travel. The lever should return smoothly to its original position due to the integrated return spring.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The TEKTRO RL721 levers function as an auxiliary braking system. When riding with your hands on the top, flat section of the handlebars, simply squeeze the RL721 levers to engage your bicycle's brakes. These levers work in conjunction with your primary brake levers, allowing you to brake effectively from multiple hand positions.

MAINTENANCE

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically check the brake levers, cables, and housing for signs of wear, fraying, or corrosion.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the levers clean from dirt and debris. Use a damp cloth and mild soap if necessary. Avoid harsh chemicals.
- **Lubrication:** Ensure brake cables move freely within their housing. Apply a small amount of bicycle-specific lubricant to the cables if they feel stiff.
- **Tightness Check:** Regularly check that the mounting screws are tight and the levers do not rotate on the handlebar.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Brakes feel spongy or weak.	Loose cable tension, worn brake pads, air in hydraulic system (if applicable), worn cables/housing.	Adjust cable tension, inspect/replace brake pads, check for proper cable routing, consult a mechanic for hydraulic systems.
Lever does not return fully.	Friction in cable/housing, damaged return spring, debris in lever mechanism.	Lubricate cables, clean lever mechanism, inspect return spring.
Lever rotates on handlebar.	Mounting screw is loose.	Tighten mounting screw. Do not overtighten.

If you encounter issues not listed here or are unable to resolve a problem, it is recommended to seek assistance from a professional bicycle mechanic.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** RL721
- **Material:** Forged Aluminum Lever/Bracket
- **Handlebar Clamp Diameter:** 31.8mm OD
- **Features:** Hinged clamp style, Reach adjustment, Return spring
- **Color:** Black
- **Product Dimensions:** Approximately 3.05"L x 1.48"W
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 93 Grams
- **Manufacturer Part Number:** 442916

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information or technical support, please refer to the official TEKRO website or contact your authorized TEKRO dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.