

How To: Buy a Wheelset

So, you know which RF wheelset you think you want to buy but you're not sure it's going to fit on your bike. We've put together this mini guide for you.

What's Your Wheel Size?

Mountain bike tires and wheels come in predominately 3 sizes: 26", 27.5" (or 650b), and 29".



The 29 is referring to the diameter, and 2.35 referring to the width. Some tires and rims will show the size by the metric equivalent, so a 29 x 2.5 could be displayed as 622 x 58.

- **If your tire/rim says 29, or 622**, you need a 29" wheel.
- **If your tire /rim says 27.5 or 584**, you need a 27.5" wheel.
- **If your tire/rim says 26" or 559**, we unfortunately don't offer this size wheel any longer. This is an older mountain bike standard that is no longer used on XC, Trail or DH bikes, though it's still used a bit for dirt jump or pump track style bikes. If you're looking for a 26-inch wheel, your best bet would be to go to your local shop and get the rim replaced or look at other complete wheel options.

**Front and rear wheels are almost always the same size, check the other rim/tire if you're in doubt.*

Let's Talk Axles

QR's

Traditionally, frames and forks worked with slotted dropouts where 9 mm (F)/10 mm (R) hub axles rested. A thin 5 mm quick release (QR) skewer then slid through the hollow axle to clamp everything in place. These are not as secure nor as stiff as "thru axles" and are now typically only found on older bikes.

If you have an older bike with QR's and want to upgrade your bike, our wheels have tool-free swappable endcaps to change a 15 mm wheel to a 9 mm (F)/10 mm (R) and use your quick releases. (Endcaps sold separately.)

Thru Axles

These axles also go through a hollow hub axle but they're larger in diameter and screw into closed dropouts. These axles are stronger and stiffer compared to QRs.

Front Wheels

Though it may feel daunting, the front wheel is easier to choose.

The most common size for Race Face front wheels is 15x110 Boost. Tool free endcaps (sold separately) can be used to adjust our front wheels to match the axle specs your bike requires.

Front Wheel Axles			
AXLE DIAMETER	HUB WIDTH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
9mm	100mm	Quick Release (QR)	Older axle standard and not available in all RF complete wheels.
15mm	100mm		Older axle standard and not available in all RF complete wheels.
20mm	110mm	Oversized thru axles	Older axle standard for DH/gravity bikes up until 2018.

15mm	110mm	Boost - For Boost compatible forks.	Current most popular MTB axle standard.
20mm	110mm	Boost 20 - Oversized thru axles	Found on newer DH bikes (2018-onward), both 29" and 27.5" models.

What do these numbers mean?

(15) X (110 BOOST)

↓

THE DIAMETER OF THE FRONT AXLE IN MILLIMETRES. USUALLY PRINTED ON THE AXLE. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN MEASURE THE AXLE. THE BEST WAY IS TO GET A SET OF CALIPERS FOR CONCISE MEASUREMENTS.

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THE NUMBER RELATES TO THE WIDTH OF THE HUB IN MILLIMETRES. BOOST MEANS THAT THE WIDTH IS LARGER THAN THE PREVIOUS STANDARD SIZING OF 100 MM.

- THE AXLE WIDTH IS OFTEN PRINTED ON THE AXLE. YOU CAN ALSO LOOK FOR A BOOST LOGO ON YOUR FORK.
- ALTERNATIVELY IF YOU CAN'T FIND ANY INFO, MEASURE THE SPACE IN THE FORK WHERE THE FRONT HUB GOES WITH CALIPERS.

N.B. 100mm width is an older hub standard and does require a different hub that is not commonly available on new Race Face complete wheels. We would recommend building a custom wheel with a Race Face Vault 100mm front hub.

If your bike doesn't fit this size of front wheels, you can also buy our [rims](#) and have them built up with a different [hub](#).

Rear Wheels

Figuring out what rear wheel is right for your bike can be confusing because there are many more moving parts going on at the rear of the bike.

The most common rear hub sizing for Race Face wheels is 12x148 Boost but there are many options for you to choose from depending on what frame and drivetrain type you have. Tool free endcaps (sold separately) and different cassette bodies allow the rear wheel to accommodate multiple setups but it is best to get the correct wheel to start with.

Rear Wheel Axles			
AXLE DIAMETER	HUB WIDTH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
10mm	135mm	Quick Release (QR)	Old standard that is still used on some rim brake bikes.
12mm	142mm	Thru-axle	Old MTB standard that is now the most common axle type on road and gravel bikes.
12mm	148mm	Boost	Older (Non Boost) axle standard for DH/gravity bikes.
12mm	150mm/157mm	Regular Spacing	Offers a stronger wheel build and is currently the most common mtb standard.
12mm	150mm/157mm	Super Boost	Current competing axle standard common on DH bikes and found on some trail bikes.

What do these numbers mean?

(12) X (148 BOOST) (XD)

MEASURING THE REAR AXLE ITSELF DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK. YOU'LL NEED TO MEASURE THE SPACE BETWEEN THE FRAME DROPOUTS. THE BEST WAY IS TO GET A SET OF CALIPERS FOR CONCISE MEASUREMENTS. OR YOU CAN ALSO USE A RULER.

148 MM WIDTH IS THE MOST COMMON SIZE ON NEW MOUNTAIN BIKES. BOOST MEANS WIDER THAN THE PREVIOUS STANDARD OF 142MM WIDE. SUPER BOOST – THIS WIDTH IS 157 MM WIDE, A SECONDARY SIZING THAT COMPETES WITH BOOST (148 MM).

HG/XD/MICROSPLINE
THIS IS YOUR CASSETTE BODY WHERE YOUR CASSETTE, OR REAR GEARS, MOUNT TO.

Cassette Bodies

Here's a quick and easy way to decide which cassette body you need.

SHIMANO

COUNT THE NUMBER OF RINGS ON THE REAR CASSETTE.

11 OR LESS

HG

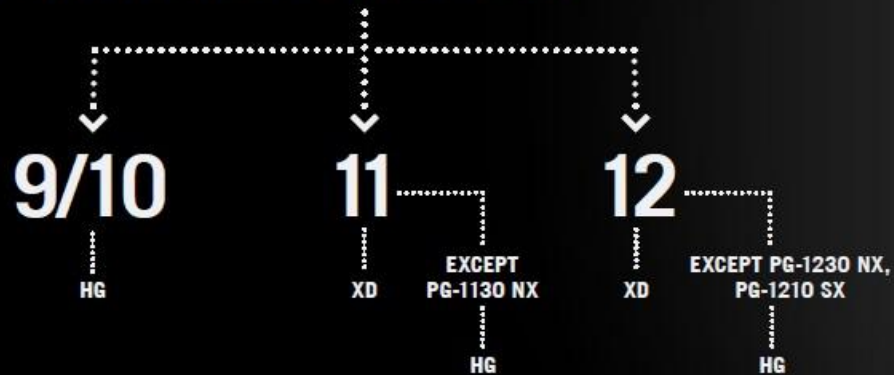
12

MICROSPLINE



SRAM

COUNT THE NUMBER OF RINGS
ON THE REAR CASSETTE.



Similar to your front wheel - if we don't have your sizing, you can always build up a custom wheel with our [rim](#) and [hub](#) options.

That's it!

You're done. Click buy, then sit back and relax, knowing you made the right choice.

See you on the trails!

Still have questions? [Contact us](#).