

Adjusting Front Derailleur



Mounting

Line up the plates of the derailleur so that they are parallel to the chainrings. The height is adjusted when the outer cage has about 2mm vertical clearance from the teeth on the outer chainring when it is moved above it

Adjust the Limits

The Limit screw adjustments prevent the derailleur from throwing the chain to the inside or outside of the chainrings. These are labeled "L" for low gear (small chainring) and "H" for high gear (big chainring). To verify which is the "L", put the chain on the inner chainring and tighten the limit screw. If it moves the front derailleur outward away from the bike it is the "L" screw for sure.

"L" adjustment. Shift onto the small chainring. Adjust the derailleur so the inner plate is 2 to 3mm from the chain.

"H" adjustment. Shift from middle to the outer ring. If the chain jumps over the big chainring to the outside, then tighten the "H" screw. If the chain will not make it on to the outer chainring, loosen the "H" limit screw until the chain shifts smoothly.

Adjust the Cable Tension

With the chain on the small chainring, remove any slack in the cable using the cable fixing bolt on the derailleur. The chain should smoothly from the middle to small chainring. If it is too tight, it may not go to the small ring. Check that the cable is tight enough so that the derailleur starts to move as soon as you move the shifter, and will be tight enough to move the chain to the largest chainring.

Fine Tune

There can be a couple of problems with the front shifter. Most often it is the cable tension, and can be adjusted by the barrel adjuster on the shifter. Make sure the chainring teeth are not worn or bent. Check the chain for bad links. Check that the cage is not bent or loose on the seat post. If it rubs a little while pedaling, adjust the cable tension at the shifter, or maybe check the limit screws. Check for proper spacing between the chainrings, and that you have the right chain for your bike (8 spd. or 9 spd.)