



A COUPLES GUIDE TO BUYING AND ENJOYING ELECTRIC BIKES



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Welcome

- Thank you for taking the time to explore electric bikes for couples. Optibike has been selling electric bikes since 2007 and in that time we have seen many couples change their lives.
- Once again, these couples have been able to find a common activity to share. An activity where they both get to ride at a pace that is comfortable for each of them.
- The most common comments I hear from customers are:
 - **“It is so easy to climb hills on an Optibike”**
 - **“We travel much further than we ever imagined” .**
 - **“We no longer need the car for many trips”**
 - **“We are having so much fun!”**
- Couples would often explore solitary roads or go to the mountains. They may go to that special restaurant or to a private lake they had discovered.

“ We felt like kids again”

- I wrote this short guide to help couples understand what electric bikes can do for them and make a good choice in fitting their bikes. This guide has been written from this experience with Optibike couples and riding with my wife.
- Each couple’s needs are unique and it is best to understand some of the technology and capabilities of electric bikes before you go shopping. Best of luck in your travels.

Optibike Founder: Jim Turner



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Sue's Story

Instead of the flat lands, my husband and I ride up 16-18 miles into the beautiful mountains. I ride my Optibike and my husband rides his road bike.

We used to ride and put in the hours back in the day on road bikes - it was a major part of living. We once toured the south island of New Zealand for two months on bikes with our panniers and tent. But with the passage of time and raising kids, the energy to do these rides was diminished.

I must say that when I realized that I could still go out on a beautiful exhilarating long sunny ride with my husband,

I fell to my knee's in gratitude for the romance that was rekindled.

This whole new bliss of body - soul memory, of being alive and sharing time together came back. Out in pristine nature, out in freedom of the wind, the sun, and together.

I also love watching and being nurtured by the seasons as I ride. Its sheer countryside wonder.

All in one ride I see the chickweed blossom blue in masse, the milkweed pop its pod, the water of Left Hand river rise and swell with ice-melt, the wheat sway with wavy height, and hear the frogs chorus in unison.

The thrill of anticipating our next ride fills my week with joy. Our relationship continues to grow in new directions. I'm so excited.

Sue

E Bikes: A Gift of Love

- One of the greatest gifts of a long term relationship is sharing experiences and feelings.
- For many couples, as they age, it becomes more difficult to find common interests. This is often due to a physical limitation of one person.
- In our 50's and beyond, we often lack the strength we had in our youth but still have the desire to have new adventures.
- Electric bikes give you the power to adventure, share and explore again. You can share common experiences and continue to build life time memories.
- With an electric bike, **you control your experience**, hills are easily climbed at a level that is **comfortable for you**.
- **Each rider rides at their own pace**, yet they both ride together. How beautiful!



We just have a lot of fun riding our Optibikes. Almost wherever we stop, people will ask us about them because they are unique looking. We went up to the factory and took a test ride. That's all it took to convince us that Optibike was the way to go!

Kathy and Don

The Thrill of Exploring

- Electric bikes travel faster and further than traditional bikes. This give you the ability to take the road less traveled and begin to explore the world around you.
- Trips of 20 or even 50 miles can be undertaken with ease.
- Each person is riding at their own pace but both stay together.
- **There is no intimidation from a hill or head wind.**
- All riding is taken in stride. **No one is left behind.**
- Begin to plan your trips and adventure together.
- With the power of an electric bike, you can take the longer and safer routes.
- Enjoy the scenery, go where you like.



We are able to explore special places we could never reach by car.

How Far Can We Go?

- The short answer is from 12-100 miles depending on the electric bike model you buy.
- The distance you travel on your electric bike will depend on the following:
 - Your weight
 - How much you pedal
 - How hilly it is
 - Headwinds
 - The motor type
 - The size of the battery.
- All other things being equal, the **size of the battery** will determine the **distance** you can ride. The size of electric bike batteries varies greatly. Batteries range from 240 watt hours up to 1500 watt hours
- The standard battery on the Optibike R8 is 962 watt hours while on the Pioneer Allroad it is 400 watt hours. Since both these bikes have mid drive motors, the R8 will travel almost 2.4 times as far as the Pioneer Allroad, since the battery is 2.4 times as large.
- The R8 can travel at 20 MPH for over 3 hours!



Do We Need the Same Bikes?

- This is a very common question. **A couple does not always need the same bikes.** It depends a lot on the weight of the two riders and their physical ability.
- A very common couple is the man weighs 230 pounds and the wife is 140. If they have similar physical ability, the wife would not need as powerful a bike as the husband to climb hills at the same speed. She could use a bike with less power and a smaller battery. In this case the husband may ride an R8HD and the wife a Pioneer Allroad.
- If your body weight is within 30 pounds and have similar physical ability, then it is best to have the same model of bike. This will allow you to ride the same distance and speed.



Together time!

One + One = Fun

- For some couples, only one rider needs an electric bike. The other will still ride their regular bicycle.
- This really makes an amazing situation and rekindles a relationship. I have seen so many relationships where the couples no longer ride together, and there is friction as one person spends lots of time out riding.
- Now the spouse can use the electric bike and easily ride faster than the traditional bike rider.
- In fact, the regular bike rider will probably have a tough time keeping up with the electric bike rider. A great switch of roles.
- Suddenly both can go on long distance rides that only one went on before. More time together, more special moments to remember. Both having the time of their life at a pace they enjoy.



We just got back from Hope, British Columbia. Did a 34 KM ride. Beautiful ride, it was outstanding. I love my Optibike Pioneer Allroad so much. Thanks again, it is worth every penny. I was able to keep up with my husband.

Noura

Batteries and Range



- All other things being equal, the size of the battery determines the range of an electric bicycle.
- Most modern electric bikes now use light weight Lithium Ion batteries.
- Optibike pioneered Lithium batteries in Ebikes in 2008 and has developed many of the advances in batteries in use today.
- You will also hear the term amp hours used in electric bikes. Amp hours only tell half the story, as the voltage of the battery is also needed.
- The true capacity of the battery is measured in watt hrs. Watt hours is found by multiplying the voltage of the battery times the amp hrs.
- A battery with **more watt hours will go further.**
- Always compare electric bike batteries using watt hours.
- The Optibike R8 has one of the largest batteries available in an electric bike and won the Tour de Sol by riding over 100 miles in record time.



A Couple's Story

My wife and I commute to work every day on our Optibikes faster and cheaper than we would in cars. We ride our R8 and Helia Optibikes in all types of conditions. Light and agile, it is easy to slip through traffic, use bike lanes and then park for free directly in front of our destination.

The **Optibike climbs like a Himalayan Mountain goat**. In the hilly areas, the Optibike opens up options for local errands, enabling us to climb hills around our house without getting too sweaty and over exerting ourselves. This is great when you just want to run to the store or visit a friend.

On the road, the Optibike enables us to keep up with our serious road cyclist friends.



Motor Systems and Hill Climbing

- There are two main types of motor drive system in electric bikes:
 1. Hub Motor
 2. Mid Drive (Motorized Bottom Bracket, MBB)
- The hub motor is mounted in the wheel of the bicycle. Although simple to install, the hub motor is inefficient when climbing hills. The hub motor will often overheat on long hills and drain the battery faster, reducing range.
- The **Motorized Bottom Bracket** system of the **Optibike** drives in parallel with the rider using the gear system of the bicycle to give the **best hill climbing ability**, regardless of steepness.
- **The Optibike MBB can climb anything.**



Hub Motor in Wheel



Patented Optibike MBB
Hill Climbing Champion.

How to Choose the Right Bike



- Optibike offers the **widest range** of electric bicycles in price and performance of any manufacturer. This insures you get the bike that is right for your needs. No compromises necessary.
- At Optibike, is possible to pick a bike that is right for you and one that is right for your mate.
- Factors to consider when choosing your E Bike:
 - Weight
 - Distance to travel
 - Your physical ability
 - How fast you like to ride. Are you a thrill seeker and do you enjoy the flowers along the way?
 - What is your terrain? Are there hills and mountains to cross?



Which Bike is Right for You

- ❑ The Pioneer Allroad is a great entry level bike and works perfect for riders **on all types of terrain**.



- ❑ A **great combination** that many customers have purchased is the Pioneer Allroad for the wife and an R11 for the husband. The Allroad is smooth and easy to ride, while the R11 satisfies the need for thrills and speed.



- ❑ If you both want to go the **longest distance** or are heavier in weight, than the Optibike R8 is the perfect match.



- ❑ If you are looking for a bike that is **easy to get on and off**, then the Pioneer City is your bike.



Electric Bike Regulations

- Laws for electric bicycles vary by town and state.
- Generally, electric bicycles are allowed on all bicycle lanes on streets.
- Their use on dedicated bike paths or off road trails varies.
- Consult your local municipality for their regulations.
- In general electric bicycles are subject to the same regulations as regular bicycles.
- If you plan to ride at night, a headlight and taillight are required and should be purchased at your local bicycle shop.
- Helmets are often required.
- There is often a minimum age requirement of 16.



Riding Gear

- The following riding gear is recommended:
 - Properly fitted helmet
 - Bicycle Gloves
 - Eye Protection
 - Bright Clothing
- In areas with rapidly changing weather conditions, be sure to bring extra clothing.
- It is highly recommended that you carry a spare inner tube, basic tool kit, and tire pump when you ride.
- A water bottle for hydration is also a good idea.
- Use Sun Screen if riding in sunny areas.



E Bike Security

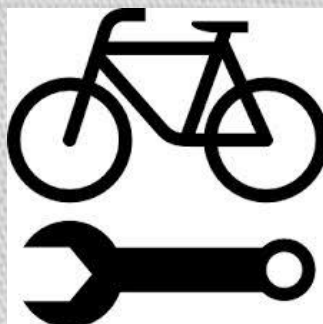


- Security for an electric bicycle is similar to a regular bicycle.
- You can use a good quality lock to lock your bike when out riding.
- It is also a good idea to add the bike to your house or car insurance. This will insure it in the case of theft or damage.
- It usually cost less the \$90 a year to insure an electric bicycle.
- The Optibike R series bikes have a special mount welded to the frame to accept a U lock for extra security.



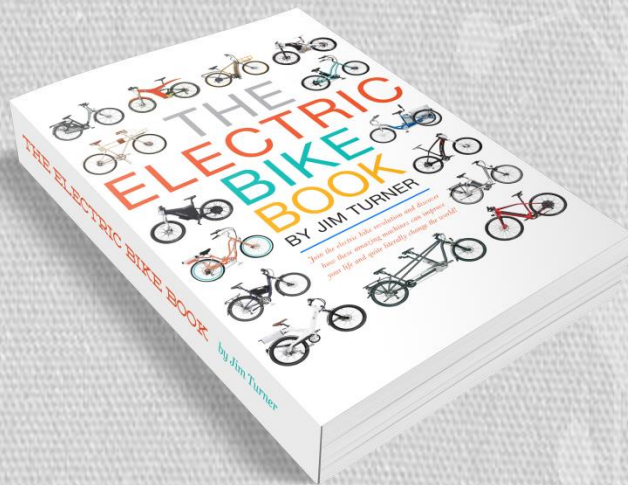
Maintenance

- Electric bikes require very little maintenance. Most components are standard bicycle components.
- The general maintenance is the same as a regular bicycle.
- The battery will last years with regular use. The battery should be charged after each ride.
- If you ride 3,000 miles per year, you will probably spend \$100 per year on maintenance.
- Below are some helpful tips to do before each ride.
 - Check the tires for proper inflation and wear (35 psi is a good pressure)
 - Be sure the brakes are in good working order and adjusted
 - Make sure the chain is lubricated
 - Have the battery charged
 - Check the throttle for free operation, prior to turning on the bike.



To Learn More

- To help people fully understand electric bikes, I wrote “**The Electric Bike Book**”. It is a great help for anyone thinking about buying an electric bike.
- Get yours free at: <http://electricbikebook.com>



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