

GEAR UP



CATEYE STEALTH 10

£79.99

Reviewed by Editor Dan Joyce

Even if you don't want maps, GPS devices trump wheel-sensor computers: you can swap them between bikes, log your routes, and analyse and share the ride data online. Cateye's Stealth 10 is the least expensive GPS cycle computer I've seen, costing £30 less than a Garmin Edge 200. It's about the same size (68×45mm). Like Cateye's traditional computers, there's an on/off button on the back and one big button on the front for toggling between screens (short press) or resetting the trip information (long press). It auto starts and stops. The display always shows current speed and time of day, and one of: maximum speed, average speed, trip distance, total distance, or elapsed time. You can't customise this. There's a backlight too, which comes on at certain times of day. The Stealth 10 is not ANT+ compatible, so won't display data from heart rate, power, cadence or wheel-speed sensors.

The unit comes with one handlebar bracket and a USB charging cradle to link it to your home computer – with which you'll need to download the free

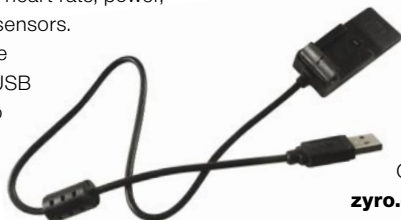
CateyeSync software (PC or Mac). Set up is fairly straightforward, although I found it less intuitive than my Garmin Edge 500. You can set the GPS logging interval to 1 second, so the accuracy of the ride data is better than many phones. Battery life is much better too, at up to 50 hours. However, it takes two or three minutes to get a fix on GPS satellites when turned on. When you've finished your ride you can export it as a gpx file or upload it to CateyeAtlas (Cateye's route sharing site) or directly to Strava.

The first several times I did this, I was surprised to find I'd ridden in the North Sea. The longitude was about 50 miles out! One Stealth 10 unit and two software downloads later, this has been fixed. It now works well. If you want traditional cycle-computer functions only, this is a cheap entry-point to GPS. For fitness training, a Cateye Stealth 50, Bryton Rider 20E

or Garmin Edge 500 would be a better buy, as they're all ANT+ compatible. For navigation, you'd want something like an eTrex or new Touring Edge GPS from

Garmin; review next issue.

zyro.co.uk



SUBMIT A REVIEW

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CYCLING NORTHERN FRANCE

£16.95

*Reviewed by CTC Cycling**Development Officer Gavin Wood*

This guidebook and waterproof map describe eight excellent touring routes north of the Loire. They vary from 130-312 miles. For each route, there is an overview, including the kind of road or track surface you will encounter. Detailed ride notes and a route profile make for straightforward planning, as do the useful notes on accommodation and bike shops en route, and the generic advice on cycling in France. Mapping is provided by the excellent Michelin 1:200,000 series but covers only the routes described; any deviations would require you to carry other maps. Also featured is a nice section on northern France's excellent network of greenways. excellentbooks.co.uk





THULE PACK 'N' PEDAL RACK AND BAGS

£SEE TEXT

Reviewed by CTC Cycling

Development Officer Steve Marsden

Swedish car-rack company Thule acquired Freeload racks a year or so ago and have developed this luggage system. There are two rack options: the Tour (which can have side-plates added) and the Sport (which can't). The racks require no frame fittings; they clamp via ratchet straps to the seatstays or fork legs. The racks are thus of most use to bike-packing mountain bikers or road cyclists wanting to carry luggage. It's otherwise an expensive setup: the Tour rack is £84.99; side-frames are £24.99; each 16-litre Adventure Touring pannier is £84.99; the 6-litre bar bag is £84.99; and the handlebar mount is £34.99.

The Pedal 'n' Pack system is well made, however, and comes with a

five-year warranty. The rack is rated to 25kg. It can easily be removed or swapped between bikes. The panniers use Thule's own attachment system, so you can only use Pack 'n' Pedal panniers on this rack and vice versa. The top hooks fold away when you're carrying the bags, while the bottom of the bag is retained by a strong magnet. They are made from a waterproof material with a roll-top design, while the base is protected by hard rubber. I'd be happy using one to carry a laptop.

The bar bag can be used facing forward or rearward; I found forward best, although it took some getting used to as the bag sticks out. The handlebar mount is very robust and secure, while the bar bag is waterproof like the panniers. It's ideal for a camera, maps or money. madison.co.uk

HALO TWIN RAIL 2 SLR 29×2.2"

£39.99

Reviewed by Editor Dan Joyce

It's difficult picking tyres for a bike that will be ridden on road and off – perhaps on the same ride. Most touring tyres aren't available in widths that make rough singletrack comfortable, stopping at 1.75in, while mountain bike tyres are draggy on road. Halo's 2.2in Twin Rail is one solution. The '2 SLR' is a new version that's a bit lighter and more supple, thanks to a kevlar bead and a finer casing (160tpi versus 60). Rolling performance on road is fair. Like a touring tyre, there's a centre rolling strip – the Twin Rails of the name. The tread looks like a negative of a mountain bike tyre, having cutouts rather than raised lugs. On tarmac, this means less drag and less lug-bending 'squirm' in corners. Off-road, it's fine if the going is firm. For mixed use that includes mud, an easy rolling cross-country MTB tyre would be better for the front at least. Overall, though, it's good compromise for mountain bikers with one bike or for Salsa Fargo-owning rough-stuffers. This version comes only in 29×2.2in (56-622) and is 842g. Cheaper versions – including some lurid colours – are available in 20, 24, 26 and 29in sizes in the same width; and in 24, 29 and 38mm in 700C. ison-distribution.com

VITTORIA CLASSIC BLACK LACE SHOES, SPD

£115.99

Reviewed by CTC Marketing Manager David Dowling

These classically styled Vittorias do not have the common failing of many Italian shoes: they're roomy enough for wider feet. Although they are not real leather they are a fair imitation and shouldn't stretch either. They have such slipper-like comfort that they have been on my feet day in, day out and have yet to scuff, rub or stink. Thanks to old-school air-holes across the upper, breathability is good. The downside is that these are a fair weather item, although the sole is well sealed. Walking around is comfortable, with just enough flex in the nylon insole. The rubber outsole has enough depth to prevent the cleat from protruding. On the bike, you can feel a little give but less than you would expect given the walking comfort. I love them. Sizes 38-47. Available yellow, white, and a Look-compatible model. chickencycles.co.uk



WELLGO WPD 823 PEDALS

£21.99 RRP

*Reviewed by CTC member
Craig Osborne*

After a series of thefts from the bike sheds at work, I started commuting on my folding bike as I can keep it under my desk. It's a 15-mile trip each way, so I wanted clipless pedals. These SPD-compatible Wellgo WPD 823 pedals are even cheaper than the Shimano PD-M520 ones I have on my



'cross bike; Bike Plus were selling them for just £16.99. Clipping into the Wellgo pedals is more positive, which I prefer, but also requires more force. As with most SPD pedals, you can adjust the spring tension. After just over 500 miles, they are still performing like new: the bearings are nice and smooth and there are no problems clipping in or out. These are fantastic pedals for the money. i-ride.co.uk



SEALLINE URBAN SHOULDER BAG (S)

£110

*Review by CTC Campaigns and Policy
Information Coordinator Cherry Allan*

Originating in rainy Seattle, this messenger bag aims to keep your stuff dry. It does. Water can't wheedle through its roll-top, the sealed outer pocket zip, or the welded, reinforced sides and bottom. Unlike some shoulder bags, there's an unfussy selection of inside pockets, together with key lanyard. The white lining sheds light on your rummages. For cycle commuting, it's comfortable and secure, with padding and easily adjustable straps. While unfastening the top flap's industrial strength hooking system (with reflective detail) is effortless even single-handedly, doing it up was a struggle when I'd packed to capacity – crammers won't find this bag very forgiving. A bigger version is available, though, plus add-on, external pockets if you'd like speedier access to your mobile/tickets etc. It's an expensive but seriously tough bag, and there's a choice of bright colours. cascadedesigns.com

ORTLIEB SEATPOST BAG (M)

£70

*Reviewed by CTC Cycling
Development Officer Ross Adams*

A robust, lightweight, and well made seatpost bag, this capacious 4-litre model was big enough for a pump, tools, tubes, sandwiches and more. Internal pockets provide space for money, keys etc. and there are bungee straps on top for clothing. A tab for a rear light is an welcome addition. Since it's Ortlieb, it's waterproof. It's made from PU-coated nylon and Cordura with a roll-over closure. The contents stayed dry even in the heaviest of downpours and wettest roads (or trails).



It gave some spray protection to me too. The tool free ratchet system for fitting and removing the bag is simple and secure even over rough ground. Max load is 2.5kg. ortlieb.co.uk

THE BICYCLE ILLUSTRATIONS OF DANIEL REBOUR

£35

Reviewed by Technical Editor Chris Juden

Here's a coffee-table book for blokes (it is mostly blokes) who drool over parts of bicycles or just pictures of parts of bicycles. But these aren't 'just pictures'; they're art. With his brilliant use of pen and ink, Daniel Rebour provided a more precise revelation of the form and detail of a machine, its components and workings, than any modern photograph. Rebour provided illustrations for *Le Cycle* and other French cycling magazines from 1946

until the '70s, when his work shifted to the cycle trade. British cyclists will recognise his style from Ron Kitching's *Everything Cycling* and other catalogues up to the 1980s. In addition to Milremo, TA, Shimano etc. parts you may remember, on the 288 large pages of this book you'll find all the weird, wonderful and prescient cycling inventions since WW2 and before mountain bikes. cyclepublishing.com, UK distribution by Orca Book Services, tel: 01202 665432

