

Get the Perfect Top Tube Size

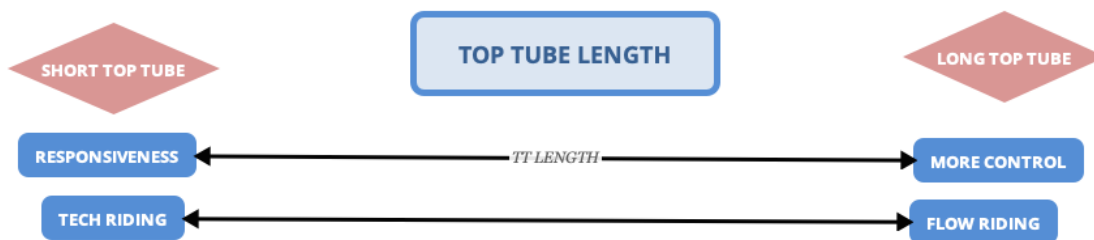
Before we get into the recommendation, you need to understand a little bit about top tube size and how it will affect your riding. This is from my e-book "[Big Book of BMX Specs](#)". Since the top tube size is based on preference, use this guide to get the right size.

Why is it important?

The length of a top tube determines how far or how close the bars are to you. This dramatically affects your riding.

For example. A small top tube like a 20.25" will make the bike more compact. While a bigger 21.25" will make the bike bigger. (relative to size.) Size charts suggest a top tube and wheel size that will feel average to the rider of the chosen size.

I'm 6'4" and it is suggested for me to ride a 21" top tube. The 21" top tube will feel average for me. But let's say I want to have more power over my bike for triple tailwhips. Then I should go down a size to a 20.75". However, if I wanted to ride more trails and have more stability and control, I would want to go up to a 21.25" -21.5".



Common Top Tube Sizes

I have seen a number of odd top tube sizes. You could presumably find one in almost every size. Still, the common sizes are 20", 20.25", 20.5", 20.75" and 21" with 21.25" being a little harder to find. When you are shopping for a frame, its best to round up to the closest size. Especially if you are still growing.

Does it really matter?

I have seen a lot of speculation saying that top tube size doesn't really matter. Let me tell you how wrong that is.

Maybe as a brand-new rider who is just starting out it could be more important to just get on a bike and ride. But as you progress you will need a perfectly fitting top tube to help you progress. I went from a 21" to a 20.7" and while not much changed, the control was way off. I was now able to spin fast, but I couldn't handle high airs or gaps to save my life. I quickly went back to a 21" and noticed the difference in my bike control. It felt so much better even though it was harder to spin.

Now imagine a kid getting his first bike. This kid is really short like 5'5" and his bike is a 21". No wonder he is having an incredibly hard time with learning hops and spins. Perfect bike = perfect progression.

Size Guide

4' 10" to 5' 3"
You need a 20" Bike
With a 19.75" to 20.25" Tootube Length
Getting a 19.75" Tootube will make the bike feel easier to maneuver. It will be very responsive and snappy. See 19.75" bikes here.
Getting a 20" Tootube will give you a bike that balances stability with responsiveness. This is the best option if you haven't developed a dedicated style yet. See 20" bikes here.
Getting a 20.25" Tootube will give you a bike that feels really good when going high and fast. A bigger size is best for flowy park riders and dirt riders. See 20.25" bikes here.

5' 3" to 5' 6"

You need a 20" Bike

With a 20" to 20.5" Toptube Length

Getting a 20" Toptube will make the bike feel easier to maneuver. It will be very responsive and snappy. [See 20" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.25" Toptube will give you a bike that balances stability with responsiveness. This is the best option if you haven't developed a dedicated style yet. [See 20.25" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.5" Toptube will give you a bike that feels really good when going high and fast. A bigger size is best for flowy park riders and dirt riders. [See 20.5" bikes here.](#)

5' 6" to 5' 9"

You need a 20" Bike

With a 20.25" to 20.75" Toptube Length

Getting a 20.25" Toptube will make the bike feel easier to maneuver. It will be very responsive and snappy. [See 20.25" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.5" Toptube will give you a bike that balances stability with responsiveness. This is the best option if you haven't developed a dedicated style yet. [See 20.5" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.75" Toptube will give you a bike that feels really good when going high and fast. A bigger size is best for flowy park riders and dirt riders. [See 20.75" bikes here.](#)

5' 9" to 6' 0"

You need a 20" Bike

With a 20.5" to 21" Toptube Length

Getting a 20.5" Toptube will make the bike feel easier to maneuver. It will be very responsive and snappy. [See 20.5" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.75" Tootube will give you a bike that balances stability with responsiveness. This is the best option if you haven't developed a dedicated style yet. [See 20.75" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 21" Tootube will give you a bike that feels really good when going high and fast. A bigger size is best for flowy park riders and dirt riders. [See 21" bikes here.](#)

6' 0" to 6' 3"

You need a 20" Bike

With a 20.75" to 21.5" Tootube Length

Getting a 20.75" Tootube will make the bike feel easier to maneuver. It will be very responsive and snappy. [See 20.75" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 20.75" Tootube will give you a bike that balances stability with responsiveness. This is the best option if you haven't developed a dedicated style yet. [See 21" bikes here.](#)

Getting a 21" Tootube will give you a bike that feels really good when going high and fast. A bigger size is best for flowy park riders and dirt riders. [See 21.5" bikes here.](#)