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## Welcome

When it comes to bulky or heavy cargo, trailers are loads better than bikes with standard luggage racks. I wouldn't be without one. Looking at my overloaded Brompton, I was starting to wish I hadn't left mine at home...

"Where's your car parked?" the man in the tile shop had asked. "I'll help you carry them over."

"It isn't. I'm on my bike."

"Are you sure about this?" he had added, sceptically.

I *had* been. I've carried bigger loads than floor tiles by bike: a sideboard; a filing cabinet; a huge armchair; an 11-foot Christmas tree; two adult passengers. How hard could it be to haul 1.5m<sup>2</sup> of tiles?

Turns out tiles are heavier than you think – or than I thought. Volume-wise, they fitted perfectly into the Basil bicycle crate on my Brompton's front carrier. The weight was a surprise: 36kg, more than half my bodyweight. I considered calling a taxi to take me, bike, and tiles home.

"What would Dave Holladay do?" I thought. Cycling UK's Brompton riding transport consultant has, I'm sure, carried a bus bike rack or something equally inconceivable on the front of his. Admittedly, he gets through more spokes – and, indeed, Bromptons – than I do.

Carefully avoiding even the slightest bump, I took the cycle track home. No problems. No breakages. But next time, I'm *definitely* taking the trailer. See p75 for more.

**DAN JOYCE**  
Cycle Editor

**Local riding**  
To find any Member Group or Cycling UK affiliate, visit [cyclinguk.org/groups](http://cyclinguk.org/groups) or phone **01483 238301**



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### On the cover

Stronachlachar, Loch Katrine, in the Scottish Highlands.  
© Andy McCandlish

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