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Put the fun between your legs: Become the Bike Bloc

Put the fun between your legs: Become the Bike Bloc is the creation of new tools of civil disobedience for the 16th of December Reclaim Power day of action. A collaboration between UK Climate Camp and art-activist collective The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination, it will transform hundreds of discarded bikes into machines of creative resistance.

Bike hackers, welders, activists, artists and engineers are working together building the bike bloc at the Candy Factory, Nørrebro's free cultural space. Merging device of mass transportation and pedal powered tool of direct action, postcapitalist bike gang and swarm of rebel bees, the bike bloc will come alive from the 10th - 15th of December. You are invited to become the bike bloc and put the fun between your legs.

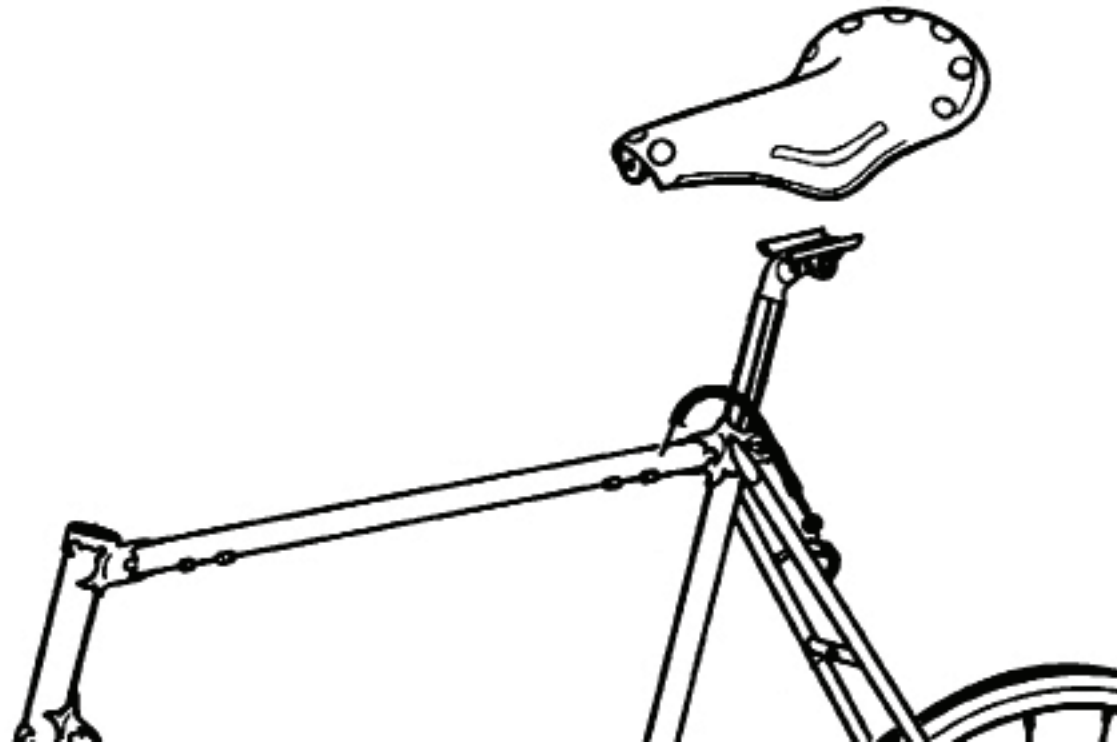
HOW DO I BECOME THE BIKE BLOC?

Everything you need to know will be at the Candyfactory, Laerkevej 11, Nørrebro (bus 5A or Nørrebro S station). Come from 12pm and get involved in building, plotting and training. A meeter greeter in a fluorescent jacket will be on hand to help with any questions you have.

A key to our success will be building confidence in riding and choreographing pedal powered resistance moves. To enable this we will be holding trainings every day at 3pm. We will learn to flow together on the streets, develop strategies and make quick consensus decisions on bikes. You will need to bring your bike or come earlier to build your own.

Once you have taken part in a training you can make your own swarm (the bike bloc's form of affinity group) and prepare to join the thousands that will take over the UN conference and transform it into a People's Summit for Climate Justice on December 16th.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A final mass training will take place on 15th December at 3pm. This is our last chance to practice our smooth manoeuvres, anyone wishing to be part of the Bike Bloc should try to attend.



SPAWN A SWARM

The bike bloc moves as a swarm, harnessing its collective energy and unpredictability to flow through the streets and create greater possibilities. The swarm is the way the bike bloc functions: individual cyclists who move and work together as an organised unit, with the potential to become an unstoppable force.

A swarm is spawned when a group of ten or so people come together, with the ubiquitous bicycle between their legs, determined to transform it and themselves into a tool of resistance.



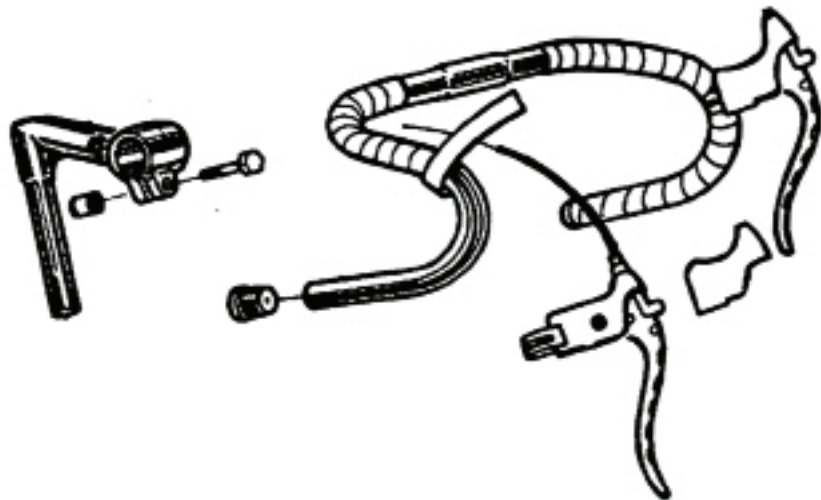
HOW TO SPAWN A SWARM:

- Get together a group of about ten people, with a commitment to stay together, look after each other and with similar aims and ideas about how to participate in the action.
- Make sure everyone has a working bike. There are donated bikes at the Candy Factory which you can repair in the bike bloc workshop on site. These can then be modified according to your role in the swarm.
- Make sure you can navigate your way around. Identify some people to do this and you can easily add a map holder as a modification for your bike. Get hold of the free cycling map of Copenhagen available from the Tourist Information opposite the central station. Unlike the normal free city maps it includes the area around the Bella Centre.
- Choose a communicator, someone with a dedicated mobile phone to coordinate with the other swarms during the action.
- One of you should be a scout to check out the area ahead of the swarm and a rear guard to look out at the back
- Each swarm should appoint a spokesperson to take part in the CJA spokes councils for action planning.

If you aren't part of a swarm, come to the Candy Factory and meet like minded folk looking to spawn something!

CAN I JUST BRING MY OWN BIKE?

Yes. Bring it to the workshop and have it specially adapted to become part of The Swarm. There are many possibilities, from simple aesthetic modifications such as a flag to exciting welded accessories that will transform your beloved ride into a great tool of civil disobedience.



BUT I DON'T HAVE A BIKE?

Without a bike you can't really be part of the Bike Bloc, but the Candy factory has many old bikes that you can fix and transform into resistance machines. Between 12pm and 3pm you can come and fix up a bike.

If you don't intend to be part of the Bike Bloc but just need a bike for transport in Copenhagen, we may be able to help but please bear in mind that the bicycles we have gathered and our team of bike hackers are dedicated to building the Bike Bloc. We are not mechanics to service the movements transport needs but activists building a new form of direct action.

I HAVE A WRECKED BIKE, WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

All our bikes have been donated by people, so if you have some wrecks you would like to give away and see transformed bring them down to the Candy Factory.

FREE DIY BIKE MAINTENANCE COURSE

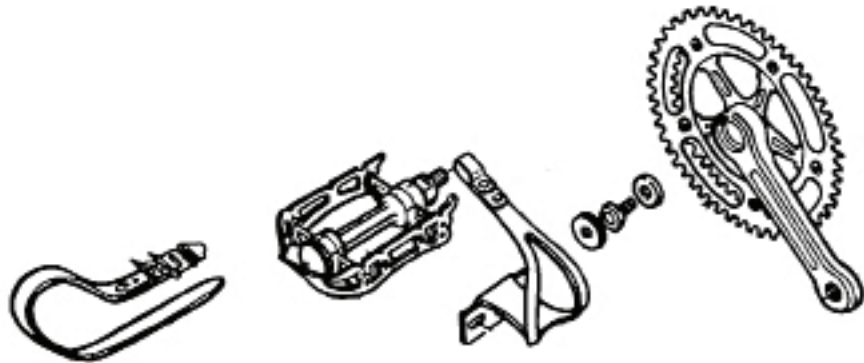
The Bike Bloc will also be running a free 4 day DIY skill share course in Bike Maintenance. From Friday 11th - Monday 14th - 12-1pm beginning with Punctures, then breaks, gears and the final day on bearings.

SOME PRACTICALITIES

In the Candy Factory workshop

The bike workshop is a DIY space. This means that everybody must take responsibility for it to remain a safe and practical space to use. We are happy for anyone to use the tools but please make sure that you put them back where they belong as soon as you are finished with them. We are short of tools in general so if they get misplaced, it is the whole project that will suffer.

We would be grateful for donations to keep running the workshop and cover all the costs that it entails.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

The following tips might sound constraining but they are to ensure everyone's safety in the workshop. Please do respect them at all times!

- There are clear walk ways in the workshop, please make sure that you do not block them
- If all the bike working areas are used in the workshop, please have a look at our job list.
- Don't enter the welding/grinding area without eye protection (available just outside the area)
- We strongly recommend that you wear face masks in the grinding/welding area because of the fumes (these are also available outside the welding/grinding area)
- Do not work on fixing bicycles in the welding/grinding area
- Do not use the grinding equipment without having had an induction. If you want an induction, ask the meeter greeter.
- Do not use the welding equipment or grinders. If you think you need to weld or grind, please ask the meeter greeter.
- If you injure yourself or get something in your eye, get in touch immediately with the meeter greeter.

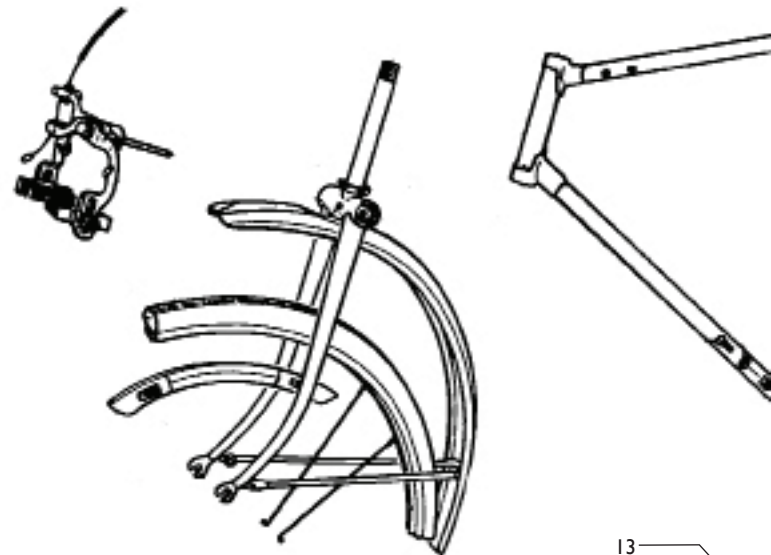
Bike Checklist

- SEATPOST check the seatpost isn't seized and can move up and down.
- STEM again check it isn't seized and try and free it up if it is.
- HEADSET regrease and retension if necessary.
- BOTTEM BRACKET regrease and retension if necessary.
- WHEELS bearings - regrease and retension if necessary.
true
rimtape
- TIRES check for splits or sidewall tears, double wall with 2nd tire.
- BRAKES working
- GEARS working
- TYRES inflated
- CHAIN lubed

READY TO ROLL...



- Bicycle frame matched to another rear section of frame to add on
 - Prepped/grinded down for welding
 - Tube section foot pegs welded to add on section to frame
 - Weld on modification
 - map holder attached
- READY TO ROCK...

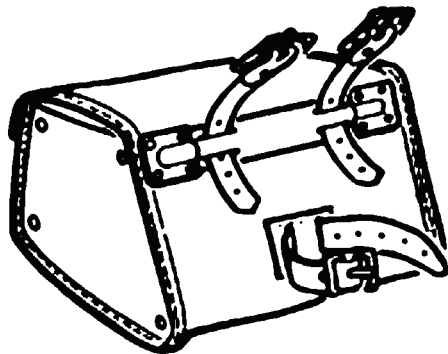


FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information ring 52766898 or email: bikebloc@climatecamp.org.uk

Follow the Bike Bloc on twitter: @fbyl

www.funbetweenyourlegs.info



"Politics is not solely, or even primarily, about reasoned thinking and rational choices; it's an affair of fantasy and desire. People are rarely moved to action, support, or even consent by realistic proposals; they are motivated by dreams of what could be."

Stephen Duncombe,
Dream: Re-imagining Progressive Politics in an Age of Fantasy, 2008