

May, 2002

IMPORTANT SERVICE BULLETIN

To: Cannondale Retailers and Owners
From: Cannondale Corporation
Re: Inspection of Silk Road forks

This bulletin pertains to "Silk Road" road bike suspension forks used on 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and a handful of 1999 model year bicycles and frames. These Silk Road forks were made with the more conventional, round fork blades as illustrated here.

With enough use, Cannondale has seen some of these forks develop cracks. Such forks have reached the end of their fatigue life. Because the cracks we have seen occur in one area and are relatively easy to spot, we want you to know where to look.

Common sense and the reality of fatigue suggests that the more a rider uses his bike and the harder it is used, the more frequently it should be inspected. That said, it is advisable to periodically check all Silk Road forks of this design.

- Please cut the zip tie that holds in place the lower edge of the protective rubber boot.
- Pull up on the boot (**Fig. 1**) and clean the fork crown where it meets the steel inner steering tube.
- Once clean, carefully inspect this uppermost area of the aluminum fork crown for cracks (**Fig. 2**). Do this inspection in good light, and look at all 360 degrees.
- Please also check for corrosion at the interface of the crown and inner steering tube. If the fork has been well maintained and lubricated this will not be a problem. If not, and if water has accumulated in this area, there may be corrosion.
- Either a crack, no matter how small, or significant corrosion are reasons to stop using the fork. If no crack is seen, and there is no significant corrosion, the fork has more life and can continue to be used. In this case grease the lower portion of the inner steering tube and reattach the boot with a new zip tie.
- For other service or overhaul of these forks see your Cannondale retailer.
- Should you find a fork with a crack or significant corrosion see your Cannondale retailer or call one of the phone numbers below.

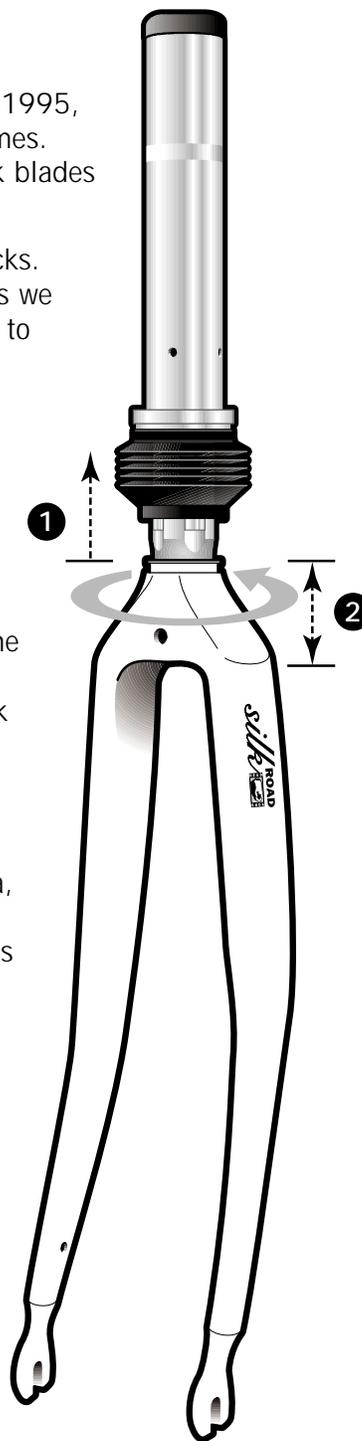
WARNING: Do not ride a fork with a crack. Fork failure could lead to serious injury or death.

CONTACT INFO:

For warranty-related questions, or for more information on this or any Cannondale product, please feel free to contact us:

USA and Canada: (800) BIKE-USA (custserv@cannondale.com)
Europe (EC): +31 541.573.580 (servicedeskeurope@cannondale.com)
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