

## Surly | Nice Rack 2.0, Front

£149.99, [surly.com](http://surly.com)

Nice and easy to install, this chrome-moly steel rack weighs in at 1,413g with mounts. Aside from the easy-to-follow instructions, which came in a handy tool pouch, what impressed me most were this top-loader's fitting flexibility and ease of adjustment.

Panniers can ride high or low depending on terrain. If fitted low down, a basket or other luggage can be fitted without affecting pannier removal – a nice touch when on tour. If panniers are fitted higher up, any top load will interfere with their mounting and removal, which is a faff. With a weight allowance of 32kg, your main concern will be about making sure you get the weight balance right.

There was plenty of room to spare around my 27.5×2.8in (70–584) tyres, where it looked right at home. On my tourer with 26×2.0 (54–559) tyres and mudguards it looked big but there were no issues.

There are handy 'nubbins' at the bottom of the rack, which I found useful for attaching bungees when strapping things to the top. For dynamo-light users, there is a front lamp mount. I think it places the light in a precarious position in event of a crash; I'd like to have seen light mounts on the sides of the rack as well to give options. The rack is available in silver or black.

🌱 **Round-the-world rack that allows you to take the road less travelled**



## M Part | Explorer Low Rider front rack

£39.99, [freewheel.co.uk](http://freewheel.co.uk)

A classic design reminiscent of the tourer's long-standing favourite: the Tubus Tara. Unlike the steel Tara, the Explorer is aluminium, which means it's about half the price. That price, coupled with a well-proven design, makes the rack a great entry point for those on a budget.

The low cost also means you will need to make a visit to your local hardware store before installing the rack, as you'll need to supply your own Loctite, nuts, spacers, washers and bolts. The instructions provided recommend using MC6S A2 – information frustratingly missing with online retailers.

With its good adjustability, I had no trouble installing it around 26×2.0 wheels. It will also fit 700C (ISO 622) wheels. I couldn't find specs on this, but it fitted my partner's Dawes Galaxy with 38mm tyres and mudguards. If struggling to fit the rack around mudguards, the rack's many eyelets might enable you to attach your guards to the rack, but you'd want to make sure it doesn't interfere with your wheel removal.

Total load is 15kg (7.5kg each side). The rails for panniers, however, are an odd diameter. My panniers rattled when I used one set of hook spacers but didn't fit with the next size up.

🌱 **A well-priced, classic design with some flaws that's suitable for budget tourers**

