

Regular 3

Bikes as Transportation

notes on bike commuting, touring and complete streets
by Mark Stosberg

Bakfiets

Bakfiets, a Dutch cargo bike



That's a bakfiets, (pronounced "bach feets"), a Dutch-made bike which recently started to be imported to the US.

For those who need haul kids or "stuff", the bakfiets comes loaded with features that make it an attractive car replacement.

For kid hauling

This model comes standard with a bench seat for two children, including safety harnesses for both. Although difficult to see in the photo, the bottom edge of the bucket contains a step to make it easier to get in and out of the bucket. A super-sturdy four-point kickstand makes the bike totally stable as passengers enter and exit. And unlike a trailer, the kids have a commanding view of what's going, *and* the parent can constantly keep an eye on them. It's no surprise the Dutch royal family is known for carrying their own children around in a bakfiets. For rain and colder weather, a see-through cover is made as an accessory for the bucket.

For busy people. Real people.

A bike should work with your lifestyle, not the other way around. The bakfiets comes from a country with more bicycles than people, and practical bikes are understood there. So, it's built to just get on and go. There's no external gears to maintain. Eight gears are provided inside the wheel. There are no external brake pads to be serviced. Discrete drum breaks work reliably. A built-in lighting systems provides bright front and rear lights, powered by your pedaling, and still shining for a while after your stop. Greasy clothes are no worry. Fenders, an enclosed chain and even a skirt guard are all standard. Locking the bike now works like a car, with a reliable key-based system that disables wheel and is difficult to defeat.



To top it off, it includes puncture-resistant tires, a comfortable riding position and a pleasant sounding bell!

If you are local to Richmond, Indiana, you can meet the bakfiets by contacting [Mark Stosberg](#)

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- [Related photos](#) on Flickr
- The [bakfiets blog photo set](#) shows a number of detailed shots of the same

model.

- AP news story called "[Why pay for gas and parking? Go Dutch](#)", which includes a video.

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