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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2013

What's new, newish and upcoming in the cycling market? Editor **Dan Joyce** previews products that have caught his eye

1. 650B-WHEEL BIKES

The 'other' larger mountain bike wheel attracted attention after the short (1.73m) cross-country racer Nino Schurter won a World Cup race on 650B wheels in March 2012. Scott, Saracen, KHS, Norco and Jamis are among those offering them. It looks like marginal gains to me: 650B is only 25mm bigger than 26in – 584mm at the bead seat versus 559. scott-sports.com

2. CARRADRY SADDLEBAG

Hopefully 2013 won't be as wet as 2012. If it is, Carradice's new welded-seam, PVC saddlebag could be just the answer. It's about 12 litres in size (30×16×26cm) and

attaches by saddle loops, SQR, or Bagman. It includes D-rings for strapping the inevitable waterproof jacket to the top too. Price £50. carradice.co.uk

3. 12-SPEED ELECTRONIC SHIFTING

Gearing seems to be going a bit Spinal Tap these days: let's turn it up to 11! Or in this case: 12! As well as adding an extra sprocket, Italian company Tiso's groupset uses wireless shifters that work via Bluetooth or radio signals, while a battery wired to the derailleurs provides the power. No word on pricing or freehub compatibility yet. tisobike.com

4. SRAM XX1

This mountain bike groupset goes all the way to 11 too. But aside from cost (the cassette alone is 381 Euros!), I like this one more. The 10-42 cassette is used with a single chainring, with deep teeth to keep the chain on, giving a good gear range without the weight and complexity of a front mech, multiple chainrings and shifter. I look forward to cheaper versions. sram.com

5. CHRIS KING PRESS-FIT

Press-fit bottom brackets can be a bit lighter and stiffer, and can be installed easily by manufacturers, but it's surely easier for the cups to move in the frame (if fitted too loose) or for the

bearings to creak and wear (if fitted too tight). If your press-fit BB needs replacing already, you could trade up to a precision-made Chris King model – out this year in 24mm and 30mm sizes. chrisking.com

6. PINNACLE KIDS' BIKES

Evans Cycles have launched a three-model range of children's bikes as part of their Pinnacle brand. Like Islabikes, the 16-inch wheel Koto (£180), 20-inch wheel Ash (£230), and 24-inch wheel Aspen (£250) save weight by using: rigid forks instead of cheap suspension forks; frames that aren't overbuilt; and single-derailleur (or singlespeed) gearing. evanscycles.com