



## **A Tale of Two Racks: Tubus and Old Man Mountain**

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The question of what type of rack to put on your bicycle is both controversial and frequently asked. While there is no one right answer, there are a couple of solutions for a problem that is becoming more frequent. With the advent of disc brakes, full suspension, and space age components, trying to find a rack to fit on a bike is becoming a job in itself.

### **Tubus**

Recently, after a spectacular incident that busted the rack that came with my bike, I had to do some shopping. I should point out that years of riding the touring circuit makes me look in different stores than most public safety cyclists and because of this I stumbled across a new rack from an old manufacturer named Tubus. Most cyclists in the U.S. haven't heard of Tubus unless they've bought touring specific items. Tubus is a German company that has been quite popular in Europe for 20 years and thankfully, there are a few bike shops in the U.S. that stock their products.

One of their newest racks is the Tubus Logo, and it begs the question, "Why didn't someone else think of that?" The first thing you notice with this rack is the extra metal rail along the sides that allows you to mount your panniers farther back. This is important for those of us that can trace our lineage to Sasquatch. The second thing you notice is that this extra mounting rail is much lower than the shelf area of the rack, which really helps if you're going to carry a trunk bag AND panniers. If you've ever tried to wrestle a trunk bag onto a rack with panniers, you'll appreciate this. The third thing you'll notice is just how sturdy this rack is; it doesn't seem to flex when it is bolted on and there is a load on it. Still not convinced? The Logo has a load rating of 40 kg / 80 lbs. In addition, there is a disc brake kit that uses the quick release to facilitate lower mounting.

After a couple months of riding with this rack I really only have one complaint. The top shelf of the rack is narrow enough that some trunk bags may not fit well without adapters but I wouldn't let that stop me from buying it. The Logo comes in black and silver and Tubus has a model called the Cosmo that is stainless steel.

### **Old Man Mountain**

Not to be outdone in the disc brake solution market is an American company that has been around since 1996. Old Man Mountain is a small company that caters to expedition and mountain bike touring and was started in answer to the problem of mounting racks to disc braked bikes and bikes that didn't come with rack braze-ons. Most of their racks are designed to mount with the wheel quick release at the bottom of the rack and to the cantilever brake bosses at the top (they also have clamps if your bike doesn't have bosses). This simple and ingenious mounting system allows their racks to fit to almost any frame style or size. Their racks are all made from aluminum, come in black, and are rated for a 40lb dynamic load, which is more than adequate. Designed for the abuse of off-road riding, these racks are extremely rigid and have little flex in them. I have one as the front rack for my disc braked touring bike and have never had an issue with it. If you have a disc braked or suspension framed bike and live in North America, check out Old Man Mountain. Old Man Mountain racks are now being sold in Europe and Australia, bringing a solution to the disc brake mounting problem to other parts of the world.



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So there you have it. Two solutions to one problem. Both are great products and take similar but different approaches to disc brake mounting. One is steel, one is aluminum and both are extremely strong. One offers a lower and rearward mounting of panniers for people with bigger feet.

Why give you two choices? Because I can't decide either!

Tubus Racks can be found at <http://www.tubus.com/>, and Old Man Mountain Racks can be found at <http://www.oldmanmountain.com>.

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