



# Starling Clutch Stem Installation Instructions

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Thanks for choosing a Clutch to keep those bars locked tight to your bike.

Congrats on choosing a stem that's made by people, not robots and that leaves weight-weenie, namby-pamby, forgettable, CNC'd bullshit in the dirt. With a bit of care, it should last a lifetime.

Please follow these instructions carefully to install and maintain your stem. Failure to do so could result in unexpected wear or failure, possibly resulting in injury. We recommend having your parts fitted by a qualified bicycle mechanic. Starling Cycles assumes no responsibility for malfunction or injury due to faulty installation.

## TOOLS REQUIRED:

4mm allen key  
Torque wrench

## BOLT TORQUE VALUES:

Steerer clamp: 6Nm  
Faceplate: 5Nm

## INSTALLATION:

### Prep the Fork & Stem

- Remove the faceplate and loosen the two steerer clamp bolts.
- Check that your fork's steerer tube is cut cleanly.

### Fit the Stem

- Apply a thin layer of grease to any of your stem's raw metal surfaces.
- Slide the Clutch Stem onto the steerer tube.
- Add spacers above or below as needed for your preferred bar height.
- Ensure the steerer tube sits 2-3mm below the top of the stem or top spacer.

### Preload the Headset

- Install the top cap and bolt, then tighten to remove play from the headset bearings—do not over-tighten.
- Rotate the bars to check for smooth steering.

### Tighten the Steerer Clamp

- Reinstall the two steerer clamp bolts.
- Align the stem straight and tighten both bolts evenly to 6Nm torque.

### Install the Handlebars

- Apply a thin layer of grease to any of your stem's raw metal surfaces.
- Fit the bars into the stem and loosely install all 4 faceplate bolts.
- Adjust the bar position, then gradually tighten all bolts to 5Nm. Tighten in a cross pattern, gradually increasing each.
- Ensure there's an even gap at the top and bottom of the faceplate.

### Maintenance

- Regularly check bolts are secure and there's no damage to the stem.
- Always use a torque wrench and tighten to the correct values.
- Ensure all raw metal surfaces have a thin layer of grease to prevent rusting. Reapply regularly.
- We can repaint your stem if you ever want to mix it up. We'll repaint your stem for free when you have your Starling frame refurbished.

### Warranty

Starling Cycles guarantees the Clutch Stem is free from defects in materials and workmanship for two years from the original purchase date. Warranty applies only to the original owner and requires proof of purchase.

For full warranty details, visit [starlingcycles.com/warranty](http://starlingcycles.com/warranty).

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