

Our Tandem Trikes vs Tandem Bikes by Alex Reeves

The following advantages and disadvantages are based on our experience on our machines only.

	Our Tandem Trikes	Tandem Bikes
Advantages	Easy to balance when strapping stoker into a backrest	Much cheaper to buy
Disadvantages	Can be harder to steer in straight line, see below. Bulky, i.e. hard to store, pedal, transport etc	Need extra person or a stand to balance bike, if strapping stoker into backrest

The following is a quote from Keeping Balance by Katherine Cuthbert, p152, ISBN 978 1848762 091

“Non-tricycle riders, essentially the great majority of the population, will be unaware that the transfer from riding a bike to a trike has its difficulties. On a bike one is continually, and automatically, correcting the tendency of the bike to fall over. On a trike this is obviously not required. You have to get used to not correcting. To begin with it means that the trike has a tendency to steer down the camber and into the left gutter. There is a need to accommodate this- initially consciously and deliberately”.

Addition by Alex Reeves

Tandems are longer than solo cycles and hence their frames are sometimes more flexible in the lateral direction. Hence when the tricycle tends to move towards the curb, the frame flexes and makes the problem of the trike drifting even worse. You have a lean a different way, on a tandem trike than on a bike, to steer in a straight line and it is hard for an inexperienced tricycle rider to safely go more than a few miles an hour. Standard tandem trikes have two wheels at the rear and are known as Delta trikes and are harder to steer than tandem trikes with two wheels at the front, which are known as Tadpole trikes.

Also see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139839216034492/permalink/688419184509823/>