

Gear up!

A cross-section of cycling products selected and reviewed by CTC staff, specialist journalists and CTC members

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REVOLUTION CARGO TRAILER £125

Reviewed by touring and commuting cyclist Michael Stenning

This is a budget copy of the venerable Bob Yak trailer. Whereas the Yaks were built from aircraft grade cromoly, the Revolution uses plain gauge hi-tensile steel – although this makes little

difference in terms of weight or performance. I was pleased to find the hitch less fragile compared with older Yaks and there's the option of a fitting kit for bikes with solid axles.

Being a single wheel design and enjoying a low centre of gravity, it tracks well even heavily laden, entertaining moderate off-road excursions without much fuss. Designs of this kind can place greater stresses on the rear triangle but this shouldn't be an issue on tourers or mountain bikes.

A flag and fluorescent bag are a real boon (the unit folds small enough to fit into the bag for easy storage) but while the material's waterproof the seams aren't – allowing water to get in in a downpour. Minor niggles aside it represents fantastic value for money and with basic care should give years trouble-free service. It weighs 8kg and has a maximum payload of 35kg.

Info: from Edinburgh Bicycle Cooperative, www.edinburghbicycle.com, tel: 0845 257 0808

NORVILLE SRX1 EYEWEAR £80 APPROX.

Reviewed by Sheila Simpson, editor of Arrivé



I'm short sighted. When contact lenses began to impair map reading and roadside repair, I switched to specs. I first used Norville SRX1 prescription sports eyewear for

audax rides last year. These are wrap-around frames with polycarbonate prescription lenses. There is lens distortion, but my brain soon adjusts and eyes stay comfortable. The big advantage, compared with lenses worn inside the eyewear, is the lack of condensation.

Info: from Optical Express, enquiries@opticalexpress.com, tel: 08702 202020

EGGBEATER SL PEDALS

£84.99

Reviewed by editor Dan Joyce

Muddy UK conditions can clog SPD shoe cleats off-road, making them difficult to engage with the pedals. That never happens with Eggbeaters thanks to the skeletal retention-bar design. Like Time ATACs, they go on working however claggy the conditions. They also offer a good degree of float, so your foot can easily find its favourite angle on the pedal. It takes only a light action to release the shoe from the pedal, which will benefit smaller, lighter riders, and the four-sided design means that

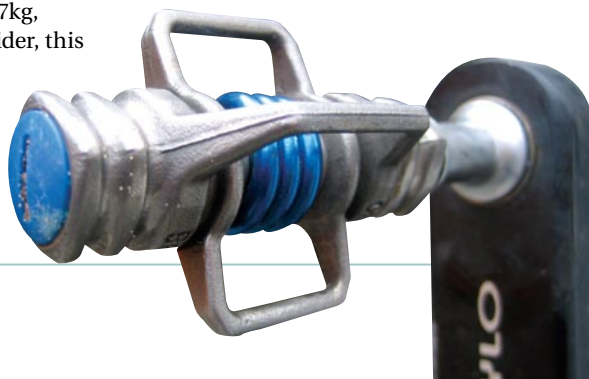
the pedal is always the right way up. Minimalism means a low weight too. These stainless steel Eggbeaters are ~20% lighter than Shimano XTR pedals.

Since there's not much support for your shoes, it's important to use ones with a comfortable, stiff sole. Those retention bars can dig into the sole, creating stress raisers that could cause cracks later. As a 67kg, wheels-on-the-ground rider, this isn't a problem I've experienced. While you could use these pedals for touring (the two-bolt cleat is the same size as an SPD cleat),

their strengths are their low weight and their mud-shedding abilities. Cross-country mountain bikers and cyclo-cross riders have the most to gain.

There are no flats on the axles. You have to fit them with a 10mm allen key – so be sure to grease the threads.

Info: 263g per pair. Distributed by 2pure, www.2pure.co.uk, tel: 0844 811 2001





ENDURA VENTURI EVENT 3/4s £99.99

Reviewed by expedition cyclist Cass Gilbert

Waterproof overtrousers add comfort for expedition touring, whether for heavy downpours, long mountain descents or simply sitting around camp. Trouble is, it's all too easy to spend the day struggling into and out of them. Endura's three-quarter length trousers are the perfect alternative. They keep your backside dry and your knees warm without cooking you on the first climb, so you can leave them on most of the day. The cut itself is loose with a low rise, so they easily fit over a pair of baggies. Features include two waterproof zips, reflective logos, reinforcement where the shorts rub the saddle and Velcro tabs to cinch in the ends. Although the use of eVENT's breathable and waterproof material translates to a very high price tag, at least the quality is there – mine have lasted months of hard use without any signs of wear. My only minor gripe is the webbing belt, which is tricky to adjust. This aside, they're great. I never go touring without them.

Info: Endura, tel: 01506 497749, www.endura.co.uk

ELECTRON BACKUP 5 LED FRONT AND 6 LED REAR SAFETY LIGHTS £14.99 & £12.99 RRP

Reviewed by CTC member Ken Reed

Electron warn that these lights should be used only as backup for legal lights. Yet they give a better light than some LED lights that emit the four candela required by the regulations. They each give a very strong all-round light from their five/six LEDs, which can be seen a very long way away.

They are not intended to give any type of beam. They're great for short journeys at night urban roads – e.g. riding home from the station or when nightfall catches you out. It is easy to attach them to the handlebars and seat tube and because of their lightness they fix firmly and do not come off. They attach to any round tube by an elastic tie and could even be attached to the hubs. They are each powered by two CR2032 watch type batteries and have three operating modes: constant, chase round, or quick flash. They last from 48 and 300 hours (depending on mode).

Info: distributed by Madison, www.ultimatepursuits.co.uk



FOSKA TANGENT JACKET £70

Reviewed by editor Dan Joyce

Utilitarian rather than jovial like its jerseys, Foska's new winter jacket is a soft shell that doesn't stand out on dim days but works fine

at night due to reflective piping on the arms. It's waterproof and windproof and, having a fleecy lining and no pit zips, very warm. While it's breathable, I found it too hot for hard rides. But over a shirt for shorter, chilly commutes it feels snug – and not too bikey. Info: sizes S-XXL, 720g (M), from foska.com

Best of the rest

CYCLING SOUTHERN FRANCE – LOIRE TO MEDITERRANEAN £12.95

Reviewed by Mark Waters

This paperback guide contains a wealth of information and plenty of maps, and thankfully avoids the pitfall of telling you how to go touring. It usefully grades everything so there's little chance of you tackling something beyond your capabilities. If you're planning a DIY tour in France next year,

this guide will be a great help.

ISBN 978-1-901464-20-7

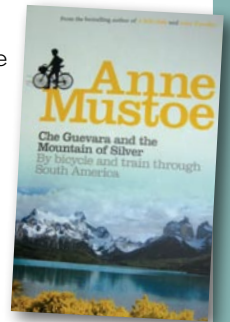


CHE GUEVERA AND THE MOUNTAIN OF SILVER £9.99

Reviewed by Tim Jackson

Anne Mustoe follows in part the journey that Che made on his motorcycle through Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. When travelling by bicycle, bus and train across the Andes and into Chile, the narrative is well written and compelling. The second half of the book is her trip without her bike from Santiago into Bolivia two years later. It's an odd break in the story and the lack of a bicycle detracts both from its appeal to cyclists and, it seems, from Anne's mood.

ISBN 978 0 7535 1274 6.



LOCKBLOCKS BIKE FLASHLIGHT HOLDER £6.95

Reviewed by Sheila Simpson

Cyclists often end up with an assortment of front lights, each with its own unique mount. The Lockblocks is two Velcro straps and a sticky rubber base that fits any bar and lots of different lamps.

I used it to hold a CatEye LE400 on the 1,000km Manche/Med CTC tour this year. It worked well.

fenixtorch.co.uk, tel: 01460 242259

