## Transporting a tandem Alex Reeves 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

Some of our potential borrowers may wonder how to transport a tandem. It is not that hard. It's very easy of course if you have a van, which I don't. The rack that I use is a normal, readily available, solo bike rack.

I transport the tandems that I look after by either putting them in the boot or slinging them on the back of the car. Both involve removing the Tandem's wheels and rear mudguard and rack, but it's not that hard to do.

My car is a Passat saloon and I can slide tandems in through the boot. It is even easier if you have an estate or hatchback and I have seen tandems put into lots of smaller cars such as the Ford Focus. With the smallest cars you may find it impossible to fully close the boot, but you could always tie the boot down.



A tandem in my car Still room for one passenger in the back



Three tandems on the back



Tandem trike on the back



Tandem and a solo on the back Note that they are the same length, less wheels

If you put the bike on the back of the car, you have to make sure that the car's lights and number plates are not obscured. If the lights are down low a high fitting rack shouldn't obscure them. If they are up high then a low fitting rack would be OK, but then you'd need to write the number plate on a piece of cardboard and stick it on the tandem. Since I transport tandems a lot, I have had a lighting socket fitted to my car and I use a trailer lighting board and strap it to the tandem on the back of the car.

If you have a roof rack you could lay the tandem flat on it or you could fit a tandem rack and transport the tandem upright. You could always do the same with a trailer.