

We're testing SHOPPING TRAILERS

A shopping trailer is a bicycle trailer that doubles as a shopping cart. They are designed to make shopping and transporting goods from the store to home easier for the consumer. The convenience is, the shopping trailer can come into the shop, and double as both your grocery basket and grocery bags. This way you do not have to spend time loading goods in and out of shopping bags or panniers. You simply attach the trailer to your bicycle and ride home. Additionally, most shopping trailers also collapse or fold easily making them perfect for cities, towns or someone with minimal storage space. We tested four.

Andersen Royal Shopper Plus

Size: 35x67x24cm
Weight: 4.8kg
Capacity: 50kg / 56l



General

The shopping trailer from Andersen looks like a classic senior citizen shopping cart. It is made from strong and durable materials. It is hardwearing and almost waterproof. The bag itself detaches from the frame easily and will change into a practical backpack in seconds. The tires are solid and will not puncture.

On foot

On foot the Andersen really excels- easy to pull and very stable. And, because it looks like a normal shopping cart it will not raise eyebrows in the supermarket.

Packing

Packing is very easy since the sturdy material keeps the bag open as you load it. The bag is very roomy and smaller items easily find a place in the small mesh pockets.

On bike

On the bike the trailer is a bit of a disaster. The absence of air filled tires reduces suspension and the trailer tends to jump about like a springbok and quite often it comes close to tumbling over. This is most pronounced when empty and during strong side winds.

The hitch

The hitch is easy to operate, and quite stable. However it is ugly and clumsy. On the plus side the construction means that you can use the top of the luggage rack even when the trailer is attached.

At home

At the home the Andersen trailer does not take up much space. The frame easily folds flat and the bag can also be compressed.

Conclusion

The Andersen Royal Shopper Plus is at its best when off the bike, and will suit a small family that usually walks to the shops but also some would find it handy to use a trailer for shorter trips.

Function in the shop ★★★★★
Function on the bike ★★★★★
Design ★★★★★
Price ★★★★★

Burley: Travoy

Size: 53.3x46.7x23.3cm
Weight: 4.4kg
Capacity: 27l



General

The Burley Travoy is a tribute to the Indian way of transporting goods by horse, dragging the loads on two poles tied together, called a "travoy". The modern bicycle version is made from quality aluminum, strong plastic, air filled rubber tires and a durable nylon bag. It is not waterproof but you can buy a rain cover.

On foot

The Travoy is easy to maneuver and easy to pull, but it does not stand well and it will draw attention in the shop.

Packing

Packing is very easy because the bag is like a big tote bag. The nylon is quite soft so you have to make an effort to hold it open when you are loading your shopping. There is a small pocket for keys and wallet and on the front of the bag there is a lattice system where you can fix long and light items.

On bike

While on the bike the Travoy is a pleasure to pull. It is light, stable and feels safe even during sharp turns. No matter what you do, it will not fall over because the hitch's rubber does not permit rotation.

The hitch

The hitch is small and elegant. It fits easily on the seat post and is very easy to attach and remove the trailer. The only drawback is that you cannot use the rear rack when the trailer is attached.

At home

The Travoy takes up very little space. The frame folds up in seconds and the wheels snap right off. It actually becomes so small that frame and wheels fit into their own tote bag.

Conclusion

Inside the supermarket the Travoy is not great and it does not combine with luggage on the rack, but in every other aspect the Travoy is great and versatile trailer.

Function in the shop ★★★☆☆
Function on the bike ★★★★★
Design ★★★★★
Price ★★★★★

Carry Freedom: City

Size: 35x65x125cm
Weight: 5.5kg
Capacity: 45kg / 55l



General

The Carry freedom "City" is an all-round trailer. It is the only model in the test that carries the load low and horizontally. It consists of an elegant aluminum frame, two good wheels and a large detachable nylon shoulder bag.

On foot

On foot the Carry Freedom City looks like a small trolley type suitcase. That is why it feels a little strange to take it into the supermarket and fill it up with shopping. It is easy to pull and has a soft handle.

Packing

Packing is easy. The bag's opening is easy to load and because it is horizontal your goods do not get squashed as much. You do however have to bend quite low to put your shopping in the bag. On top of the bag there is a lattice system where you can fix long or light items.

On bike

The trailer is great to ride with. It is light, low and stable so you hardly notice it. Only if you make a sharp right turn at low speed you might get into trouble as the rear wheel might hit the tow bar.

The hitch

It is small and it works. It is easy to fit on the bike and the trailer is easy to hitch on. You will have to bend down low to do it, but the up side is that you can still use the luggage rack when you are pulling the trailer.

At home

The bag can be removed and the frame folded in seconds and the whole thing stows away easy.

Conclusion

The City trailer is more flexible and more all round than the other trailers in the test. It will do fine on cycling holidays or trips where you need to take the train. It is practical for families because you can still use a child seat when the trailer is fitted. But it does feel a bit odd in the supermarket

Function in the shop ★★★☆☆
Function on the bike ★★★★★
Design ★★★★★
Price ★★★★★

Winther: Donkey

Size: 60x38x37cm
Weight: 10.5kg
Capacity: 40kg/65l



General

The only open trailer in the test. There is no bag but a metal netting keeps your shopping in place. The metal netting also doubles as a shelf (photo). This robust three-wheel trailer is built over a sturdy steel frame and a strong plastic shell. It comes with a snug fitting rain cover.

On foot

On foot the Winther is a dream. It is very maneuverable when resting on the little trolley wheel. It stands stable and a small parking brake keeps it from rolling away. With the open arrangement it feels quite ok to take it into the supermarket and shop directly into because it does not look like you are trying to hide anything.

Packing

Packing is very simple; just dump your stuff in the bin. But you have to be careful, small items might find their way through the netting and fragile items need to be cushioned.

On bike

The ride is ok. The Winther Donkey is relatively easy to pull, but the hitch prevents you from making sharp turns. Unfortunately the hitch has a loud rattle that is really annoying on longer trips.

The hitch

The hitch is the same style as on the Andersen Royal Shopper. It's big and it's ugly. But like on the Andersen you can use the luggage rack and a child seat while towing the trailer.

At home

It doesn't fold so it will take up some space in your home. Or it can be left outside since it's "climate proof".

Conclusion

A very robust and roomy trailer well suited for big and bulky shopping and trips to the hardware store. So if you can put up with the rattling it's very useful.

Function in the shop ★★★★★
Function on the bike ★★★★★
Design ★★★★★
Price ★★★★★

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 shopping trailers. 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 shopping trailer 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 daily use.

Stars are given four different aspects of the shopping trailer:

Function in the shop: How does it wheel around the shop when held in your hand? How does it look in the shop, bulky and obvious or sleek and inconspicuous? How easy is it to load and unload goods?

Function on the bike: How easy is it to attach the trailer to your bicycle? How balanced are the wheels? Is the trailer stable? Will your goods remain safe?

Design: Is the product designed to function well? Is it easy for everyday use? How does it look aesthetically?

Price: Is the shopping trailer worth the price?

Here are some things to consider when looking for a shopping trailer

• Where do you put it when not in use? If you have ample space, a shed or garage then you won't have any problems otherwise you should look for a type that folds.

• How does the hitch work? Remember, you will be attaching and detaching a shopping trailer quite often so the hitch should work easy and effortlessly.

• How does the trailer work when you are walking it? Does it take up much space, does it stand well and would you feel ok taking it into a shop?

• What do you need to transport? Is it heavy? Is it sharp? Is it small? Would you prefer a detachable bag?

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