

BASICS ABOUT GEARS AND SHIFTERS

The most common gear systems on a bike

1

INTERNAL GEAR HUB (CLOSED SYSTEM)

They are good for commuters,
as they do not require much
maintenance



- PRO:**
- the system is closed and protected from dust and water, preventing rust and dirt
 - the chain always moves in the same line, making it harder to break or bend.
- CONS:**
- they are slower
 - have less gear ratio range
 - can be heavy, depending on the model.

Their popularity is again increasing with the trends in bike commuting, and new European companies are developing more efficient systems that might replace the derailleur system for city bikes.



2

CASSETTE WITH DERAILLEUR (OPEN SYSTEM)

This is the most common system for road, mountain, trekking and most of the other categories of bikes.

The derailleur moves the chain up and down to reach the desired ratio, making it easier when going uphill, or harder and faster when cycling down a road.

- PRO:**
- it is cheap
 - they come in a variety of models and prices
- CONS:**
- not always compatible with other models or brands
 - they are more complicated to manipulate
 - more exposed to weather conditions and dirt.

!!! Cleaning the system with degreaser from time to time and oiling the chain are needed to keep it running smoothly.



More Info!



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1 INTEGRATED SHIFTERS (TOGETHER WITH THE BRAKES)

Newer road bikes. They are practical for road and gravel bike handle bars, as they include brakes and shifters in the same levers, depending on the movement of the hand.



2 TRIGGER SHIFTER (THUMB SHIFTERS)



Most common one and easiest to use, as the person cycling can still hold the bar well, while pushing the levers only with the thumb. There are hundreds of models and series, so if replacing one it is important to check compatibility.

3 DOWN TUBE SHIFTER

Being avoided in the new bikes as it demands more power and movement of the entire hand, not just a thumb like the previous one. They are still to be found in many bikes, especially with internal gear hubs.



4 TWIST GRIP SHIFTERS



Old road bikes have them, but they were abandoned with time, as the cyclist needed to remove one hand from the bars, making them almost impossible to use when pedaling while standing.



More Info!

