

# How to assemble a longboard

Sint Kaung 10/2/2021

The process of assembling a longboard is a simple one and almost identical to assembling a standard skateboard. The only tool you will need for this will be a skate tool, which should come with an allen key. All the nuts can have one of three varying sizes, which are all included in your skate tool! And remember, righty tighty, lefty loosey. For the purpose of this manual, we will keep the process of applying grip tape as simple as possible, but one can be as creative as they want with how they apply their griptape. With that in mind, we can get started on this tutorial.

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## Materials

1. Longboard deck
2. 2 Trucks
3. 8 skate bearings (and spacers)
4. 4 Wheels
5. Skateboard hardware (8 1"+ bolts and 8 nuts)
6. Griptape
7. Skate tool & Allen key



## 1. Applying griptape.

- a. Stick the griptape to the top of your deck like a sticker and try your best to avoid any bubbles.
- b. File around the edges with a hard surface and cut the outline of the edge (Figure 1.1).



## 2. Mounting your trucks.

- a. The process of mounting your trucks will be different depending on which type you have. Reverse kingpin trucks (most longboard trucks are this type) should have the kingpin facing outward, as shown in figure 2.1. Traditional kingpin trucks face inwards.



b. Top-mount (Figure 2.1) decks are simpler to install as the entire trucks go below the board.

- c. Drop-through (Figure 2.2) decks require you to disassemble the trucks by taking out the kingpin (the large nut at the bottom of your trucks).



### 3. Installing the hardware.

- a. Keep the bolt still by using the allen key on the top side of the deck while tightening the nut using the skate tool on the bottom side. Tighten until it can no longer turn without using excess force (Figure 3.1).



b. Repeat for the other truck.

Reminder: Keep your hardware beside you as they are small and easy to lose.

### 4. Inserting the bearings into your wheels.

- a. Flip your board on the side, place two bearings with the spacers facing upward on the axle (which is now pointed up).
- b. If your bearings do not have built-in spacers, insert a bearing, spacer, and then a bearing into the axle.
- c. Use downward pressure to push the bearings into the socket of your wheel (Figure 4.1).
- d. Repeat the process for the other 3 wheels.



## 5. Installing the wheels.



- a. Place the wheels on each axle of the trucks and tighten the nut until snug.
- b. Repeat this for all four wheels.

## 6. Adjusting your trucks

- a. Your trucks can be adjusted by turning the kingpin (the nut on the bottom of the trucks) as needed for a tighter or looser turn.

**Warning:** Avoid tightening your trucks too much as it will prevent you from being able to make turns and can possibly damage parts.

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You have now completed your longboard. Assuming all the steps have been followed, it should be ready to hit the road, but you should give your board a once over to ensure there are no loose parts laying around and that everything is tightened.

Finally, stay safe and have fun on your new longboard!

## References

<https://www.tactics.com/info/how-to-grip-a-skate-deck>  
<https://www.tactics.com/info/assembling-a-longboard>  
[https://cdn11.bigcommerce.com/s-ae3w3/images/stencil/1280x1280/products/53027/108810/O302-D129NAT-WRAP\\_\\_18558.1614722657.jpg](https://cdn11.bigcommerce.com/s-ae3w3/images/stencil/1280x1280/products/53027/108810/O302-D129NAT-WRAP__18558.1614722657.jpg)