



### EASTON TOP-LOCK™ STEMS

**C**ongratulations on your purchase of an Easton bicycle component. To ensure the best performance and longest service life from your Easton components, please read and carefully follow these installation instructions.

#### CAUTION!

All Easton products should be installed by a qualified bicycle mechanic using appropriate professional tools. Use a calibrated torque wrench when tightening bolts to torque specification. Bolts that are too loose or too tight can cause failure. **Easton assumes no liability for products that are improperly installed.**

#### ⚠ WARNING!

**Failure to follow these instructions can result in component failure. Component failure can lead to loss of control of the bicycle and result in serious personal injury or death.**

#### 1. Preparation

- Verify that the stem steerer clamp diameter is compatible with the fork steerer tube diameter.
- Verify that the handlebar diameter is compatible with the stem handlebar clamp diameter: either 25.4 or 31.8 mm. (Note: 25.4 mm to 31.8 mm mountain-bar sizing shims are available from Easton.) 31.8 mm stems are not compatible with 26.0 mm diameter road bars.

*Stems are designed to fit fork steerer tubes and handlebars with compatible diameters. Incorrect mating of components can cause component failure.*

- Confirm the stem steerer clamp surface is free of any burrs or sharp edges. Remove any burrs or sharp edges with 320/400 grit sandpaper.
- Confirm the stem handlebar clamp and handlebar are free of any burrs or sharp edges. Remove any burrs or sharp edges with 320/400 grit sandpaper.

*Sharp edges can damage the steerer tube or handlebar, which could result in component failure.*

- Carefully remove all stem bolts and apply a small amount of light grease to the bolt threads. Install the steerer clamp bolts enough so that they do not fall out.
- Clean the steerer tube, handlebar, and stem clamp surfaces with alcohol.
- Follow the fork and headset manufacturer's instructions for installing the fork and headset, cutting the fork to the correct length and installing the appropriate headset adjustment device.

#### 2. Installation of Stem

- Assemble the fork, headset and spacers in the head tube and hold in place with rubber bands.
- Slide the stem over the steerer tube. Do not force open the steerer clamp to slide the stem over the steer tube.
- If the steerer tube needs to be cut, follow the fork and headset manufacturer's instructions.

*The steerer tube must be 2-3 mm below the top of the stem or of the topmost spacer, whichever is higher.*

*NEVER use a star-fangled nut with a carbon steerer tube.*

- Install the top cap with the appropriate hex key. Using a calibrated torque wrench, compact the headset/stem unit by tightening the top cap bolt to the torque specified by the headset manufacturer. If the headset manufacturer has not specified torque, tighten to 1.6 Nm (15 in-lbs).
- Lightly tighten the steerer clamp bolts until the bolt head and washer seat against the clamp surface.
- Locate and note bolt torque specs on stem for steerer and handlebar clamp bolts.
- Align the stem with the front fork and wheel, and tighten the steerer clamp bolts to the specified torque.
- For carbon handlebars, apply Easton Friction Paste to the stem handlebar clamp and handlebar center.
- Position the handlebar so that it is centered in the handlebar clamp and rotate as desired. Secure the faceplate with the top two bolts. Tighten the top two bolts to torque spec (Fig. 1).
- Confirm top of faceplate is touching stem boom and is fully clamped to torque spec for Top-Lock™ function. Gap should only be on bottom of faceplate.
- For positive and negative rise setup, top of faceplate should always be touching, bottom of faceplate should always have gap (Fig. 2).
- Re-check handlebar position and adjust as needed. Insert and tighten the bottom two bolts alternating between bolts, one turn at a time, to torque spec.
- Align handlebar and stem straight to front wheel.
- Using a calibrated torque wrench with the appropriate hex key, torque the steerer clamp bolts. Alternate between bolts, one turn at a time, until torque spec is achieved.

#### 3. Maintenance

- **Never ride with the stem or bars loose. If bars or stem slip or creak, please make sure the bars are installed correctly and fit properly in the stem.**
- Using a calibrated torque wrench, re-torque all bolts after the first ride. If there is any bolt movement, re-torque after next ride.
- Using a calibrated torque wrench, re-torque all bolts every six months.
- Regularly inspect all components for any damage (cracks, chips, etc.) and replace component upon detection.
- In case of a crash or any impact, carefully check your bars, stem, fork, seat post, wheels, and frame for any visible damage. As with any component under varying stress, there is a limited fatigue life that is proportional to the use and abuse of the part. Inspect your components often. If you have any doubts about the integrity of any part, REPLACE IT. Consult your Easton dealer if you are unsure about the condition of your components or any part of your bicycle.

#### ⚠ WARNING!

Bicycle riding can be dangerous. To prevent serious injury while riding, wear an approved helmet every time you ride. Be sure your bicycle is properly maintained, and that all components are correctly installed and adjusted. Ride cautiously and within your abilities at all times.

#### WARRANTY

This EASTON product is warranted to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for five (5) years from date of purchase. Warranty is for the original owner only and proof of purchase is required. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY ARE LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THE EXPRESSED WARRANTY. Depending on individual state laws, the above exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific rights. You may have other legal rights depending on the state in which you reside.

Please consult the *Contact* page of the Easton web site <[www.eastonbike.com](http://www.eastonbike.com)> for warranty contact information. Select *North American Dealers* or *International Distributors* depending on your location.

