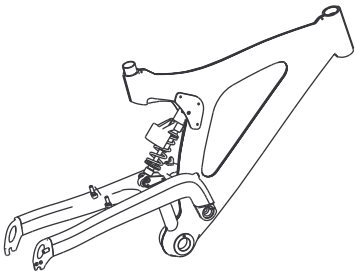
THE CARBON FRAME



TECH SHEET

The new thermoplastic carbon fiber frame from K2 Bike is a manufacturing masterpiece. We use a patented process to create the only suspension frame in the industry with molded thermoplastic halves that are bonded to a “backbone” of the same material. Made in the USA on Vashon Island in the heart of the Puget Sound, our new frame is molded from meticulously laid-up, super-tough thermoplastic carbon fiber sheets, a first in the industry.

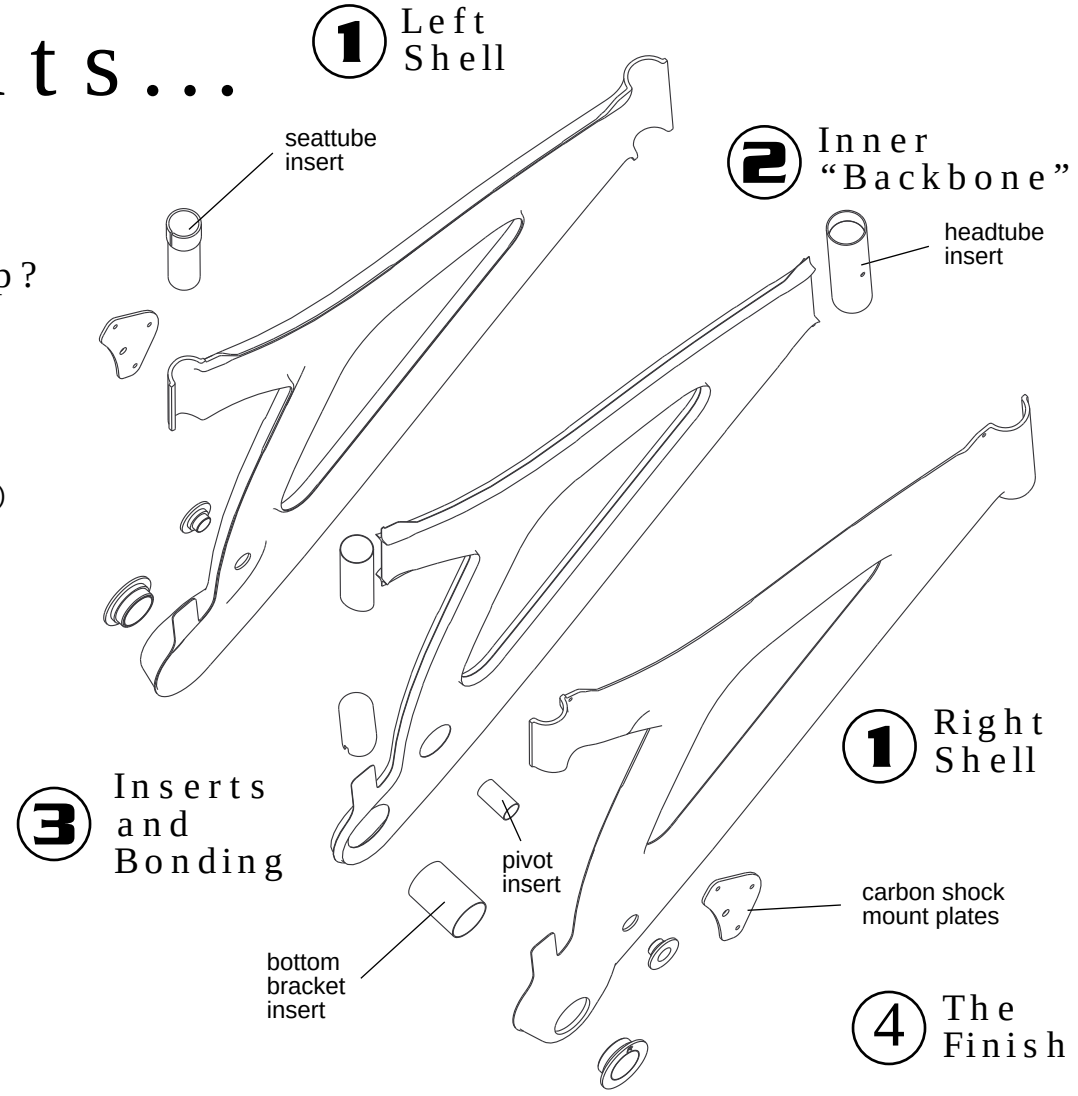
1. The thermoplastic carbon fiber shells are laid up in mirror image steel molds that are carved from solid steel billet to exacting tolerances. Varying wall thicknesses in the shells are obtained from precisely cut sheets of the same material laid into the molds. The shells are then pressed between two steel halves at 500 degrees F under 10,000 pounds of pressure!

2. After the shells are molded, the inner “backbone” is formed in the same process from scrap material left over from the shells. Very environmentally friendly! The main purpose of the backbone is to provide a solid bonding surface between the shells. Bonding the frame together is much more durable with a backbone of the same material.

3. The frame shells, backbone and inserts are prepared for bonding. The pieces are set up in a jig that perfectly aligns all of the parts, and the bonding agent is applied by a computer-controlled injector. All inserts are anodized to prevent any galvanic corrosion between the different materials. The bonding agent cures and ties together all parts of the frame.

4. The bonded assembly is placed into another jig and the remaining material, the “flash” is cut off by another computer-controlled machine. The cable stops and rivets are attached to the frame, and every frame is checked for alignment on a perfectly level, steel alignment table. The frames are quality checked one last time for cosmetics and polished to a beautiful shine!

The Guts...



How’s it stack up?

Compared to the 857 frame, the new K2 carbon frame is:

- Over 50% stronger
- About 50% stiffer
- About 10% lighter (2.85 vs 3.1lbs)
- AND MUCH COOLER!