

USER GUIDE



WORLDWIDE LICENSEE

Compagnia Ducale

WARNING

Read the instruction contained in this manual very carefully and follow by them strictly before using your new Compagnia Ducale frame. Keep this notebook and all documentation accompanying your Compagnia Ducale frame because they contain important informations.

Cycling, both competitive and amateur can be dangerous. Bad pavement quality, adverse climatic condition, the cyclist's state of health, weight are the most important factors that may cause even accident. The impact energy generated in such accident can seriously damage or even break your new Compagnia Ducale frame although it is state of the art, made using the best manufacturing technologies and the best materials presently available.

The purpose of this manual is to show you what to do and what not to do in order to use and continue to use your new Compagnia Ducale frame in complete safety. On behalf of all of us at Compagnia Ducale, we would like to thank you for your trust in us. We are certain that your new Compagnia Ducale frame will give you great satisfaction. We at Compagnia Ducale are especially concerned about your safety. This is because we invite you to read this manual with attention, which is intended to show you how to use your frame with complete safety, and as a consequence, how to use your new bicycle of which the frame is the primary component. In this manual you will find out what to do and what not to do in order to avoid causing yourself and your bicycle serious damages. Inspection is a fundamental element that contributes to the assurance of your safety. This is why you find attached to this manual a section with coupons, which must be periodically and regularly filled out by your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer to attest to maintenance of the structural integrity of your Compagnia Ducale frame over time thus extending its useful life.

Periodic and regular inspections of your frame by an authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer is fundamental for your safety and it should be attested to by the coupons you will find in your Compagnia Ducale periodic service coupons booklet.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

WARNING

Compagnia Ducale cannot be made liable for damage resulting from unreasonable, unexpected and in any case improper use and/or handling of your frame and its fork.

You must be aware that Compagnia Ducale has designed and manufactured only your frame, and is responsible only for this component. All the other components of your bicycle were made by other manufacturers, which are responsible for them. We urge you to consult the manuals for such other components as well. If you have not received them all, request them from Compagnia Ducale dealer and read them attentively before using your new bicycle.

Any instruction and/or practical advice contained in this manual, which deals with your bicycle in its entirety and/or with any individual component thereof apart from the Compagnia Ducale frame, are provided for you in your best interests, however they are not intended to mean an implicit or explicit assumption of liability by Compagnia Ducale with regard to such components.

Never make modifications in the frame, fork or components. Drilling, filing sanding chromium plating or removing supplementary locking devices can compromise the safety of your bicycle. You may not replace the original for unless the replacement part is of the same model. The use of different fork models might not provide the same guarantee of safety and/or could affect your ability to steer your bicycle and/or add unexpected loads.

The useful life of your Compagnia Ducale frame can be drastically reduced because of failure to abide by the rules that will follow in the present manual.

It is absolutely necessary to inspect and have your entire bicycle inspected on a regular basis, especially the frame and fork but also the stem and handlebar to detect possible signs of wear or ageing.

ACTIONS/IN ACTIONS THAT CAN REDUCE THE USEFUL LIFE OF YOUR COMPAGNIA DUCALE FRAME

WARNING

Your Compagnia Ducale frame is a modern product and Compagnia Ducale has used in its manufacture the most sophisticated methods and materials that the market is capable of offering. Compagnia Ducale has been always committed to making products that provide the best competitive performance and high reliability regarding safety. Similar to any other products, the useful life of Compagnia Ducale products is not infinite, and it can be shortened dramatically if the instructions given below are not heeded. Compagnia Ducale cannot be held liable for damage caused by unreasonable, unexpected and in any case improper use and/or handling of its frames and forks. Such use and handling includes, but is not limited to the following:

- 1)
Painting and/or re-painting of Compagnia Ducale frame. Compagnia Ducale frame may be re-painted only within the Compagnia Ducale warranty period, exclusively by Compagnia Ducale and only in the original color.
- 2)
Failure to conduct periodic maintenance and inspection of your Compagnia Ducale frame by the authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer, which has to be attested to in the appropriate spaces provided on the coupons.
- 3)
Use of corroding detergents and some lubricants generally used for cleaning mechanical parts such as for example gas-oil which is capable of dissolving epoxy cements if left in place
- 4)
Parking a vehicle with the frame in direct sunlight because the frame which are made fully or partly of carbon fiber can sustain severe damage to their structural integrity when exposed to a source of intense heat.
- 5)
Shocks, falls or impacts, even apparently insignificant ones. In such case have the frame inspected immediately by your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer before using your bicycle again.

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- 6)
Modifying and/or repainting your Compagnia Ducale frame on your own. Compagnia Ducale must handle your frame at the request of your Compagnia Ducale dealer to whom you must bring back your frame when required.
- 7)
Assembly and/or disassembly of your Compagnia Ducale frame by person other than an authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer.
- 8)
Use of your Compagnia Ducale frame on any road surface other than the normal road surface for which it was designed and made.
- 9)
Use of the product by anybody whose weight is in excess of 95 kg. If you are in this weight category, you will need to request that Compagnia Ducale fabricate a frame proper for your weight.
- 10)
Installation on your bicycle of weights, additional weights, and/or other additions such as children's seats.
- 11)
Chromium plating and/or re-plating of your Compagnia Ducale frame. Compagnia Ducale frames can be re-plated only within the Compagnia Ducale. Warranty period exclusively by Compagnia Ducale. Given the delicate nature of handling, and also because of its importance from the safety standpoint, nobody other than Compagnia Ducale is allowed to do the chromium re-plating of Compagnia Ducale frames. At any rate, no chromium re-plating is possible after the warranty period. In addition, additional chromium plating of parts that were not originally plated falls under the category of modifications of the original characteristics of your bicycle and they are not allowed.
- 12)
Use of the product by anybody who is not in an adequate psychic/physical condition, allowing him/her to do so, or use under traffic or weather conditions that pose danger.
- 13)
In general, any use of your bicycle that does not comply with practices of a normal or reasonable expected use.

RULES TO ABIDE BY BEFORE USING YOUR BICYCLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

WARNING

You should become familiar with your new equipment in an obstacle-free area before using it at high speed, under demanding conditions or in the presence of obstacles. Only your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer is knowledgeable about and responsible for the correct assembly of your bicycle using the components of your choice. Before riding it at high speed or under demanding conditions like rapid descents, or spurts become familiar with your new equipment at a moderate speed in a open area that is free of obstacles. We will provide a non-exhaustive list of obvious preventive measures.

Remember that for each of the following steps you must read attentively, and abide strictly by the manual and/or instructions provided by the manufacturer of a component in question, which should have been given to you at the time of purchase of your bicycle. If this did not occur, request them from your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer before using your new bicycle. What we provide below is merely a number of recommendations based on our fifty years of experience in competitive cycling, but in no way do they constitute an implicit or explicit assumption on our parts of liability for components that we have not manufactured.

STEERING

Make sure that the steering does not have any play when you push it vigorously back and forth while holding the bike firmly with the front brake full applied. Take back the bike to your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer if any abnormal movements or noises appear after this test; otherwise raise the speed gradually and make sure your bike rides straight and steady without wobbling oscillations or vibrations. Such events are rare, they can be caused by various factors acting individually or in combination. If your experience vibrations that appear starting from a certain speed and become pronounced when you release the handlebar take your bicycle to your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer for inspection of components and/or for bicycle repair.

BRAKES

First of all and above all check the brake system for effectiveness by operating the brake lever several times in a row. Braking effectiveness should remain the same even after intensive braking. If this is not the case, you must bring back your bicycle immediately to your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer. In any case

be careful when applying the front brake too hard. If you suddenly apply the front brake with excessive force, the rear wheel may fly upward and the front wheel can skid to one side with the consequent loss of control and a likely fall.

GEAR SHIFT MECHANISM

Make yourself familiar with the gear shift mechanism installed on your bicycle. Make sure that the power shift is enabled and avoid using combinations of gears that make the chain work at a large angle with respect to the ideal plane drawn through the bike's center from front to back.

In such case there is a risk that a sudden and improper gear change may cause the chain to get stuck between the sprockets causing the bicycle to stall suddenly and as a consequence the cyclist to fall. Such events even if they do not cause a fall can result in gear shift maladjustment.

More specifically the exact position of the rear derailleur can change when it shifts the chain to the innermost sprocket that is the closest one to the wheel spokes. In such case either because the derailleur is bent or because it becomes loose from its support on the frame or because the end of stroke becomes misadjusted or under the combined effect of all these factors it may happen that the lower end of the derailleur gets inserted between the spokes causing structural damage and a sudden fall which is inevitable and dangerous. Make sure that the handlebar remains secure on the stem has not moved from its position and does not move if you apply torsion bending or rotary forces.

QUICK-RELEASE PEDALS

Also make sure that the quick release mechanisms of your pedals are well adjusted. The shoes you wear should fit well, and they should easily engage the pedals. By rapidly pushing and pulling make sure that your feet in no way disengage from the pedals. They must be removed from the pedals only when you want them to be and this should occur easily without the need to apply any special effort by a typical swift sideways motion. Should you have difficulties removing them bring back your bicycle to your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer before using the bicycle again.

BASIC FACTS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE USING YOUR BICYCLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The bicycle has been so far the most efficient vehicle invented by humankind.

On the other hand the bicycle being a two-wheeled vehicle must be kept in balance by the cyclist. In addition by its nature it cannot provide any protective envelope thus leaving the cyclist fully exposed and particularly vulnerable to surrounding hazards. This is why it is necessary to be most attentive while riding a bicycle. It should be also noted that the energy of movement which depends on the mass and speed is always much higher than what we intuitively imagine. In the case of any impact your kinetic energy does not disappear but rather turn into structural deformation and heat.

In the case of a head-on collision, it is evident that nobody is expecting structural integrity either for the bicycle or for the cyclist. However it is understood that even when hitting surmountable obstacles such as bumps in the pavement potholes manhole covers surrounded by raised asphalt grates with slits in which the wheel can get caught an impact may occur that can be destructive.

The problem of which we must be aware is that speed changes determined by the impact are by their nature almost instantaneous, so the forces generated in a fraction of a second within which the speed change occurs can become enormous.

Therefore in the event that your bicycle sustains damage as a result of an unfortunate impact and you fall as a consequence of breakage or deformation of any part of the bicycle, it is not the bike to blame but rather the obstacles that have caused the impact.

This is reason why it is always necessary to exercise maximum caution while riding bikes, slowing down substantially where the road may be increasingly bumpy or in any case of poor visibility.

The materials Compagnia Ducale uses for making the frames and forks are either metal alloys or composites based on carbon fiber. Both metals and composites are of the highest quality and offer mechanical characteristics that assure maximum safety to the user. It is important to note that the two above mentioned classes of materials behave differently in the event of a destructive impact.

Metal alloys can snap but they first experience twisting and bending whereas the composites just fracture even though they are more impact resistant than metal alloys. Of course they are not highly brittle but they have a typical behavior and if they fracture it means that the force that destroyed to pieces an equivalent structure made of a metal alloy exceeding the maximum strength however high it may be for a product that was well designed and made in accordance with industry standards.

CHECKS TO BE CONDUCTED BEFORE EVERY USE

WARNING

Remember that for each of the following steps you must read attentively and abide strictly by the manual and/or instructions provided by the manufacturer of the component in question, which should have been given to you at time of purchase of your bike. If this did not occur request them from your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer before using your new bike. What we provide below is exclusively a number of recommendations based on fifty years of our experience with competitive cycling, but in no way do they constitute an implicit or explicit assumption on our part of liability for components that we have not manufactured.

TIRES

Abide by the pressure values that are recommended by the tire manufacturer provided on the tire beads and always make sure that your tires are intact not to worm and do not have cuts or scratches that can compromise tightness when the tires are inflated.

WHEELS

The wheels should not oscillate up and down or left and right once they start turning. The wheel rim should pass closet to the brake pads without any deviations. If this is not the case bring back your bike to your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer for wheel alignment before hitting the road.

WHEEL RELEASE DEVICE

The wheels should be securely attached to the fork. The quick-release system allows wheel installation to be done without tools. While the locking lever is in lock position the wheel axle should be inserted into its bearing and the wheel should be perfectly aligned with the structural members of the front fork and rear fork. Lock by hand applying moderate force to the quick release lever which should be set to a position where it is easy to grasp if release is desired.

BRAKES

Integrity of the brake system is of paramount importance for your safety. Therefore you should check it and/or have it checked. More specifically the pads should not become too thin from wear. They should be aligned with the rim and spaced apart from it at a distance of 1 to 2mm. Conduct a careful practical test before mounting the bike by operating the brake levers which should move freely without coming too close to the handlebar.

FRAME AND FORK

A clean bike, with its mechanical parts well oiled and greased and the frame and surface of the fork glossy, is beneficial not only from the esthetic point of view but it also allows all its parts to be visible. Possible signs of fatigue or wear cannot escape notice, and removing any accumulation of abrasive material or deposits of corrosive substances contributes among other things to prolonging the life of your bike as well as to preservation of its high commercial value.

HANDLEBAR AND STEM

Careful inspection of the handlebar and its stem should be conducted regularly and it should be aimed at finding possible signs of fatigue such as scratches, grooves, buckling or cracks. Be thorough because sudden yielding of the stem or bending of the handlebar may have serious consequence for the person riding the bike.

SEAT AND SEAT POST

The weight of the body is supported by the seat. The seat and seat post define a fulcrum with respect to which the muscular level of the legs perform their work. For this reason inspect frequently both the seat and the seat post. More especially inspect on a regular basis the screws and the seat post head. When you hold the seat with your hands at both ends and check for safety, trying to twist or swing it it should not give squeaks or move awkwardly.

PERIODIC CHECKS

Checking your bike is necessary primarily to prevent possible problems that can have an adverse effect on your safety. Just using the bike can cause events which if they are neglected may result in future damage. The most striking example of what we are talking about here is hitting an obstacle which apparently may leave no trace. Or it can be a fall that did not cause anything but some scratches on the frame paint. This is when you must conduct ordinary maintenance. Inadequate maintenance accelerates wear. A bike that is worn and has been knocked cannot be as functional and reliable as it should be. Abide strictly by the instructions given in the coupon booklet which will be explained orally by your authorized Compagnia Ducale dealer in any case when you buy your Compagnia Ducale frame. Should they fail to do so request the explanations before using your bike for the first time.

SAFETY RULES AND PRACTICAL ADVICE TO MINIMIZE KNOWN RISKS OF CYCLING

1) OBSERVING TRAFFIC RULES

You must know and observe the regulations governing bike riding. These regulations vary from country to country but there are some uniform traffic rules that we would like to emphasize

- in a group of cyclists ride in a single line
- never ride on the wrong side of the road
- use correct and repeating hand signals every time it is required
- try to anticipate unexpected events being aware that it is harder to see a cyclist than other traffic participants and that many drivers neither know nor respect cyclists' rights
- install a bell or hooter on the bike
- use light-reflecting signals and light-colored clothing that reflects light best
- in general ride your bike defensively because you are vulnerable when riding the bike on the road and for this reason you must try and anticipate events and act on the principle of self-protection.

2) TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR RIDING

- avoid pedaling when moving slowly and on narrow turns
- racing bikes have short wheelbases and your shoes may touch the front wheel. At the normal speeds the handlebar is never turned far enough for this to happen
- if it is raining and the road is wet or generally under any conditions that reduce the tire's grip on the pavement use maximum caution and not only move at low speed
- pay particular attention to pedestrian crossings and to wet leaves on the road because it is there that the cohesion is almost totally lost.

3) HELMET USE

Any time we mount a bike we must wear a helmet that should be securely attached and that should fit our head well. An unprotected head is very vulnerable. The constant use of a helmet that meets the safety standards will help you avoid injuries.

4) CLOTHING GLASSES

It is also recommended to wear protective glasses and clothing specially designed for cycling.

