

Try This!

A Community Bike Shop Tutorial - 2017

Ensure that your community can bike, and bike more often!



Imagine an eclectic community hang-out or space that educates, encourages, and empowers a vibrant and inclusive cycling community through learning with educational do-it-yourself and formal workshops offering training, rides, and events to empower all levels of cyclists in building, maintaining, and embracing the fun of bicycles.

Bicycles are liberating, provide excellent transportation and are amazing for your health and well-being, learning the lost art of repair and maintenance ensures that your community can bike, and bike more often!

Presenter: **Jonathan Rosenbaum**
Current Board Chair of a **12 year old**

community phenomenon known as a Bicycle Collective

501(c)(3) organization since 2007



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A collective is a group of people who share or are motivated by at least one common issue or interest, or work together to achieve a common objective.

A Bicycle Collective is a type of
Community Bicycle Project

Here is a general list of qualities which are common among many bicycle projects:

[Criteria was developed by the old Bicycle Organization Organization Project (BOOP), and initiated at the first Community Bike Project conference in 2005, also known as Bike!Bike!, for what constitutes a Community Bike Shop.]

- Bike shops that are accessible to people without money
- Organizations that reuse bicycles and parts
- Shops that have an educational focus, teaching others how to repair bikes
- Shops that are volunteer run
- Organizations that ship or provide bikes to other communities, and places.
- Shops that provide free or low-cost services to the community.
- Non-profit bicycle organizations

Positive Spin!



Positive Spin at a Toy-Giveaway – 100+ kids bikes

Please note that a Community Bicycle Project does not have to be strictly operated as a nonprofit organization. If you would like to make a living from this business, and not be exempt from federal and state income taxes, that will not stop donations.

Consider this - Electronic Recycling businesses receive a constant supply of free electronics from the community.

Some Shop Models

Community Bike Shop

Mobile or Pop-Up Bike Shop

Youth Bike Shop

School Supply Bike Shop

Bicycle Library Bike Shop

Fabrication Bike Shop



Bicycle Reuse

is central

to a Community Bike Shop's business model
and
the vast majority of Community Bicycle Projects

**Bicycle Reuse
(donations)**

Community Bike Shop

**New Bicycles
(purchased
from distributors)**

**Local Bike Shop
(LBS)**

Community Bike Shop === Low Overhead

(comparison operator === means equal value and equal type)

This is good news!!

Very low start-up costs!!

*to provide your community with a shop that educates, encourages, and empowers a vibrant and inclusive cycling community, and makes more **people healthy!***

Try this

Community Bike Shop Recipe



Ingredients

1. a few pounds of used bikes, and if available, used parts (or strip parts from used bikes that are otherwise unusable or in bad condition)
2. a smattering of bike repair tools
3. a shop space (may be mobile or fixed securely to the ground)

Directions

Combine all ingredients, and flavor to perfection with repair skills from your community.

Serve Immediately!



Now let's discuss each ingredient and cooking technique in detail.

Where do I find **a few pounds of bikes and used parts?**

There are used bikes all over the place waiting to be given a new life and home!

Usually, they need to be repaired which is the most common reason they have been mothballed.

- Homes – in basements and garages, sometimes from an estate
- Department Stores – ask depends on their policies
- Local Bike Stores – usually supportive of community efforts
- Police Departments - Bikes involved in crimes

- Other organizations (charitable, educational, civic, religious, etc.) and businesses
- May be interested in organizing bike drive events or including requests for bike donations in their own events
- Large apartment complexes sometimes have a stock of abandon bikes that build up.
- City dump and/or recycling facilities have many bikes dropped off.
- Local bike racing events; set up a donation table.

Special mention

Variety The Children's Charity "My Bike" program:
they give-away bikes to children with disabilities

Positive Spin sometimes receives these bikes
when the warranty has run out.

And ...

Other Community Bike Projects!

What about **a smattering of bike repair tools?**

When you are first starting out there are alternatives to purchasing professional bike repair tool sets for your workstations, before you are able to qualify to become a dealer. Briefly covering some creative solutions:

Ask Local Bike Shop(s) if they have any old tools they would like to donate?

and/or

Ask Local Bike Shop(s) if you could purchase tools from their distributors as close to cost as possible?

Economical Tube Repair

- Rubber glue can be purchased at a department or craft store
- Bicycle tube patches can be purchased in bulk at many online sources.
- Sandpaper to prep the bicycle tube's surface can be purchased at a hardware store.

Examples of Tools which can be purchased at a hardware store

- Metric hex keys
- Screw drivers – flat head & phillips
- Metric wrench sets, adjustable wrenches, torque wrenches
- Pliers
- Bench Vices

Make your own Bearing Cup Press

All parts can be purchased in a hardware store.
[threaded rod ($\frac{1}{2}$ x 12"), washers (2"), and nuts]
Dealer cost: \$109.68 Your cost: \$12.00



Examples of some plans for stands and racks

Bike Repair Stands

- <http://learn.adafruit.com/diy-welded-bike-stand>
- Also, Aldis sells nice bike stands during late April.

Portable Bike Racks for large events – Valet Service

- https://www.bikecollectives.org/wiki/index.php?title=File:Valet_Bike_Rack_Plans.pdf

What about a shop space (may be mobile or fixed securely to the ground)?



Mobile or Pop-Ups (shop space)

An attractive alternative to having a permanent location is to offer a **mobile shop** that can travel around in your community or region, and help people with repairs.

Shops can **Pop-Up** at events, farmer markets, vacant space (seasonally) etc. and may include bikes and accessories, along with repairs.

Transportation (Mobile or Pop-Ups)

Either strategy will require some form of transportation to carry parts, tools and inventory.

When the location is not far away, shops will sometimes haul items by bicycles with trailers attached. In WV where you may want to go far out into rural areas, a car, truck or van would be a preferable alternative.

Storage (Mobile or Pop-Ups)

You will need to find a location where you can store everything.

Sometimes other members of the community will be so inspired by your project that they will offer to provide free space. There is a Pop-Up in Washington, DC that is allowed to freely use a loading dock.

fixed securely to the ground (shop space)

- Start in your own place, home, garage, or basement - While this usually will preclude you from becoming a dealer, it will save on additional lease/mortgage costs.
- Inspired folk, businesses, or organizations from your community may offer low-cost lease or free space.
- Lease/Purchase - a warehouse or storefront

Flavor to perfection with repair skills from your community

If you, or some individuals in your community already have some bicycle repair skills you are on your way to becoming a successful Community Bicycle Shop!

Over time the shop will generate new skilled people because its mission is to empower the community by providing the opportunity to learn these skills.

Learning to Repair Plan of Action

Repair skills are important to the success of a Community Bike Shop. Positive Spin is interested in exploring the possibility of providing training facilities to help bootstrap efforts throughout the state. Positive Spin has a definite interest in providing such training.

After **trying this** recipe, you may want to choose a formal business structure



Visit to our Insurance Agent

However, that is a tutorial for another day!

Resources

Community Bike Shop Software (FLOSS)

Make your record-keeping easy

I am one of the top experts in the world in this area (Free Libre / Open Source CBS Software), and have developed software, live demonstrations (<https://bike.bikelover.org>), and given presentations at Bike!Bike! Conferences.

Contact me with questions.

Conferences:

<https://bikebike.org> (Conferences)

- Regional - Bike!Bike! Southeast 2018 in Columbia, South Carolina (Recommended)
- International - Bike!Bike! 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; August 24 – 27, 2017

Wiki and Email list, aka The Thinktank:

<https://www.bikecollectives.org/>

- <https://www.bikecollectives.org/wiki/>
- <https://www.bikecollectives.org/#think-tank-register>

Distributors (tools & parts):

Midway Bicycle Supply, Inc. -

<http://midwaybike.com/> (Community Bike Shop specific)

J&B Importers – <http://www.jbi.bike/> (LBS - less common parts)

Quality Bike Parts – <https://qbp.com/> (LBS standard)

KHS Bicycles – <http://www.khsdealers.com/> (LBS standard)

.. and there are many more

*I would like to challenge everyone to help make
West Virginia the state with the highest
percentage of people who bicycle in the nation!*

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