

Service Bulletin: Headset play / Wrong headset preload

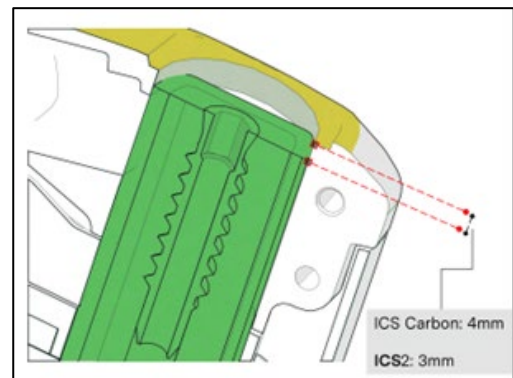
Correct preload of carbon fork headsets

Correct preload of the headset is essential. If any bike is ridden with play in the headset bearing system, even small constant movement of parts can lead to wear on the carbon steerer shafts. This effect is independent of bike brand or steerer tube design. If undetected, this wear can lead to breakage. In case of play, plastic split rings will lead to less wear than metal split rings.

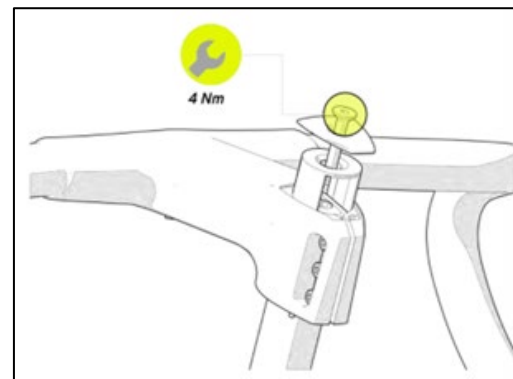
This can be avoided by a correct assembly. For ICS cockpits and stems please refer to the [ICS technical manual](#).

The most crucial steps are:

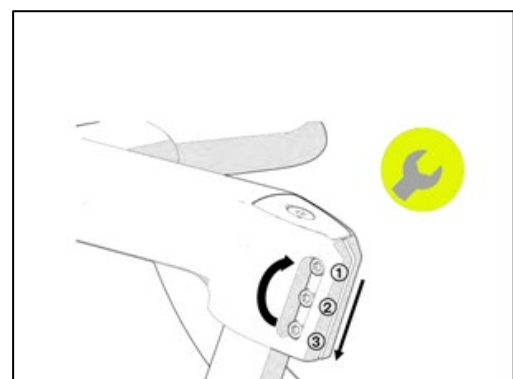
1. Make sure that the steerer tube is cut correctly. To ensure correct preload of the headset, the steerer tube must not touch the top cap.



2. Torque the expander bolt as specified. For combinations of carbon fork and ICS, the torque is always 4 Nm.



3. Tighten the stem clamping bolts as specified.



If a bike re-develops headset play quickly after it was adjusted, check the fork steerer for marks as in the pictures below. These marks are a direct result of riding with headset play. In such case, the fork must be replaced.



Marks on a round steerer tube.
Metal split ring.



Marks on a flat steerer tube.



Deep wear on a flat steerer tube.
This fork must no longer be ridden!



Plastic split ring