

Eurobike takes place in Friedrichshafen in Germany a month before Cycle. I went armed with a Cycle 2008 exhibitor list, so as to anticipate what you might see in London in October.

The Cycle Show exhibitor list looks comprehensive: major equipment manufacturers such as Shimano and Campag either have their own stands or are represented by their UK distributor, and I'm pleased to note that most of the minor brands I'm aware of also get a look in, thanks to the several London bike shops that have taken a space. But though we've flagged the stands at Cycle where we think you'll be able to inspect particular products, we can't offer a cast iron guarantee. Some things on display in Germany might not be destined for the British market.

Welcome to

Autumn trade shows are a great chance to inspect next year's kit now. **Chris Juden** was at Eurobike in Germany, while Nick Fish looks forward to Cycle 2008 in London

2009

ELEVENSES IN VICENZA



E3B

Campagnolo have added an extra sprocket to Chorus, Record and Super Record groupsets. Did anyone complain that ten weren't enough? No. Does 11-speed get you a wider overall range? No. Will it sell? Yes. Expect to see a sprinkling of '11S' swing-tags at Cycle 2008.

Technical details are sparse from Campag, but they appear to have narrowed the chain to fit one more cog in the same space, whilst redesigning every other component in the groupset in a manner inspired by the number 11. Even the brakes are '11S' brakes, would you believe it!

Something useful might come from this: if 11S Ergopower pulls near enough the right amount of cable to work a Shimano 9-speed rear mech. Given that Campag 10 corresponds with Shimano 8, it seems likely.

ELECTRA GLIDE IN OSAKA



D11

We've previously seen electronic shifting devoted to make cycling easier for leisure and commuter cyclists, but professional racers? Thanks to Shimano, some of those guys have been using Dura-Ace Di2 to take the effort and uncertainty out of competitive gear-changing. Next year any racer with a few thousand pounds to spare will be able to press a button and let a battery-powered motor do the shifting work.

I'm happy to say that at CTC we welcome riders of electrically assisted pedal cycles, but I'm surprised the UCI (the world cycle racing federation) don't prohibit the use of stored energy to reduce, albeit slightly, the demands of cycle racing. Given UCI's trenchant objection to bikes that merely look a bit weird, I cannot help thinking: what if electronic shifting had been proposed by a maverick Scotsman!

Main photo: www.eurobike-exhibition.de

SECURE STORAGE



Many Londoners lack anywhere secure to keep a bike at home and will be interested in the steel storage units that will be exhibited at Cycle by Trimetals (protectacycle.co.uk – 01258 459441) and Asgard (asgardsss.co.uk – 08456 580730), who will be on stand E1h.

RIDGEBACK



This is Madison's own brand of bikes and unique to the UK, so I can't preview them at Eurobike. But we've seen some very useful models – for touring and transport – from Ridgeback in the last few years, so this is a brand to look out for at Cycle 2008.

ISLABIKES



I have to mention Islabikes, even though they'll not be at Cycle (see them next year at York), because they're not only British but the best children's bikes on the market anywhere. New for 2008/9 is a performance mountain bike and this tiny brake lever, made by Tektro to Islabikes' design, in metal rather than plastic, to make the most of the limited size and strength of little fingers. Now satisfied that the youngest pedallers can safely stop a bike with their hands, Islabikes feel able to do without a back-pedal brake (which was unpopular with some parents). Don't buy a kid's bike until you have visited islabikes.co.uk.

STURMEY-ARCHER FIXIE



The ex-Nottingham (now Taiwan out of Amsterdam) firm has a lot of developments in the pipeline, only a few of which might be glimpsed at Cycle. The news and perhaps a prototype of a 3-speed fixed gear is sure to excite the London crowd! The S3X is not merely a reincarnation of the ASC, but provides a much more worthwhile 160% range (ratios of 0.625, 0.75 and 1). It also has a stronger alloy shell and comes with a choice of bar-end or trigger shifters. The driver will be like a derailleur freehub (not as in photo) and accept 3/32 sprockets. Over-locks dimensions start at 120mm with the option of wider spacing. It should be available in Jan 2009, price unknown.

BROMPTON GEARING



It's a little-known fact that Brompton's Steve Rickles used to be Sturmeley-Archer's chief designer. His latest challenge has been to give this market-leading folder a wider range of gears without making the folded package wider too! His answer is the new BWR (Brompton Wide Range) 3-speed hub, manufactured to his design by the new Sturmeley-Archer and embodying all the quality features he was not afforded of old. The new hub's ratios are 0.638, 1 and 1.567, which combine with 13 & 16T sprockets on the Brompton 2-speed derailleur to provide a 302% overall range of 6 gears. That's a big step up from the 213% of the existing 6-speed Bromptons. Other changes at Brompton include a number of small weight savings, firmer rear suspension, matt colours and new saddle with a handgrip nose (in development).

USE SPT



D17

It stands for Smart Port Technology, by which the latest generation of Exposure front lamps from USE can be remotely controlled by connecting a switch to their charging socket, or may alternatively power a rear lamp. The lamp automatically detects the presence of the remote switch and dims or brightens as commanded. The Red-Eye rear lamp is shown with a Joystick front.

DEUTER



D18

Mountain-biking women should look out for Deuter's SL hydration backpacks on the stand of Jim Walker. SL denotes slim-line, having closer shoulder-straps with softer edges and a shorter back. SL is now an option in most models.

MORE LIGHT



B4

It should be easy to spot the Lumotec-IQ-Cyo from Busch & Müller on Amba Marketing's stand, since it's even 50% brighter than the IQ-Fly reviewed last December, which already more than doubled our expectations of how much light you could get from a dynamo!

ENDURA LUMINATE



F11

Until the fashion gurus decide that yellow is 'the new black', many would rather risk invisibility that wear it. So it's a good thing that Endura's Luminite jacket, which comes in shadow black and camouflage green, has a built-in flashing LED-fibre-optic light strip.

HOLEY LEATHER



E7

There's nothing new about saddles with holes in. Brooks were making them in leather more than 100 years ago, and now they're at it again! Back then they called it 'registered cutting, a sure preventive to all perineal pressure', nowadays it's 'truly anatomical and gender dedicated'.

AIRY FAIRY



C10

Made by Tubus from only 202g of titanium and able to support 30kg, this is surely the most efficient luggage carrier of all time.

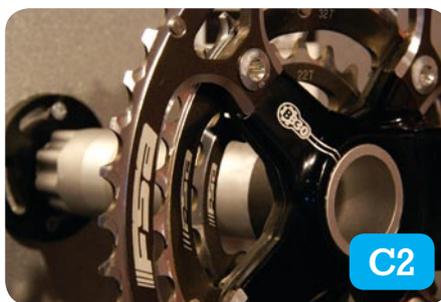
SCORPION FS



C13

I've always thought there was something of the scorpion about 'tadpole' recumbent trikes. This latest model from HP Velotechnik is fully suspended, including anti-roll bar. Hopefully it will be on the Bikefix stand.

BB30



C2

It's a new size for bottom brackets, with a 30mm tubular axle and larger bearings press-fitted into a 42mm internal diameter shell. The idea is to improve both stiffness and durability. You can expect to see a few of these bottom brackets on Cannondale bikes at Cycle, since they developed the idea, but BB30 is an open standard and FSA (pictured) were not the only crankset manufacturer to display bottom bracket models in this size at Eurobike.

TOUT TERRAIN



C13

I'm hoping Bikefix will be showing one of these amazing full suspension, go-anywhere expedition tourers from aptly named Tout Terrain of Germany, whose products they import. Look out for the hub-dynamo USB charger, which'll keep your GPS going in the wilderness.

A London eye

CTC commercial manager **Nick Fish** has been in the bicycle trade for over 20 years. Here's what he's looking forward to inspecting in more detail at Cycle 2008.

PEGORETTI



Dario Pegoretti is an independent-minded Italian frame builder with a well-deserved reputation. While not a follower of fashion – for example, he favours comfort and strength in frames over the lightest possible weight – his frames are works of art. Prices start at £1,500 and there's a 6-12 month waiting list, so you need to get your order in quickly. See his work on the Mosquito stand.

MAXX-D LIGHT



USE/Exposure have upgraded the LEDs and added a fourth one to give their top model integral-battery light a blinding 960 lumen output on highest setting. So they recommend you plug the remote switch into its smart charging port, to put a dimming control at your fingertips.

DAHON



Dahon's Curve SL is a sub-10kg hub-g geared commuter folder that rides very well thanks to its Schwalbe Big Apple tyres, which eat bumps that can upset small-wheeled bikes and which provide an excellent level of shock absorbency. The fold is obvious and makes the bike quite compact so it's a good option for bike-rail users, who need hassle-free boarding.

SPECIALIZED CROSSTRAIL



Twenty-niner mountain bikes are still somewhat on the periphery of UK cycling but their influence is seeping in – not just in dedicated big wheel off-road bikes such as Specialized's Stumpjumper 29er, but also hybrids like their new Crosstrail range. The Crosstrail's 700C wheels mean easier rolling on tarmac or singletrack, and it comes with frame fittings for mudguards and a carrier rack on road and has a budget suspension fork to improve comfort off-road. So it's a hybrid that lives up to its jack-of-all-trades billing. For riders who want one bike, it's well worth a look. Prices range from £350 up to £650.

HOPE WHEELS



After the successful launch of their first performance wheelset, Pro 2, earlier this year, Hope are showing the Pro 3 RS at Cycle. Pro 2 wheels were strong, light and reliable, using Hope's own hubs and DT rims and spokes. The new Pro 3 RS is a lighter-weight 28 spoke race wheelset that's still based around Hope's own hubs. You can check the spec and Hope's other goodies (brakes, stems, bottom brackets, headsets, lights and more) on their stand.

TREK SESSION 88 DH



If you've got an MBUK-reading teenager (or like launching off drop-offs yourself) check out Trek's 8-inch downhill bike. The Session 88 is the culmination of Trek's full-suspension mountain bike development over the last few years, which started with the Fuel EX and led to the Remedy, the Session 88 and recently, the 2009 Top Fuel. The Session 88 is to some extent the proving ground for the rest of the range, and can cope with any remotely rideable descent.