

We're testing BASKETS

Baskets full of flowers, wine, puppies, or groceries, are images that occupy every romantic view of cycling. But not all baskets are created equal. Do you want your basket to detach? Be extra stable? Will you be carrying heavy fragile objects or just plain old goods? How does it feel in your hands and how does it look in the shop? These are all questions that this test provides answers to in order to help you find the basket that fits your needs. We tested five.



Baskit



The Baskit from Racktime is practical without showing off; large and sturdy without being clumsy. It attaches very easily to the rack with a special click mechanism designed by Racktime. The bracket is by far the best we tested- easy on and off, completely secure and with zero rattling. This unique system provides stability and security and since the basket is quite deep you can enjoy the ride home from the supermarket without worrying whether or not your shopping is secure. Off the bike, the Baskit works great as well. The padded handle is quite comfortable and the rounded corners leave no bruises on your knees when carrying it. The Baskit also has four small legs that protect the fastening bracket when you put it down. While not aesthetically beautiful, it is a thoroughly thought-out construction that inspires user confidence. However, it does have two drawbacks: 1) you cannot combine it with panniers or baskets hanging on the side of the rack; and 2) you will have to get the rack that the basket fits on (some bicycles will have a compatible rack pre-installed). But once you have all the necessary adaptation the Baskit really does the job.

Function: ★★★★★
Price: ★★★★★
Design: ★★★★★



Basil Cardiff



For the big-shopper the Cardiff is a godsend. It is the only side hanging basket in the test and it can be combined with other panniers and baskets (on the other side of the rack) while additionally being able to fit items on top of the rack. The Cardiff is a classic and simple model. There are no brackets; the basket simply hangs on the side of the rack secured by two long hooks. The hooks are long enough to ensure the basket will not bounce off when you hit curbstones or potholes. At the same time it is easy to lift the basket off the rack when you reach your destination. If you only use one basket and really fill it up you may encounter a bit of unbalance when you are walking your bike but because the basket sits so low it does not affect the balance when you are riding. The Cardiff is a robust and very stable basket but it is narrow and does not hold as much as you would think by looking at it. However, because you can still put things on the rack the Cardiff is the obvious choice if you need to take home six bottles of wine and a pack of eight kitchen rolls. All in all the Cardiff is practical, cheap, and very stable shopping solution. The Cardiff is a clear test winner.

Function: ★★★★★
Price: ★★★★★
Design: ★★★★★



Catania



This small folding basket shares its name with a Sicilian volcano and it also is the most "active" basket in the test. The basket fits permanently to the side of the rack, but unlike other baskets it can fold away when not in use. This makes it practical for the impulsive shopper and not so much for the big-shopper. The Catania is small and the folding base will not take too much weight, so do not put six bottles of expensive wine in there. The main advantage is that it's always on the bike and ready to use but, at the same time; it is a disadvantage that you can not take it into the shop with you. Some definite benefits are that, the Catania will fit on any rack and it can be combined with other baskets and panniers. You can also put luggage on top of the rack while using the basket. When not in use the Catania folds down flat. It's still very visible but does not take up any space or interfere with your ride but it does not really add to the look of your bike. In the end, the Catania is most useful for the spontaneous shopper who does not need to carry a lot and does not care about how their bike looks.

Function: ★★★★★
Price: ★★★★★
Design: ★★★★★



Bootbag



Forget about romantic wicker and lumpy metal mesh, Bootbag is molded in rubber and introduces a new way of thinking about bicycle baskets. The rubber used in the square-shaped Bootbag is relatively stable and comes in an array of colors. The basket fits on top of the rack with the universal bracket that will fit on most bicycle racks. It only takes a couple of seconds and it is fairly safe while riding. However, the sides of the Bootbag are not very stable so if you load heavy items near the mouth of the basket you risk losing them. The Bootbag has four handles but even so, it's a bit difficult to carry since the handles do not quite reach each other in the middle. There is a shoulder strap available that quickly solves the problem. Like most top baskets it's impossible to combine the Bootbag with side baskets and panniers which limits the overall capacity. It has got the looks, but in terms of functionality it is mediocre, and the price is a bit high.

Function: ★★★★★
Price: ★★★★★
Design: ★★★★★



California



Despite the name there is not much surfing or sunshine in this black metal mesh basket. The wide, long and generally quite large basket is fitted to the top of your rack by a spring loaded bracket with four small hooks and will fit on most racks. On the other hand, stability is not guaranteed. Narrow racks pose a problem since the springs are not tight enough and the whole thing becomes wobbly and even on wide racks you still have to be careful to balance your load. If you overload one side then the springs will let go and everything will fall out. The California is not very deep which provides little confidence since you will live in constant fear that your shopping will bounce out if you hit a pothole or just a bump. Off the bike the two handles make the California surprisingly easy and stable to carry and it is stable on the ground although it is a bit clumsy to maneuver around in the supermarket. Like other top baskets it's impossible to fit other baskets or panniers on the side of the rack when the California is fitted. Overall you can probably find a better basket for any purpose you might have.

Function: ★★★★★
Price: ★★★★★
Design: ★★★★★

The experts at the [Danish Cyclists Federation](#) organized and oversaw, on behalf of the EU project, [CycleLogistics](#) and the [European Cyclists Federation](#), a thorough test of these baskets. The tests were carried out over a period of five days by five experienced persons or small companies who bike daily and are trained to review cycling products. They were simply told to let the item become a regular part of their daily routine. They then gave each basket a score out of five stars with five stars being the best and zero stars being the worst, in addition to providing further comments and critiques. The reviews are honest and based on how well the products function in real life and daily use.

Stars were awarded in these three categories:

Function: Is the basket sturdy? Will it protect your items or will they fall out? Does it stay stable on the bike? Is it comfortable in your hands off the bike?

Price: Does the basket's functionality match its price tag?

Design: How does the basket look? Is it awkward and bulky or sleek and fashionable? Will you be happy seeing it on your bike day in and day out?



The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EACI nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.