



Pashley EuroLoad Trailer

£540, pashley.co.uk

The EuroLoad is designed to hold 80x60cm Euroboxes – hence the name – and is rated to carry up to 60kg. While it's primarily aimed at businesses, it would be useful to everyday cyclists hauling serious loads at least some of the time.

The weight limit is likely a reflection of what the rider can control rather than what the trailer will withstand. It's made of steel and held together with hefty bolts, so it's strong, heavy and durable. Sidebars and a lip on the base should keep boxes or white goods in place, but there are lots of attachment points as well. The EuroLoad doesn't fold so you'll need garage space or similar to store it.

The 80kg-rated Weber trailer hitch is suitably beefy, too. It's designed for QR and solid axles but a 12mm thru-axle can work if it engages enough threads. Weber's advice to ensure that a solid axle is turned at least eight times when screwing home makes sense for thru-axles. The hitch has a lock to secure the trailer to the bike. Nice!

Weight: 14.3kg. Max load: 60kg. Load bed: 84Lx60W. Overall width: 79cm.

★ Overkill for supermarket trips alone but ideal for the big and heavy cargo other trailer's can't handle



Thule Reacha City

£529.99, thule.com

The City is the cheapest of Thule's Reacha trailers, which share the same modular, click-together aluminium frame and accessory range. The Reacha is large for its load rating: wide because the frame extends around the wheels, which have conventional QRs rather than stub axles; and long because the tow-bar has to reach the seatpost. You can click it apart to make it almost flat for home storage but it's too big for a train.

Gaping holes at the corners of the Reacha City's 'basket' threatened to, but thankfully didn't, jettison logs or shopping. Nevertheless, I think the Reacha City Platform (£629.99), fitted with the Reacha platform side panels (£129.99), would be more useful for most cyclists – at least, those happy to spend £760.

The tow-bar attaches to the seatpost with a double Velcro strap. This works better than I thought it would and allows for easy swapping between bikes. The Reacha City handled well and was silent in use. Lovely.

Weight: 8.9kg. Max load: 35kg (60kg walking). Load bed: 54Lx42W (base) to 75Lx45W (frame). Overall width: 79cm.

★ A bulky but lightweight trailer I'd prefer with the optional hard base and a significantly lower price



★ Verdict

If you only need the cargo capacity of two panniers, get the FollowMe Cargo. It's the lightest, cheapest trailer here, and it tracks so well you sometimes forget it's there.

The Pashley EuroLoad is the polar opposite. It's a heavy-duty trailer that will haul anything you can tow – DIY materials, bulk-buy shopping, white goods and more.

The Burley Flatbed and Thule Reacha City are similar in scope. They're both good for bulky but lighter cargo that can be strapped down without tearing a tarp base, and they'll work fine for shopping with the addition of a big bag. The Burley is more compact and much (£200!) cheaper.

My favourite general-purpose trailers are

the Carry Freedom Y Trailer Small and the M-Wave Stalwart Carry Fold 1. Significantly, both are narrow enough to wheel into my back yard and workshop. The M-Wave is better value and meets all entry-level-trailer needs, especially shopping. The Carry Freedom is bare bones but is more robust and adaptable – as well as quieter.