

GEAR UP

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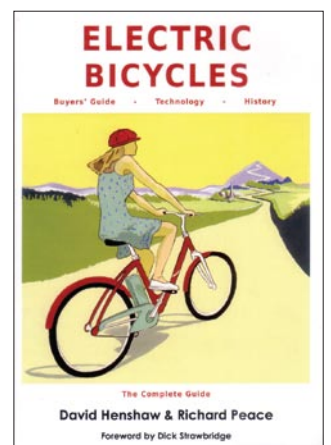
ELECTRIC BICYCLES

£12.95

Reviewed by Chris Juden

David Henshaw and Richard Peace know the world of electrically-assisted pedalling inside out, and if anything there's too much information here if all you want is reviews. David's got that covered already at atob.org.uk. You should read this if you want to be a more informed customer, fully understand those reviews, be sure to pick the model most appropriate to your needs and use it most effectively. I'd recommend this well-written and illustrated book (published by excellentbooks.co.uk) to any knowledgeable cyclist who wants to extend their cycling know-how into this field.

ISBN 978 1 901464 24 5



BURLEY D'LITE CHILD TRAILER

£569.99

Reviewed by CTC Vice President Josie Dew

The best way to transport a young child by bicycle is in a child trailer. Child seats are fun and friendly but can make the bike unstable and offer little protection from weather or a fall. The D'Lite is Burley's top-of-the-range child trailer.

I transported my daughter Molly over 12,000 miles in the older-style D'Lite until a crack appeared where the towing arm connected to the plastic bracket of the trailer. For my one-year-old daughter Daisy, I now have a new orange D'Lite. Everything on it has been massively improved. The trailer seats two children (from the age a baby can sit up, roughly nine months, to about five years – Burley's Baby Snuggler for 3-12 month olds can be fitted, officially for 'strolling or jogging only') and attaches via a cast aluminium bracket that fits under the skewer of the towing bicycle.

The child sits in a very comfy reclining padded seat and is strapped in with a padded shoulder harness and seat belt. There are useful internal pockets to put food and drinks or in-trailer



The trailer attaches quickly and easily to a bracket that fits under the towing bike's rear wheel skewer



The rainproof front window rolls up in better weather

entertainment like books and cuddly toys. There is a big deep storage area in the rear that takes camping equipment, baby paraphernalia or shopping.

Passengers can watch the world go by out of tinted UV protected plastic side windows or through the front all-weather cover which can be rolled up when it's not raining. Under this is an insect screen through which a breeze can pass. The trailer includes a suspension system to take big jolts out and it only weighs 12.7k, so even with occupants and luggage you can travel along at quite a keen lick.

For storage or sticking in a back of a vehicle you can disassemble it very fast by a pull-cord and two clips. Very speedy and useful is the push-button wheel removal. There is height-adjustable handlebar on the back for pushing along as a sort of bulky pram – this handlebar also doubles as a roll-bar.

I know people who swear by their Chariot trailers but I've only used Burley and this new design is fantastic. £570 is a lot of money but I think if you use the trailer on a regular if not daily basis (school-run, shopping, touring) then it's money well spent. extrauk.co.uk



TOPEAK RX BEAM RACK & RX DXP TRUNKBAG

£44.99 & £54.99

Reviewed by Editor Dan Joyce

'Turn your road racer into a weekend tourer', says Topeak's blurb for its beam rack. It's available in this E-type, with a straight beam, and a V-type with a kink to drop the beam lower. Since you want the load as low as possible for stability, the E-type only suits more compact frames. Even on my wife's small-sized Giant SCR, the E-type sits higher than a frame-fitting rack (which *this* road bike has eyelets for).

It clamps to seatposts from 25.4-31.8mm diameter. I'd only fit it to metal posts, worrying that carbon might crush, because you need to tighten the clamp very firmly to prevent side-to-side movement. Twin allen bolts allow this but are hardly quick-release.

The rack's side-plates are optional; it's £11 cheaper without. I needed them as the RX DXP Trunkbag has small fold-out panniers that hook to the side-plates with elastics. The top is expandable too,

via a zip, while the underside slides and clicks easily and securely in place using Topeak's Quick Track system. The bag is showerproof; a raincover is £14.99. Features include a luggage elastic, carrying handle, clip-on shoulder strap, reflective detailing and an LED loop. Capacity is 7.3 litres.

The beam rack and bag will carry 6.8kg, or about five times their own weight. I was aware of even a few kilos on the rack when I was riding out of the saddle, more so than with my Carradice SQR Slim, which holds the load closer to the seatpost. My saddlebag will carry bigger loads too (16L and 10kg – *ten* times its own weight), while a frame-fitting rack and panniers are even more efficient, *if* they'll fit your bike.

Accepting that beam racks are a rack of last resort, this is a good one, and the RX DXP bag is usefully expandable. The rack weighs 557g, the bag 748g. extrauk.co.uk

CRANK BROTHERS POWER PUMP PRO

£29.99

Reviewed by CTC Senior Off-road Officer Ian Warby

Straight out of the box it's clear to see why this pump deserves its 'Pro' title. It's well made, with an aluminium body, and some extra features. Crank Brothers' website claims it's the smallest mini pump available with a pressure gauge. (It's about 120g and 175mm long.) I'm always quick to question gauges on mini pumps, and comparing this gauge with my digital one it was spot on.

The option to switch between high volume and high pressure makes getting your tyres up to pressure a lot easier. Start off in high volume to get plenty of air in (relatively speaking) and then switch to high pressure to reach your desired pressure. It comes with the option to connect with both presta and schrader valves which saves messing around switching internals. It has a lifetime warranty. I used it on a mountain bike but Crank Bros claim it'll reach 115psi. 2pure.co.uk



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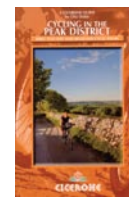
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WE ALSO LOOKED AT... CICERONE GUIDES

CYCLING IN THE PEAK DISTRICT **£12.99**



Reviewed by Technical Editor Chris Juden

Author Chiz Dakin knows and describes the Peak District very well and takes nice photos (although one

is not where it says). It's an area that attracts crowds, but she's planned 20 nice short routes (plus a 255km circular tour) that make excellent use of Peakland's dense network of minor roads and tracks to avoid the honeypots and bring cyclists to quiet and equally beautiful places. Cicerone publish updates on cicerone.co.uk, for example the welcome news that the Monsal Trail tunnels are now open, making Route 15 in this guide even better!

ISBN 9781852846305

MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT **£12.95**



Reviewed by Bike Club Officer Gavin Wood

The book contains 24 off-road mountain biking routes in the Lake District. Boydon supplies us with an

introduction to the area, with advice about transport and accommodation, etc. The rides themselves are broken down into short, medium, long, and full day and are graded medium, hard and very hard. These are conveniently summarised on one page with further information such as ascent and the best time of year to ride the route. Instructions for the routes themselves are clear and the directions easy to follow. There is a handy OS map overlay of each route.

ISBN 9781852846442





TENN OUTDOORS PVC CYCLE CAPE

£8.99

Reviewed by CTC member Paul Holmes

At first glance this cape seemed surprisingly light (280g), so I guessed it might be poor quality and too short. However, the size is very generous: it will cover the handlebars and protect the legs of most riders. It doesn't look like tearing any time soon and its light weight means that it dries out more quickly than heavier capes, though it may get blown about more. Being PVC plastic it is waterproof now and likely to remain so, whereas capes made from proofed nylon can lose their waterproofing after only moderate use. The hood may not appeal to all users, but can easily be folded away if that is the case. The colour could be better: camouflage grey is not really going to stand out on a dreary winter's evening! As a regular cape user, I recommend it and will now be using this one. It'll lighten my saddlebag by nearly a pound! tenn-outdoors.co.uk



VANGARD OVERSHOES

£34.99

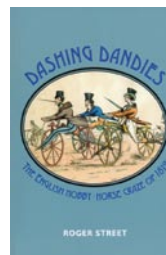
Reviewed by Sophie Edmondson

Most cycling shoes have too much mesh for the British climate. These Vanguard neoprene overshoes should prevent cold, wet toes. They are well constructed, with water-resistant tops, reflective strips and reinforced stitching. The sizing is spot on and the fit was snug – even tight around the calves – although it's easy to pull them on. On dry rides my feet were toasty warm. They did well on a soaking wet commute too, but water did eventually penetrate at the tops. Overall, they're effective, robust overshoes that will be a welcome addition to anyone's winter cycling wardrobe. Sizes: 40-42, 43-45, 46-48. todayscyclist.co.uk

DASHING DANDIES

£17.95

Reviewed by Katherine Judge



This Roger Street book takes you back to 1819 and the new invention of the velocipede, or hobby-horse as it was also known. The wooden pedestrian velocipede was propelled by the rider's feet pushing

on the ground and was a craze led by the fashionable young men of the time. The book is well researched and illustrated with 109 fascinating prints and photographs. I enjoyed reading this in-depth account of how the English embraced this new machine, which was displayed and demonstrated across the country. A must-read for any cycling history enthusiast. ISBN 97810953272211



SPY LAMP

£125

Reviewed by Technical Editor Chris Juden

It's a GPS tracker disguised as a lamp. You arm a vibration sensor by a long press on the button, and if your bike is moved it'll send you a text and keep texting its position to a mapping website as long as it moves – or if the thief turns on the light. Then you can send the police to his lair, or jump in a taxi and chase him down with your smartphone! The tracker also receives texts, so if your bike is stolen when you thought it was safe you can arm it remotely and ask 'whereareyou'.

This works very well in town, but needs quite a strong phone signal and lost track of me two miles from home, not picking up again although I live near a railway station – albeit in the sticks. (Literally – we even had a stick factory!)

The Spylamp is a clever gadget, fun for tracking friends and family out on their bikes and a decent lamp too, but can easily be rendered incommunicado by a savvy thief. It needs a SIM – not included. spylamp.com