

Shift4Me introduction

What?

Shift4Me is a system that you can add to a bicycle. It is an electronic device that shifts your gears, based upon cadence (the rotation of your pedals). Its goal is to keep you in a comfortable gear setting, so your bike ride is comfortable and efficient. You can add a Shift4me to any bicycle that has a single cable (spring return) gearing system - that includes standard "cassette" derailleurs, hubgears (internal gears in the rear wheel axle), that means 95% of the market.

Why?

The system is in another ballpark than the (getting ever more popular) electric pedal-assist bicycle. It doesn't add power to gain speed. However, because the system keeps you in the most appropriate gear, it makes you cycle more efficiently. Shift4Me can be added to a non-pedal-assist bicycle, in that aspect it is unique in the world (as far as I know). But if you add it to a pedal-assist bicycle(*) you not only get the most efficient ride and best battery performance, it will also help to reduce wear and maintenance.

Who?

Shift4Me is intended for cyclists that want to have the most comfortable ride possible without having to worry about shifting to be in the right gear. It is designed to be a "no-brainer": only a single button is present, and that even doesn't have to be used if you don't want to. (the button is actually a dual function button that does "bypass" and "reset"). Just turn the power on and enjoy the ride, that's the main goal.

How?

Shift4Me is a do-it-yourself project: it is not available as a finished, ready-to-use system. You have to build it yourself - there's a comprehensive build manual. Only (reasonably) commonly available components are needed. It is an open-source platform which "techies" can change, improve and experiment upon.

() The past years, some companies have been introducing automatic gear shifting to their pedal-assist systems and bicycles.*

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