

The New Way of Surfboard Transport



If you don't own or want to use a car, lugging your board plus gear to the beach easily becomes a struggle if the distance stretches on for kilometers. Public transportation might limit the choice of surf spots and carrying the board under your arms just isn't comfortable. If you also have your kite, a change of clothes/wetsuit, food and beverages with you, biking with everything becomes tiresome and unsafe

Would it be possible to find a way of getting both you and your surf gear to the surf sports in an easy and ecofriendly fashion?

The project goal was to develop a board rack concept which enabled the user to transport their gear by bicycle, without impeding on either ride safety, gear safety or the design of the bike. Enabling it to compete with current products on the market without compromising on the mechanical properties of the rack. What was created was the Thule surf board rack, a two-way solution designed for carrying both your gear and board on your bike.

The market needs environment friendly ways of transporting your gear to your destination with ease of use without compromising the esthetical point of view or safety of the user.

The method used was the Ulrich & Eppingers product development process where the various phases of a product development is thoroughly described. Helping to not only see the strengths of the product but showing the ways of improving it.

By analyzing the market needs and conducting interviews, data was gathered which later was interpreted into the product various functions. These functions laid the foundation for the concept generation

The primary functions were about holding and protecting the surf board, several concepts were roughly 3d modelled and inspected. Functions from the most promising concepts were combined and revised for the final concept which became a bike rear carrier that can switch to being a board rack, compatible with Thule's Pack'n Pedal Tour Rack. Showing the market how versatile gear transport can be.

The concept was taken into prototyping stages where the first 3D printed model was used for usability testing. Mounted on the bicycle, the prototype showed room for improvement where the changes involved creating a smaller more streamlined version were implemented. The result was that Thule's design language was implemented further, creating a sleek product for the consumers who are always on the move.

The latest prototype of the board rack series will now undergo further stress testing, proving that it can sustain the harsh forces of the nature that the surfers tackle.



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