



BURLEY PICCOLO



DIMENSIONS

Seat tube 240mm	Min pedal-seat 530mm
Crank length 140mm	Max pedal-seat 635mm
Min seat height 580mm	Bar width 520mm
Max seat height 685mm	'Wheelbase' (to tow bike axle) 1150mm

BURLEY PICCOLO

Price: £349.99

Weight: 8.2kg (18lb) plus 0.8kg (1.8lb) for the rack

Size: One size for 4-10 years

Frame: Aluminium, with mudguard fittings

Wheels: CST City Comfort 20x1.75in tyre, unbranded hub, Weinmann alloy rim

Transmission: Prowheel 40T chainset, Microshift rear mech and twist shifter, KMC chain, 7-speed 14-28 freewheel. 7-speed, 29 to 57 inches.

Steering/seating: 520mm bar, Cionlli saddle

Contact: Extra UK 01933 672170, extrauk.co.uk

TRAILER-CYCLE

Burley Piccolo

Cycling journalist **Mike Davis** and daughter Isla review one of the few rack-mounted trailer-cycles still in production

BURLEY'S PICCOLO sidesteps the handling quirks of seatpost-fixing trailer-cycles by connecting to a custom aluminium rack that positions the hitch directly above the rear axle of the tow bike, so it follows the same arc in turns.

The hitch uses a quick-release bracket with a hand-wheel bolt into a threaded boss on the rack. It swings on a conventional headset, while an axle running on large sealed bearings deals with up and down movement over bumps. Aluminium construction means it's also very light; with no-one on board you hardly notice it's there.



1 Turn and pitch pivots use ball bearings, and the clamp is secure

2 Bar position is adjustable. There's a front mudguard of sorts but the tow bike wants a rear one too

You can carry panniers at the same time as towing, but remember that the rack's already taking some of the weight of the Piccolo.

The Piccolo has a 20in wheel and is recommended for riders between four and ten years old weighing up to 38.5kg (85lb).

You need to be confident that your child will reliably hold on. My daughter Isla (6) is an experienced solo rider and tandem stoker and was very keen to have a go. Reach is adjustable by sliding the bars along the main tube, so they get higher as they get further away. Isla was quickly comfortable, and enjoyed the Piccolo immensely: 'It's better than the tandem; you don't have to pedal!' The supplied pedals are basic plastic items, so if you want to fit toe-clips you'll need to either change or drill holes in them.

Twist or stick?

The Piccolo has a seven-speed freewheel (a £50 cheaper singlespeed version, the Kazoo, is also available), although Isla found the Microshift twist-shifter too stiff. She has no problem with the Sram twist-shifter on her own bike.

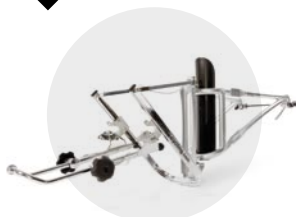
With a child on board, you can



definitely feel that you're towing something (less so if they're pedalling...) but it's not distracting. The Piccolo is also less likely to accidentally bump a kerb than two-wheeled child trailers.

Apart from the shifting niggles, the main downside of the Piccolo is price: £350 is a lot of money, especially compared to a good quality 20in-wheel complete bike. On the other hand, it's a lot cheaper (and easier to store and transport) than a kiddyback tandem, it's built to last, and it should hold its value when it's time to sell. If we didn't already have a tandem, I'd seriously consider the Piccolo.

Also consider



1) FollowMe £210

Rear axle mounted trailer lets you bring your child's own bike along so they can ride separately if they wish. See front cover for a picture of it in use. followmetandem.co.uk



2) Roland Add+Bike 1-speed £270

The only other extant rack-fitting trailer bike? Rearward hitch allows childseat on tow bike. Google for UK suppliers. rolandfietsen.nl