

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

# BLUTO SUSPENSION FORK FIT

Chances are you've seen the news around the release of the RockShox Bluto suspension fork, and so have your customers. We wanted to arm you with the information about this product and how it relates to ours, as the questions will come in.

The crew here at Salsa feel extremely lucky and grateful to have been afforded the chance to offer insight and direction to the Bluto project from its onset, as well as get a chance to test ride pre-production samples. We're ecstatic with what RockShox has achieved and were stoked that Salsa customers now have a chance to experience Bluto on their fatbikes, too.

Being on the front edge of any new product genre is risky, ideas and designs change and evolve quickly. What was the "standard" today can be obsolete tomorrow. Fatbikes are no exception, but the good news is Bluto works on a large majority of Salsa fatbikes sold to date. Below is a summary of Bluto/Salsa compatibility.

The following frames use straight 34mm (1-1/8") headtubes. This type of headtube is not compatible with tapered fork steerers, which makes it impossible to run Bluto on these models.

2011 Mukluk (aluminum, blue)

2012 Mukluk 2 (aluminum, black/red)

2012 Mukluk 3 (aluminum, blue)

2012/2013 Mukluk Ti (Ti, brushed)

If you have any other Salsa fatbike frame, good news, Bluto can be fitted to your frame. I'll now walk through each model grouping, as each has a few special requirements to make it work.

### **2013 MUKLUK 2 (aluminum, white/green)**

### **2013 MUKLUK 3 (aluminum, orange)**

### **2013 MUKLUK FRAME ONLY (aluminum, black/purple)**

These frames can be fitted with a Bluto fork set to a maximum travel of 80mm by following the two steps listed below:

#### **Step 1: New Headset**

These frames use a 44mm straight headtube and came spec'd with a ZS44/30 lower headset cup and crown race to fit the stock 1-1/8" straight steerer Enabler fork. In order to fit a Bluto to these frames, a new EC44 lower headset cup must be purchased and installed in the frame and the matching crown race installed on the Bluto.

#### **Step 2: New Front Hub or Wheel**

These bikes came with a front wheel using a Salsa Enabler hub, which is a 10 x 135mm quick-release hub and is not convertible to the 15 x 150mm thru-axle hub spacing the Bluto uses. Options are to build a new front wheel or re-lace your existing rim onto a new 15 x 150mm hub. Salsa has created a front hub compatible with Bluto and it will be available for sale when the forks are.

### **2013 BEARGREASE (aluminum, black/blue)**

These frames can be fitted with a Bluto fork set to a maximum travel of 80mm. No headset modifications are necessary. The stock 40mm nominal crown race can be carefully removed from the fork and reused. However, considerations for the front wheel must be made as described below:

#### **Step 1: New Front Hub or Wheel**

These bikes came with a front wheel using a Salsa Enabler Hub, which is a 10 x 135mm quick-release hub and is not convertible to the 15 x 150mm thru-axle hub spacing the Bluto uses. Options are to build a new front wheel or re-lace your existing rim onto a new 15 x 150mm hub. The Salsa Fat Conversion 150mm front hub that is compatible with Bluto will be available for sale the same time the forks are.

### **2014 MUKLUK TI (Ti, green/clear)**

### **2014 MUKLUK 2 (aluminum, gold)**

### **2014 MUKLUK 3 (aluminum, red or matte black)**

These frames can be fitted with a Bluto fork set to a maximum travel of 100mm. No headset modifications are necessary. The stock 40mm nominal crown race can be carefully removed from the fork and reused on Bluto. However, one of the following wheel modifications must be made:

#### **Option 1: End Cap Swap and Wheel Dish**

This option is only intended for wheels with Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hubs and rims with 12.5mm or less spoke hole offset. (This includes the stock front wheel.) The Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hub is convertible from 9 x 135mm quick-release to 15 x 150mm by changing the end caps. Salsa will have these end caps available around the same time the fork is. The end cap swap keeps the brake mounting surface aligned properly with Bluto, shifting the hub to the left side of the frame/fork centerline. In order to keep the rim and tire centered in the frame, the wheel must then be re-dished 7.5mm to the driveside. Warning: this option cannot be used for Surly Clown Shoe Rims, or any other rim with spoke hole offsets larger than 12.5mm that is laced to a Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hub. The re-dish yields poor bracing angle of the spokes on the right flange and can result in an unstable wheel.

#### **Option 2: New Hub or Front Wheel**

Salsa is offering a 15 x 150mm Fat Conversion Front Hub compatible with Bluto and it will be available the same time the forks are. This option is best for people who want to use rims with larger than 12.5mm offset spoke holes (like Surly Clown Shoe), or people who don't want to bother with Option 1 above. This option also results in a better tension-balanced wheel build.



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# BLUTO SUSPENSION FORK FIT

### 2014 BEARGREASE XX1 (carbon, green/yellow)

### 2014 BEARGREASE X9 (carbon, blue/purple)

Beargrease carbon frames can be fitted with a Bluto fork set to a maximum travel of 100mm, but it is a little tricky depending on frame size. Carefully review size-specific info below. Wheel modification considerations are the same for all sizes.

**Small:** Stock lower headset bearing is okay. A special Cane Creek crown race must be used in favor of the stock race in order to slightly lower the crown a few millimeters and provide adequate clearance between the blue compression knob and the downtube. Without this special crown race, this knob will contact the downtube, and damage to the frame will occur. Salsa Customer service has coordinated to make these races available to owners of small Beargrease frames at a nominal fee through their local Salsa dealer. Wheel considerations must also be made, see below.

**Medium:** Stock lower headset bearing and crown race should be okay. On every MD we have checked, the blue compression adjustment knob on the Bluto fork cleared the downtube by 1mm. However it is possible, due to manufacturing tolerances in both the frame and forks, that some MD frame and fork combinations do not clear. If this ends up being the case, the special Cane Creek crown race required for the small can be used on a medium frame with lack of clearance and fix the issue straight-away. Wheel considerations must also be made, see below.

**Large and X-Large:** Stock lower headset bearing and crown race are okay. Downtube clearance on these sizes is adequate. Wheel considerations must be made, see below.

For all size 2014 Beargrease bikes, one of the two wheel modifications must be made:

### Option 1: End Cap Swap and Wheel Dish

This option is only intended for wheels with Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hubs and rims with 12.5mm or less spoke hole offset. (This includes the stock front wheel.) The Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hub is convertible from 15 x 42mm TA to 15 x 150mm by changing the end caps. Salsa will have these end caps available around the same time the fork is. The end cap swap keeps the brake mounting surface aligned properly with Bluto, shifting the hub to the left side of the frame/fork centerline. In order to keep the rim and tire centered in the frame, the wheel must then be re-dished 7.5mm to the driveside. Warning: this option cannot be used for Surly Clown Shoe Rims, or any other rim with spoke hole offsets larger than 12.5mm that is laced to a Salsa Fat Conversion Front Hub. The re-dish yields poor bracing angle of the spokes on the right flange and can result in an unstable wheel.

### Option 2: New Hub or Front Wheel

Salsa is offering a 15 x 150mm Fat Conversion Front Hub compatible with Bluto and it will be available the same time the forks are. This option is best for people who want to use rims with larger than 12.5mm offset spoke holes (like Surly Clown Shoe), or people who don't want to bother with Option 1 above.

The attached chart visually displays the information above. As with any component upgrade, we strongly recommend you work with your local Salsa Dealer to get a Bluto fit to your Salsa fatbike. They have the knowledge, skills, and tools to do it correctly.

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YEAR	MODEL	VERSION	MATERIAL	COLOR	SIZE	EXISTING LOWER HEADSET CUP/RACE	BLUTO COMPATIBLE?	BLUTO SIZE A2C/ TRAVEL	NEW HEAD PARTS NEEDED?	END CAP DISH OR NEW HUB/WHEEL?
2014	Mukluk	Ti	Ti	Green/Ti	XS	EC44/40	YES	511 A2C 100mm	Stock lower cup/race OK	Fat Conversion Hub can be converted to 15 x 150mm end cap swap. This requires a 7.5mm re-dish and can only be applied to rims with 12.5mm or less offset spoke holes. For rims with >12.5mm offset spoke holes, a new 150mm hub is required.
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2014	Mukluk	2 & 3	Aluminum	Gold Red Matte Black	XS	EC44/40	YES	511 A2C 100mm	Stock lower cup/race OK	Fat Conversion Hub can be converted to 15 x 150mm end cap swap. This requires a 7.5mm re-dish and can only be applied to rims with 12.5mm or less offset spoke holes. For rims with >12.5mm offset spoke holes, a new 150mm hub is required.
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2014	Beargrease	----	Carbon	Green/Yellow Blue/Purple	SM	IS52/40	SORTA	511 A2C 100mm	Stock lower bearing OK but requires special extended crown race. Have your dealer contact Salsa customer service.	Fat Conversion Hub can be converted to 15 x 150mm end cap swap. This requires a 7.5mm re-dish and can only be applied to rims with 12.5mm or less offset spoke holes. For rims with >12.5mm offset spoke holes, a new 150mm hub is required.
					MD		USUALLY		Stock lower bearing /race OK but clearance is tight. Extended race might be needed in some cases.	
					LG		YES		Stock lower bearing/race OK	
					XL		YES		Stock lower bearing/race OK	
2013	Mukluk	Ti	Ti	Brushed	XS	EC34/30	NO		Frame Headtube not compatible with tapered fork steerer.	
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2013	Mukluk	2 & 3	Aluminum	White/Green Orange Black/Purple	XS	ZS44/30	YES	491 A2C 80mm	Requies new EC44/40 lower cup & race.	New 15 x 150 hub/wheel required.
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2013	Beargrease	----	Aluminum	Black/Blue	XS	ZS56/40	YES	491 A2C 80mm	Stock lower cup/race OK. Drawing indicates a >5mm DT-crown clearance but no physical check has been made.	New 15 x 150 hub/wheel required.
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2012	Mukluk	Ti	Ti	Brushed	XS	EC34/30	NO		Frame Headtube not compatible with tapered fork steerer.	
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2012	Mukluk	2 & 3	Aluminum	Black/Red Blue	XS	EC34/30	NO		Frame Headtube not compatible with tapered fork steerer.	
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					
2011	Mukluk	----	Aluminum	Blue	XS	EC34/30	NO		Frame Headtube not compatible with tapered fork steerer.	
					SM					
					MD					
					LG					
					XL					