



# Disc Brakes vs Rim Brakes (V brakes) which one is better?

By Abhishek Tarfe | [www.velocrushindia.com](http://www.velocrushindia.com)

# How do Rim Brakes Work?



Rim brakes, power brakes or V brakes are calliper brakes that work by pinching the bicycle rim between two blocks of brake pads.

These blocks create friction and help you slow the bike down.

# How do Disc Brakes Work?

Disc brakes have always been on motorbikes but with the advancement of technology, they have been modified and fitted onto bicycles. However, they were primarily hydraulic and aimed at the high-end mounting bikes in the market.

Today, these brakes have several models of the cable-actuated disc brake that have evolved over the years. As a result, you will find bikes with disc brakes as standards or as an optional upgrade. These disc brakes come with callipers that act upon a metal 'rotor' bolted onto the wheel hub, instead of the rim.

# Disc Brakes

## Weight

Rim brakes require only levers, cables and lightweight Calipers. However, Hydraulic disc brakes, on the other hand, require cables, rotor discs, brake pads, hoses, reservoirs and fluid as well as levers and callipers.

# Rim Brakes

## Weight

With more parts, disc brakes are far more complicated and heavy as compared to rim brakes.

# Disc Brakes

## Maintenance

Disc brakes come with extra components. As a result, they can be trickier to work with and maintain. Especially, the process of bleeding can be nerve wrecking.

# Rim Brakes

## Maintenance

Rim brakes come with less parts and are way cheaper and easier to maintain

# Disc Brakes

## Power

Hydraulic disc brakes provide more power while stopping. Also, they work significantly well in wet weather where rim brakes find it difficult to grip.

Disc brakes are a win here!

# Rim Brakes

## Power

Rim Brakes do not provide the best of braking as compared to Disc Brakes. They also do not perform at it's best in wet conditions.

# Disc Brakes

## Cost

With the number of components in a disc brake set up, it is bound to be pricier than rim brakes.

So be prepared to spend a little more on the maintenance in the long runs compared to rim brakes.

# Rim Brakes

## Cost

Rim brakes are cheaper and have a very few components. As a result, they are easier to maintain.

# Disc Brakes

## Modulation

If you're into downhill or road biking, you will want to have accuracy at braking. You also want to have more control over the braking power and feel in control. Disc brakes let you do that.

Needless to say, rim brakes can't match the accuracy offered as compared to hydraulic disc brakes.

This fine degree of braking in disc brakes is what we call, modulation!

# Rim Brakes

## Modulation

Rim brakes do not offer that accuracy.



# Disc Brakes

## **Availability of Parts**

The biggest advantage of rim brakes is that you will find compatible parts in one form or another anywhere around the world. Whereas, disc brakes still rely on non-standard proprietary brake pads and callipers.

# Rim Brakes

## **Availability of Parts**

Rim brakes do not offer that accuracy.

# What's our take?

We've been riding rim brakes that are badly installed and poorly maintained since we were kids.

But what we realised is that if we install them properly and give care and attention to them regularly, they work really well. Heck, given due care & attention, V-brakes can deliver a similar level of raw braking power to a cable disc brake.

If you are a beginner, don't get carried away with a bicycle that offers you disc brakes and suspension at a very low price. It's just a marketing gimmick that doesn't work in your favour in the long run.

Instead, get a bicycle with the rim brakes. They work just fine! Besides, it will save money and keep things simple between your legs!

If you have a big budget, go disc!

It will offer you more optimal braking performance no matter what the weather!

**Want more?**



**Then head to...**

[www.velocrushindia.com](http://www.velocrushindia.com)