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Shopper/Step-Thru Bike

The 'Shopper, 'step through' or 'U' shape frame design is often considered to be designed predominantly for women due to the convenience of mounting and dismounting and ability to ride in skirts.

Designed to be low-maintenance comfortable bikes for using every day. The riding position is very upright which assists with vision and being seen. They are built for comfort, not speed, and have a padded or sprung saddle.

They often have an enclosed chain that is protected from road grit as well as flapping skirts or trousers. Another typical feature, particularly in the Netherlands, is a spoke protector that also shields garments against entanglement.

Frame shape and dimension:

Step through frame from 13-23 inches.

Wheel size and wheel inner rim to inner rim:

20-26 inches and 47cm average distance.

Gears:

Enclosed hub gears.

Brakes/Levers:

Calliper or V brakes.

Typical accessories:

Rack/Basket. Mudguards.

Strengths:

- Easy to get on/off

Weaknesses:

- Often heavy