



## Composite Frame Care Kestrel Evoke Series

*Congratulations on your Kestrel purchase! The carbon fiber/epoxy composite of your Kestrel frame is significantly lighter and stronger than metals and, barring accident, will stand up to a lifetime of training and racing. But composite frames require slightly different care than metal ones. Even if you've been working on bikes for years, please take a few minutes to read the following guidelines before starting.*

### General

**Repair stands.** The mechanical clamping action of a repair stand concentrates enormous loads in a small area. As with any fine bicycle, clamp your Kestrel by the round *seat post only* to avoid damage to the frame. If your bike is equipped with an aerodynamic post, you may need to remove this post and insert a round (32.4mm) seat post into the frame.

**Dropout spacing.** Your Kestrel Evoke frame is manufactured with 130mm dropout spacing to accept 128mm through 132mm hubs. *Do not stretch or compress your frame's dropout spacing more than 2mm.* As it is impossible to bend the carbon/epoxy composite of your Kestrel frame, *do not attempt to cold set (bend) the frame or dropouts.*

### Maintenance

**Seat post.** The Evoke frame accepts a 32.4mm diameter seat post. Minimum seat post insertion into the frame is 70mm (2.75 inches). **Maximum seat post insertion is 100mm (4 inches);** the aluminum seat tube sleeve extends only this far into the frame and the seat tube tapers to a smaller diameter beyond that. *Inserting the seat post beyond this depth will put pressure on the composite walls of the frame, potentially damaging it.* Seat posts may easily be cut down if a lower seat height is desired as long as minimum insertion is maintained. A standard fine tooth hacksaw will work. Be certain to remove any burrs on the post before reinserting into the frame. *Some seat post manufacturers may require a minimum insertion of more than 70mm.*

The Evoke seat sleeve insert and seat post should be greased during assembly and maintenance. Before tightening the seat binder bolt, check that the seat binder collar is pushed down all the way against the top of the seat tube insert. To work on the frame in most repair stands, you must use a round 32.4mm post.

**Headset.** When installing a headset, grease the insides and faces of the head tube where the cups go in, as well as the crown race seat of the fork. Cups should be professionally installed with a headset press that maintains correct alignment of the head cups during assembly. Headset cup diameter is 44.0mm; fork crown race diameter is the standard 30.0mm.

**Bottom bracket.** Grease bottom bracket threads and faces before installing bottom bracket cups. Follow the bottom bracket manufacturer's instruction regarding installation torque.

*Caution: do not use Loctite or other thread locking compounds on the bottom bracket threads! Loctited cups require additional torque to remove, which may exceed the torque limit on the bottom bracket of your Kestrel frame.*

**Front derailleur mounting bracket.** Grease the threads of the two mounting bolts and check that the supplied flat washers are in place before installation. Make sure the bolts are tightened securely to keep the bracket from moving during front derailleur shifts. The bolts are threaded into aluminum inserts, so be careful not to strip the threads. Some adjustment of the bracket position is possible by loosening the two mounting bolts and shifting the bracket relative to the frame.

**Front brake.** *You must use the long brake nut supplied with the frameset to install your front brake.* Contact Kestrel or your Kestrel dealer if you do not have the long brake nut. You also need to use any washers that come with your brake assembly. The brake may not tighten properly without the proper washers.

**Cable routing.** Your Evoke frame features traditional external cable routing. The shift and brake cable housings terminate at cable stops on the downtube, toptube, and right-side chainstay. Bare cables run through the “macaroni” guides under the bottom bracket for both front and rear derailleur. As with any bike, use ferrules on all cable housing ends, and regularly grease all cables where they pass through any housing or “macaroni” guides.

**Derailleur hanger.** The Evoke comes equipped with a replaceable derailleur hanger. If the hanger is bent or damaged in any way, it should be removed and replaced. Contact Kestrel or your Kestrel dealer for assistance.

The derailleur hanger screw(s) on the drive-side dropout may of course be removed or replaced as needed. Be sure to fully tighten the screw(s) when re-attaching. On earlier model Evoke frames, the derailleur hanger is secured by the main dropout attachment screw where the dropout meets the seatstay. *When replacing this screw for any reason, we recommend using a non-permanent thread locking compound, such as Loctite #222.* On later model Evoke frames, the derailleur hanger is attached via two smaller screws in the lower portion of the dropout. On these frames, the main dropout attachment screw is permanently bonded in place at the factory and should not be removed. *Therefore, do not attempt to remove or adjust the drive-side dropout attachment screw on Evoke frames with this later configuration.*

Similarly, on *all* non-drive (left-hand side) Evoke dropouts, the dropout attachment screw is permanently bonded in place at the factory. *Do not attempt to remove or adjust the non-drive side dropout attachment screw on any Evoke frame.*

## Paint

*Caution: any paint stripper that will remove the epoxy paint will damage the epoxy resin matrix that holds your frame together.* Do not use any paint stripper on your Kestrel frame. If you decide to have your Kestrel repainted, we recommend hand sanding to remove the decals and scuff the topcoat. Do not bake over 150 degrees F. Do not sand away any composite material. Do not sandblast, bead blast, plastic media blast, or blast with any other media. Blasting can remove structural composite material and could make your Kestrel unsafe.

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