



Clockwise from left:
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Bikes Away

A review of the GripSport Hi-Ride Carrier 'Downhill'

Words and images: Gary Tischer

Go Camping Australia & 4WD Adventures contributor, Gary Tischer, wanted to take two mountain bikes on a trip through the Victorian high country over a lot of dirt roads and some difficult four-wheel-drive tracks, but his regular bike carrier wasn't up to the task.

It's great to take your bikes camping, but sometimes getting them to the campsite can create its own challenges.

Most bike carriers will work fine around town, however taking them on rough dirt roads is another matter. In my search for the ultimate bike carrier for the Aussie bush I came across the GripSport Hi-Ride Carrier, which, from the website blurb, seemed to tick a lot of criteria.

After 5000 kilometres across many rough tracks in the Victorian and NSW high country, I can report that the Hi-Ride Carrier performed fantastically.

At no point did the bikes or carrier touch the ground even though many of the tracks were steep, rocky and rough with large water-bars. The bikes were kept well away from the ground and remained secure and undamaged. They did get a bit dusty, but that was all. A quick dust off and they were ready to ride.

The Hi-Ride is simple and easy to use, made of tough materials and carries the bikes securely over the roughest of terrain. It attaches to the vehicle via the tow bar ball and a quick release 'hitch'. The Hi-Ride Carrier simply slides in to the hitch and is held there by a lockable pin and 'R' clip.

The bikes are attached to the carrier via four wheel hoops that need to be adjusted to your

particular bikes. This is easily done by hand-tightening the thumb screws. I was carrying both 26" and 29"-wheel mountain bikes with wide mountain biking tyres that fitted perfectly. The carrier can easily carry a combination of different sized bikes and tyres, and even different styles, in case you want to take your road and mountain bikes.

Keeping the bike secure with its wheels in place is as simple as sliding the well padded hook over the top bar of the bike and holding this down with the quick-release tie-down straps. These days there are many different designs in bike frames that are all held securely by the sliding hook.

Sound simple? That's because it is and in practice I found the bikes were held securely without damage.

It is also very quick to put the bikes on and off the carrier so getting to the back door of the vehicle is easy as it literally takes no more than a minute or so to get the bikes off. As you don't have to lift the bikes very high, it's not back-breaking work as it can be if you put the bike on the vehicle's roof. Not being on the roof also saves the bike from damage from low branches on the trail or roller doors at home!

Staying legal is also easy with the 'Rack-Light' that attaches easily to the bike carrier and



incorporates a stop light, tail light, number plate light and indicators using high quality LEDs.

If you need to carry more than two bikes then there is the Hi-Ride Carrier '2+2' with the ability to carry four bikes. There are also attachments for trailers and vans, so taking your bikes camping should be pretty easy.

Simple, well designed, tough and fit for purpose. There's no reason you can't take your bikes away for the weekend or even across the desert or into the mountains on your next camping trip. The 'Hi-Ride' Carrier works so well though, it is now my round town bike carrier as well. ❖

For price and details visit
www.gripsport.com.au