



FollowMe Cargo

£199, followmetandem.co.uk

The RRP for the FollowMe Cargo is £279.95 but it's been on offer for £199 for a while. It's a single-wheel, pannier-rack trailer like the Extrawheel (extrawheel.com). You could use it for touring or shopping on a bike without a rack, or to fit even more panniers to a bike that already has a rack or two.

Apart from a trunk bag, panniers are essentially all the FollowMe Cargo will carry. I'd like optional side frames, like a cargo bike's foot plates, for strapping on boxes or crates, or a top deck for bulky, lightweight items. Unlike the Extrawheel, the FollowMe's 20in-wheel sits entirely beneath the rack.

Large rear panniers fit fine, however, and the FollowMe still handles well with them heavily loaded. There's minimal wag from the trailer at normal cycling speeds. Only at walking pace – on or off the bike – is it more cumbersome than the two-wheelers here. With bags removed, the FollowMe is narrow and lightweight, making it easy to store. The articulated tow-bar doesn't come apart quickly but has to do so if you want to smuggle it onto a train as luggage; it's too long otherwise.

By default, it attaches to a replacement quick-release axle, which also fits the FollowMe Tandem. I tested it with a Thru Axle Adaptor M12 (£60); solid-axle adaptors are £16. To fit the trailer to my wide-axle, big-tyre towing bike, I had to splay the towing arms, remove the trailer's mini front mudguard and remove a Topeak Babysitter Disc rear rack, which fouled the FollowMe's dog-leg attachment.

Weight: 4.7kg. Max load: 28kg. Load bed: 35Lx10W (rack top). Overall width: 13cm plus panniers.

★ Affordable and easy to tow, the FollowMe Cargo enables any bike to carry two large panniers



M-Wave Stalwart Carry Fold 1

£350, ison-distribution.com

M-Wave makes a range of good-value cycle trailers, principally for the German market. The Stalwart Carry Fold 1 is the brand's premium cargo trailer. There's also a Stalwart Carry Fold 2 with a steel frame and no bag or handcart bar (£225), and a BOB-Yak-style Singletrack Luggage Trailer (£169.99).

The Stalwart Carry Fold 1 is the most fully featured trailer in this test. It comes with a removable, 90-litre nylon luggage bag strapped to the base and Velcro-fastened to the fold-down sides. (One side had a slightly misaligned retaining pin hole, which required light tapping with a hammer.) You can thus do the weekly grocery shop without an extra bag or box.

The reversible handcart bar makes it easy to wheel the trailer on foot, and it can be repositioned to function as a parking stand. Plastic bumpers on the trailer's front corners stop the wheels ramming into walls or gateposts when manoeuvring. It's narrow enough to go through pinch points most two-wheelers won't, and it folds easily to 79x59x30cm for storage.

The standard hitch fits QR and solid axles. A special QR, the Racky Axle (£9.99), enables the hitch to fit bikes that have a rear dropout obscured by a pannier rack, cowed dropouts and so on. For thru-axle bikes, an M-Wave 12mm Converter Thru Axle (£39.99) is required.

My only complaint concerns the sheet steel base, which reverberates and rattles on all but the smoothest tarmac, especially when empty or lightly loaded. This drove me nuts.

Weight: 10.6kg. Max load: 45kg. Load bed: 64Lx44W. Overall width: 65.5cm.

★ Noisy but good-value and fully featured trailer that fits through doorways and is well suited to shopping

