

By Cid Cardoso, Jr.

Profile T2 Aerobars: \$89.99

Since their invention in 1987, **aerobars** have been proven to be the best investment an athlete can make in order to achieve more immediate speed on a bike while time trialing. This is especially evident when you take into consideration the fact that **aerobars** (which put the rider in a more streamline aerodynamic position, resembling the tuck of a downhill skier) cost around \$100-\$150 but can give an athlete minutes worth of time savings (over a 25 mile time trial). Compare this to the fact that you can spend \$100s if not \$1000s of dollars on other parts of the bike that will only give an athlete a savings of mere seconds.

Clip on **aerobars** are basically extensions and pads that attach to existing handlebars. These are especially useful for riders looking at achieving a more aero position without drastically changing their front ends (handlebars, shifter, etc) or for those looking for flexibility in matching different base (cowhorn type) bars to **aerobars**. The long awaited and now available **Profile T2** is one of the best clip-on **aerobars** in the market and it only retails for only \$79.99 (compared to others that are well over \$100). It offers **Profile's** well known adjustability, allowing for adjustments in length, width, and rotation of the extensions. This is important not only for those new users who may not know exactly how they want their arm positioned, but to those who are looking for a new set up allowing for a more aggressive aerodynamic position. The F-19 arm rests, also offer a wide range of positions, allowing riders making the transition from a road to a tri position a little more manageable. Perhaps the most visible difference between this bar and others is the s-bend extensions. Popularized by Lance Armstrong, the extensions angle slightly up and then forward again, putting the rider's hands and forearms a little lower in the front, thus reducing overall drag on the rider.

What I like the most about the **T2** is its simplicity and well thought out design. I like **aerobars** that are easy to install, use reliable parts and offer some degree of adjustability. The s-bend extensions are easy to move forward and back in the bracket that holds them in place, eliminating the need to cut off ends like in many other models in the market when adjusting length. The s-ends are comfortable and visually pleasing in case one is trying to achieve that Tour de France look. Its MULTI-FIT system fits both 26.0 mm and 31.8 mm bars, which is very important nowadays as handlebar diameters are pretty much split between the two widths. If you're planning on installing these on your current bike, the **T2** requires only a 5 mm Allen wrench and should take no more than 15 minutes to install. If you are building a time trial machine with bar end shifters, its dual cable routing holes allow for clean internal routing. Finally, at 512 grams it is light enough to please the most weight conscious customers out there.

The only caution I make is that s-bends and low **Profile** mounting brackets for the arm rests, limit how high a rider can position his or her upper body while on the **aerobars**. This may be an issue for novice riders or riders with tighter backs who want a more upright position while on the **aerobars**. If you're looking for a slick new set of clip on **aerobars**, or if you would like to replace the ones you've had since Greg LeMond won the Tour, or if you're simply looking for function and aerodynamics at an affordable price you should definitely purchase the **Profile T2** clip on **aerobars**.



Triathlon