# Troubleshooting a Scout’s Bike – Quick Tips

See the Fix-it section of UtahMountainBiking.com for step-by-step repair instructions.

Chain jams – while pedaling, chain stays stuck on ring’s underside and locks up:

Check chainrings for wear (widened circle between teeth, “dolphin-fin” teeth)

Check chain for wear or bent links (12 links = exactly 12 inches)

Is chain rusty and stiff?

Clean and apply light lube to chain (wipe off extra lube!!!)

Sudden scrunch and chain slip:

Usually caused by chain stretch or worn front chainrings (see above)

Rarely, may be freewheel problem

Skipping around in gears on rear:

Check derailleur hanger – should be directly vertical with no twisting

Check chain for bent links

Check cogs for bent teeth, wood or pebbles in teeth

Check cables for sagebrush and housing for bends, cracks, etc

Check limit screws

Tune shifting, starting in smallest cog

If tuning won’t solve it, replace cables and cable housing

Won’t hit highest or lowest gear:

Adjust limit screws

Brake rub:

Rim brake

Check orientation of pads. Adjust as necessary

Tight fit? Let cable out.

Plenty of room for opposite pad? Adjust tension screw on side of brake.  
 Disc brake

Is rotor bent or severely worn? Bent = field-straighten w wrench

Cable-activated? Turn adjusting knob to move pad

Hydraulic? Slightly loosen the 2 upward-facing bolts. Grip brake

lever hard. Tighten the 2 bolts while holding lever.

Not enough brake:

Lever hits fingers? Adjust cable tension to move pads in.

Cable-pull disc brake? Turn adjusting knob to move pad closer to rotor

Do pads contact rim correctly? Oil on pads or rim?

Cracked cable?

Hydraulic disc? Clean rotors and sand pads.

May need “bleeding.” Not a field operation!

Squealing brake:

At least you know where he is.

Steel wool to rim and brake. Are pads OLD?

Disc brake? Buff rotor and clean pads. May be overheating (H2O bottle).

Clunk with pedaling:

Crank loose on bottom bracket – tighten

Pedal gears stripped or pedal axle bearings bad – new pedal.