Masterlink: an Insightful Discussion by Randy James

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For those of you who did not know, a masterlink is a bicycle chain accessory. Often known by the name quick release link, these accessories allow for convenient removal or reconnection of installed bicycle chains. The best part about the whole process is that it completely removes the need for bicycle chain tolls. These links primarily serve as a set of outer plating for the chain, thereby getting the pair of inner plate ends joined. They are extremely important when it comes to getting the chain length adjusted.

There are two varieties of masterlink available in the market today. In both these cases, the link set essentially consists of a pair of outer plates. Each one of the plates described here resemble

es the outer plate of the chain. Having said that, let us now turn focus on the oldest masterlink variety around. Known as the straight chain line compatible, this particular variety would be our focus of discussion.

Just to let you know, these varieties have been around for years now serving countless bicycle owners back through time. The main feature here comes in the form of two pins. These pins are connected to one and the same plate. They have f

ound widespread usage in a number of bicycle systems like drive train, hub geared and single speed. In case of the drive train system mechanism, especially, the outer plate which features these two set of pins are spaced at equal widths ala the chains themselves. The free end is grooved further to have the proper effect.

This variety of the connecting chain link features different types of side plates. In certain cases, the side plates are found raised on the top. However, in other cases, the side link remains straight. As we all know, chains on bikes or bicycles fitted with derailleur are normally reversed for a certain part of their travels or excursions through drive trains. This might cause the connecting chain link to show up signs of defects. Bushing less chains, another important variety, come with tiny projections and are primarily used in case of bicycles featuring large cogsets. This is owing to the fact their tolerances are usually known to be more delicate and critical than those with seven speed features only.

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