

Tricycle Taxonomy: The Sinner Comfort as Geezer Glide

The term “geezer glide” has its origins in Harley Davidson nomenclature (Electra Glide, Dyna Glide, Wide Glide, etc.). A geezer glide is any motorcycle (or trike conversion) that an older rider might fancy. When a man can admit that his peg-scraping days are in the rear view mirror, it’s time for a geezer glide.



The dreadful “granny trike”. With most of the rider’s weight high above the axles, these trikes are very unstable.

The term “granny trike” has been applied to cheap upright tricycles for a long time. Since the Sinner Comfort is a recumbent trike, (and not cheap), “granny trike” doesn’t quite fit. “Peregrinator” and “Invalid Carriage” aren’t right either. When I heard, “geezer glide” I said, “That’s it!” I got so excited I composed a little song, using the theme music from the old Spider Man cartoon as a melody.

Geezer glide, geezer glide,
Heaviest trike that you’ll ever try.

Geezer glide, geezer glide,
Rear suspension – a comfy ride.

Go slow! You’re on a geezer glide.

The pedal-powered world is not “full” of them, but once you start looking for geezer glides they’re easy to find.



Above:

The van Raam “Easy Rider” is a geezer glide done right. It has rear suspension, a very low step-through height and is almost always fitted with electric assist. Like most geezer glides, it’s heavy.

Below:

The Hase “Lepus Comfort” with rear suspension and adjustable seat height. A 16-inch front wheel and a slight bend in the main frame make getting on and off easier.





Of course, Grandma loves her Lepus Comfort too.



To the best of my knowledge, the lady in this picture is Mina Bilder. Mina's web site has vanished, but I saved the pictures of Mina and her Sinner Comfort.



No wheelies, jumps or blazing speed....
Mina's pictures took root in my imagination;
they're part of the reason I bought the Sinner.



Dale Hammerschmidt and Mary Arneson with their Greenspeed Anuras hitched together. Mary and Dale have ridden thousands of miles in tandem mode.

With no suspension, no cargo rack and weighing only 40 pounds (claimed) the Greenspeed Anura hardly qualifies as a geezer glide. On the relationship between the weight of a trike and its suitability for touring, Mary wrote, “If you can’t lift [a trike] to waist level, you probably don’t want to ride it more than 10 or 20 miles”. Whoa! Put that on a sticky note near my computer! A defining feature of geezer glides seems to be that they’re absurdly heavy (even without electric assist). A variation on Mary’s wisdom might be, “If you can’t lift a trike to waist level, it’s probably a geezer glide”.

I’ve been one step ahead of buyer’s remorse since I put the Sinner Comfort on a commercial scale and found that it weighs 67 pounds – 12 pounds more than the 55 pounds Sinner claimed. Most of my hard feelings are caused not by the trike, but by the damnable “customer service” from the folks at Sinner. After cursing the Comfort’s heft for months, I recently discovered that my triple crankset was a 48/38/28 (a lousy Shimano FC-M191). My purchase agreement with Sinner specified a 44/32/22 crankset. That means I’ve been riding up hills with a low gear 27% higher than I thought it was. In effect, I’ve been climbing hills in third gear instead of first gear. No wonder the Comfort felt heavy! Sinner has offered excuses but no apologies.

“We didn’t have a 44/32/22”.

“We thought it was a small difference”

“You’ll DESTROY your hub with a 22t sprocket”

I’ll write more about this when the anger subsides. I’m told that it was Jan de Vries himself who decided to ignore our purchase agreement and fit a different crankset (and I was blaming Arjen). Making a substitution is one thing; making a substitution *without informing me* is quite another.

When the Sinner was new people asked, “How do you like it?” They looked puzzled when I replied, “Ask me in two years.” There may have been more wisdom in that than I knew. It’s been almost eight months and I’m just getting my gearing sorted out. The Sinner Comfort isn’t quite the trike I wanted but it may be the trike I need – even if it is a geezer glide.