



THE

# Atlantis<sup>2</sup>


BY RIVENDELL

The Most Versatile Bicycle In the World. Yes, Really.

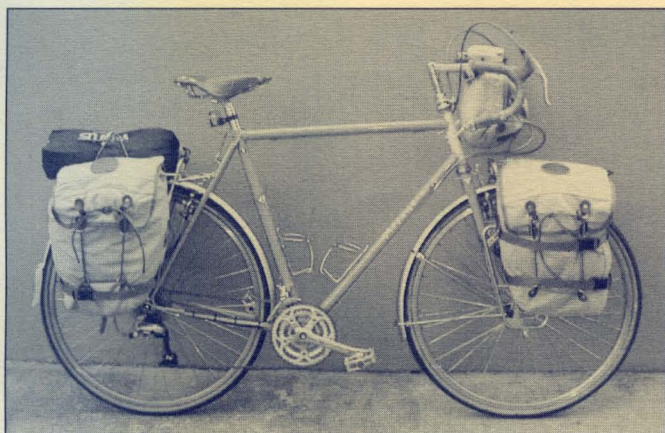


Atlantis/RBW

Box 5289 • 2040 N. Main #19  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



The Atlantis is an all-purpose, all-surface, all-season, all-weather bicycle frame—the most versatile, super-performing bicycle we can create. It offers the highest level of comfort, practicality, performance, and durability for loaded touring, day touring, commuting, and trail riding. For the kind of riding most of us do every day and dream about, the Atlantis is the bike to beat.



FOR LOADED TOURING, the Atlantis is as good as it gets. The lugged steel frame is built to handle heavy loads, rough terrain, and continuous use. It has every necessary touring braze-on, and enough strength to carry heavy loads on or off-road.



FOR TRAIL RIDING, the Atlantis is a refreshing change from today's macho technocracy. It has the clearance to accommodate the fattest practical knobby tires, and a steering geometry that feels correct right off the bat. As a trail bike, the Atlantis is conspicuous for its lack of frame suspension, and while this minimal approach may not be enough for the roughest terrain ridden at the highest speeds, it is more than enough for safe, fun, comfortable riding on most of the fire roads, single-tracks, and woody trails you'll come across. And the simplicity of the Atlantis makes it both more beautiful and more reliable.



FOR COMMUTING, the Atlantis is ideal. It is agile enough to maneuver around car doors and potholes. It accepts fenders easily, so you can commute all year around in all weather.

## It's Not So Easy To Find One

Three hundred and fifty to 400 Atlantises are made each year. The number isn't kept artificially small; frankly, we'd like to see them all over the place. But to ensure the quality and attention to detail that we require, Atlantis bicycle frames are made slowly, by hand, and 400 is all we can get.

The Atlantis is fairly unknown because we don't advertise it, and magazines aren't knocking down our door to cover a bike that doesn't pay them back in ad dollars. But there is not enough profit in them to support advertising, and a successful ad would only increase the demand beyond our ability to fulfill it. So, the Atlantis isn't the bike you buy when you know a smidgen and just want something your friends have heard of. It's the bike you buy when you've done your research and decide in favor of a strong, smart, versatile, beautiful bike you can warm up to, ride anywhere, and grow old with.

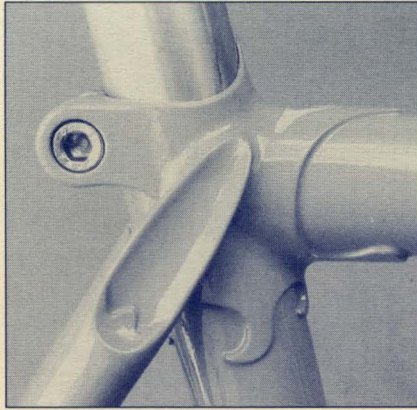
### Want To See An Atlantis In Real Life?

It won't be easy, we're sorry to say. Most of them we sell direct, but we have about fifteen dealers spread across the country, and a limited number go to them. As bike dealers go, Atlantis dealers tend to be special, unusual ones who share our frame values and are educated enough about the Atlantis to answer any question you may have. They generally sell mainstream bikes as well, but their commitment to the frame values espoused here is no less because of it. For a list of current dealers, visit our website: [www.rivendellbicycles.com](http://www.rivendellbicycles.com). If you live near one and want an Atlantis, we encourage you to be patient—they'll try to stock a few, but waits of up to 3 months are likely. That's not so long for such a nice bike!



## The Atlantis Has Lugs

Lugs allow *brazing*, a joinery method that, unlike tig-welding, doesn't melt the parent tube. A well-brazed lugged joint has an integrity far beyond that of an unreinforced tig-weld. Tig welds are faster, less hassle, and strong enough for the length of time most riders keep a frame before trading up to another. Lugs, though, are better.



Lugs also serve as external tube reinforcements, or "butts," by increasing the joint's diameter and strength. And lugs make tube replacement a practical alternative to throwing the frame into the dumpster. Since the tube itself wasn't melted, the builder just heats up the joint, removes the broken tube, and replaces it with a new one. A lugged Atlantis frame can be repaired infinitely. It's a frame for life.

## Tubing

Atlantis frames are built with CrMo steel, which is tougher than aluminum and titanium. Metallurgically, "tough" refers to a material's ability to resist cracking, and if a crack should start, to slow its growth. Steel is tough, which is why bridges, hammers, and nails are steel. The steel in an Atlantis frame is ideal for the stresses a bicycle frame suffers.

Atlantis tubing is a custom mix from Reynolds of England, True Temper of the U.S., and equally good, but less well-known tube makers from Japan and Taiwan. The seat tubes, down tubes, and chainstays are heat-treated, because they're the only tubes that ever break on any bikes, and we wanted added toughness. The top tube and seat stays are standard CrMo steel, plenty fine.

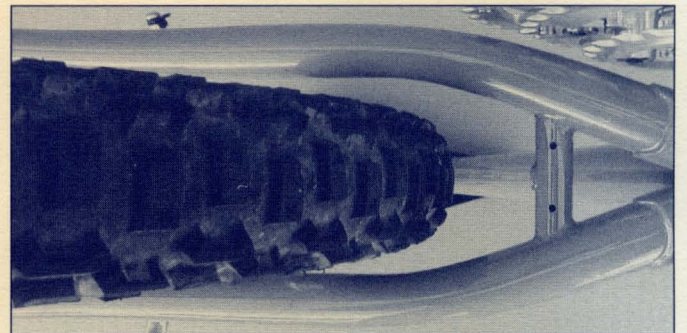
We select the tubing for the Atlantis by its quality, consistency, and suitability for the particular frame, independent of its pedigree. We expect you—or somebody—to be riding your Atlantis in 30 years, so we don't scrimp on tubes.

## Atlantis Design

The Atlantis is designed for comfort, versatility, and control, and we nailed all three. Sized properly, you'll be able to get the handlebars level with or above the saddle, taking weight and strain off your hands, neck, arms, and lower back. The difference in comfort between an Atlantis and a similar, same-sized bike is dramatic. Its versatility is largely due to its ample tire clearance, which lets you ride bigger tires and mount fenders; and if you crash and your wheel gets all wobbly, all that clearance will allow you to still ride it home. The bigger sizes, 58cm through 68cm, take 700c wheels, and easily fit the largest 700c (29") tires.



Top: 61cm Atlantis fork with a 700x52 WT B Nanoraptor. Bottom: 56cm Atlantis chainstays with a 26x2.1 knobby. Room for fenders, mud, wobbly wheels. Atlantis frames have great clearance.



**Braze-ons.** Plenty—for racks, fenders, three water bottles, rear rack, plus the usual brake and derailleur cable stops. There's no front rack braze-on. We left it off intentionally, so you can clamp on any rack you like. Clamps are slower to install, but are stronger and more versatile.

**The Atlantis is fun to ride and easy to control in all terrain.** There are more than 16 years of design experience behind it. It's traveled over the roughest rideable terrain, commuted through the trickiest traffic, and toured all over the world. We know what makes a bike behave, and it's all in the Atlantis.

## Geometry

The purpose of any frame design is to let you achieve a good riding position without resorting to wacky seat posts, stems, and handlebars. Once that position is achieved, the bike should be responsive, predictable, and controllable in a wide range of conditions. To those ends, we like (1) shallow seat tubes, because they help take weight of your arms, and maintain a rearward saddle position (which also helps reduce weight on your arms); (2) low bottom brackets, because they make the bike ride better; (3) high handlebars, for a relaxed upper body and all-day, all-week comfort; and (4) long chainstays because they improve comfort on rough roads, and handling when the bike is loaded. We've designed the Atlantis accordingly!

st = seat tube angle; ht = head tube angle; rake = fork rake; cs = chainstay; d = drop; tt = top tube. All frames have a 2.5-degree upsloping top tube, and the top tube measurement is taken on the theoretical horizontal. Rear spacing is 135mm. Geometry is subject to change without notice.

size	st	ht	r	cs	drop	tt	wheel*	max tire size
47	72.5	71	4.5	44.0	4.8	52	26-in.	1.5
51	72.5	72	4.0	44.0	4.8	53.5	26-in.	2.1
53	72.5	72	4.0	44.0	4.8	55	26-in.	2.1
56	72.0	72	4.0	44.0	4.8	57	26-in.	2.1
58	72.0	72	4.5	45.5	8.0	58.5	700c	52
61	72.0	72	4.5	45.5	8.0	59	700c	52
64	72.0	72	4.5	45.5	8.0	60	700c	52
68	72.0	72	4.5	45.5	8.0	62	700c	52

\*\*There's a better selection of fat tires in 26-inch, and of thin "roadish" tires in 700c. But there's a wide selection of skinny and wide in both sizes, so availability shouldn't worry you. There is no clear and overwhelming functional advantage of 700c over 26-inch, or vice versa, so we went to 700c on the larger sizes because the shorter forks on 26-inch wheel frames result in longer head tubes, and in the big sizes, it looks strange to us.

### Sizing Your Atlantis

pubic bone ht.	likely saddle ht.	Atlantis size
73 to 77	63 to 67	47
77 to 79	67 to 69	51
79 to 83	69 to 73	53
82 to 85	72 to 75	56
84 to 89	74 to 79	58
87 to 93	77 to 82	61
90 to 96	80 to 85	64
97 to 102	87 to 92	68

Pubic bone height is measured with bare feet 10-inches apart, from a hard surface to the pubic bone, as though you are a skeleton. You cannot measure it by yourself. Pull up hard. Hit the bone! Saddle height is almost always 10 to 10.5cm lower than pubic bone height.

Men: If your frame size is in between two sizes, pick the smaller one if you plan to frequently ride really fat tires. For general pavement riding, go with the larger size, as it will allow you to get the bars higher, easier.

Women: If you fall between sizes, get the smaller one and use a stem that allows you to get the bars at least a centimeter higher than the saddle. The higher bar, used with a short-extension stem, will almost always allow an easy reach.

## Good Questions!

### 1. Who builds the frames, and where?

Toyo, in Osaka, Japan. Toyo is a small (10-person) custom frame shop that's been in the bike frame business for 31 years. The average employee has been with Toyo for half that. The frames are built by hand, and the quality is consistent and superb. It isn't as finessed and detailed as a custom Rivendell (which sells for 2.4 times as much), but Japanese quality and quality control are legendary, and Toyo is at the top of its craft. Your Atlantis is built to last 30 years or more.

### 2. How long do I have to wait for one?

We get 4 shipments per year, totalling about 400 Atlantis frames. Most of the frames on any upcoming shipment are spoken for before they arrive. We predict the longest you'd have to wait is 3 months—and that's if you just missed getting your order on the next shipment, and all of that shipment is spoken for. But a typical wait is about 6 weeks.

### 3. How do I get one, then?

Direct from us: Call (925) 933-7304, or visit [www.atlantisbike.com](http://www.atlantisbike.com), and follow the instructions. We'll make it easy, but there may be a short wait for a bike.

From a dealer: Visit [www.atlantisbike.com](http://www.atlantisbike.com) for a list of dealers. There are about 16 nationwide, and if one's near you, you're lucky. If your dealer is out because we're out, there may be a slight wait, also. You'll find prices to be about the same whether you buy from us or your dealer.

### 4. What if I don't know the size?

Use the chart (below left), ask your dealer, or we'll talk you through it. Our patience is infinite and we are expert at sizing you. You don't need to be HERE for us to do it. You provide accurate answers to our questions, and we'll take it from there. The way we do it, sizing by phone works, every time.

### 5. Can I get a whole bike, not just a frame?

Sure! About half our customers buy complete Atlantis bicycles. We offer a fairly standardized kit, with a decent number of reasonable options (crank length, handlebar style and width, and so forth). For \$210 we assemble your bike to the highest standard in the industry. Complete bikes with assembly run about \$2100. If you buy from a dealer, talk to the resident Atlantis expert about your bike. We picked our dealers for their expertise, so you can trust them.

### 6. Why should I order one without test-riding it?

Ordering an Atlantis is a leap of faith, but we know bikes, we know what works, and we've put all of our knowledge and experience into the Atlantis. The Atlantis rides well. It's what we do, and we're good at it.

### 7. Where can I find out more, read reviews or hear testimonials from other riders?

Reviews, nowhere (yet). We've always pre-sold the frames, so we'll never be sitting on a warehouse full of them, so there's no urgency to get a magazine to review one—we'd rather sell it and have a regular person enjoy it! But sometime this year we'll get one to a mag. For testimonials and more information, visit [atlantisbike.com](http://atlantisbike.com) after February 25, 2002.

## ATLANTIS/RBW

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