

9 Replacing a Brake Cable

Replacing a Brake Cable

Part One



Replacing a brake cable (the inner wire) is a relatively straight forward job, given the correct tools and knowledge.



Release the cable

The cable will need releasing from the brake lever and the brake arm. Firstly release the brake as shown when changing a brake block, then undo the nut/allen bolt securing the cable to the right hand brake arm (the brakes will spring open). At the corresponding brake lever, line up the slots on the barrel adjuster, retaining nut and brake lever housing, now pull the inner cable out of the slot, pull the brake lever and wiggle the metal head of the cable out of its cradle within the lever. At the brake arm, pull the crimped end cap off from the other end of the cable, then pull the cable through from the lever end, keeping the noodle (curved metal sleeve) and outer casing safe as the inner cable is removed.

Replacing the cable

Wind the barrel adjuster and retaining nut all the way to the brake lever, then back them off two turns, wind the retaining nut back tight. Thread the non head end of the cable through the brake lever and out through the first outer casing. Seat the head of the inner cable into the cradle within the lever. Thread the inner cable through all of the outer casing(s) depending on front or rear and finally through the noodle and rubber boot (if in place). Whilst pushing the two brake arms together (just touching the rim), clamp the allen bolt/nut tight onto the inner cable. Let go of the brake arms, spin the wheel and check it runs freely, if rubbing, wind out the barrel adjuster until the wheel runs freely. The lever should not pull to the handlebars.

Please turn over

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Part Two



Aligning Brake Arms

When you pull the brake lever, if the corresponding brake arms don't pull in to the rim equally, then the spring tension will need adjusting. Using the correct size Philips screwdriver, wind the screw at the side of the brake arm in/out whilst squeezing the corresponding brake lever. Watch the brake arms and look for the movement of the arms becoming equal. Adjust either arm depending on which arm is moving more than the other.



Trimming the Cable

Ideally, this will need to be done with specific cycle cable cutters, other cutters may work but may not provide a clean cut which could result in fraying wires. Trim the cable approximately 5cm from where it is clamped.



Install an End Cap

These can be obtained from a bike shop, place one over the end of the cable and with pliers or the crimping part of cable cutters, crimp the cap onto the cable, don't squeeze too firmly as you will split the cap but firmly enough to clamp the cable tightly.