



The cycling new year starts in the autumn. Tony Farrelly was at Eurobike in Friedrichshafen, Germany, while Dan Joyce was at Cycle in London

Autumn is show time in the cycle industry. Germany's Eurobike is now truly the *global* bike show. It's vast, and it's an interesting barometer of cycling trends. London's Cycle show, meanwhile, more closely reflects the UK cycling scene, and includes home-grown brands that don't appear at foreign shows such as Eurobike.

So what are the trends for 2010? Consolidation from the bigger brands, with some being very conservative. There were even more single speeds and fixed-wheel bikes, more urban machines of every hue, more belt drives, and more electric bikes. And as far as colours are concerned, green, it appears, is the new black.

BELT DRIVES



Belts. They were everywhere. It's not the first time the bike industry has searched for an alternative to the chain – although why we need one we're not sure – but the Gates Carbon belt is a different beast from the stretchy inefficient ones of yore. It promises ultra-low maintenance and

super-long life: current round-the-world bike record holder James Bowthorpe used just two in over 18,000 miles of riding. Expect to see it carving a (smallish) niche over the next few years. More at www.carbondrivesystems.com

TANDEM IN A SUITCASE



You wouldn't think it possible, but given a pretty big suitcase and a generous helping of torque couplings to split the frame, this Santana tandem manages it. It's pretty high spec to boot, with new Shimano Ultegra running gear and bespoke tandem-specific rear cassette. A titanium and carbon model is also available. www.santanatandem.com

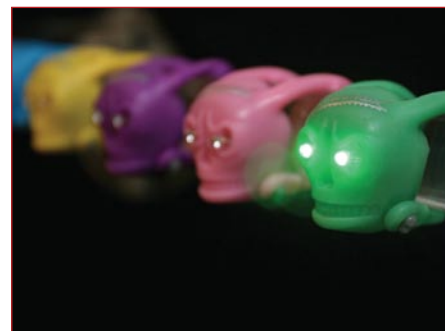
YIKE BIKE



Bike? Kind of. It's a dinky electric-powered carbon fibre 'penny farthing', with foot rests but no pedals. Designed to whizz you to work and then fold up under your desk it's an interesting 3,900 Euros toy, but probably not the future of urban transport. www.yikebikeonline.com

NOVELTY LIGHTS

Novelty lights were a big theme: flashing skulls, Topeak's AlienLux, and various animals. AlienLux are at www.topeak.com





ABUS WOMEN'S LUGGAGE

It's good to see a much greater range of bike luggage available every year. Much of the new stuff will look just as good off the bike as on it. We were taken with some of the new Abus women's range, which mixes off-the-bike looks with on-the-bike practicality really well. Good quality fabrics, subtle designs and hidden Klickfix mounts are the order of the day. www.abus.com

DAHON FOLDING HELMET



We've seen folding helmets before – the Stash folding lid won a Eurobike award last year. (Not that that's always been a very good indicator of a product's actual performance!) The Dahon helmet folds down neater and (unfolded) is a better fit than the Stash. www.dahon.com

JANGO FLIK



The Flik is a folding bike that shares its 16in wheel size with the Brompton, but that's where the similarity ends. The three

section frame folds upwards, moving the wheels closer together until the bike is about half its original length. You can shuttle it around like this or fold the bars and drop the seatpost to pack it smaller. Even then though it's not very small... www.jangobikes.com.tw

STORCK ELECTRIC BIKE



Electric bikes are huge in Europe: Eurobike devoted an entire Zeppelin hanger to them *and* an outdoor show arena. We were taken with Storck's Multitask because it's so simple: just turn the dial to tell the bike how much of a push you want and off you go. The pedal assist does the rest and the bike is practically silent. A nice GPS unit doubles as the display for the electronics. www.storck-bicycle.de

MTB CYCLETECH



The name suggests mountain bikes, but most of the bikes Swiss company MTB Cycletech had on show were tourers or urban bikes, albeit with 26in wheels. Build quality and attention to detail were excellent, though such Swiss precision doesn't come cheap – especially in Reynolds titanium or 953 steel. www.mtbcycletech.com

PRINCIPIA

This Danish outfit made a splash in the race scene a few years back when they were known for their ultra-lightweight



aluminium frames. After some hard times, they're back. Principia's flagship bikes are the Revolution road bike series. Pictured is the Revolution Team made from C40T carbon fibre. www.principia.dk

MERIDA REVO PROTOTYPE



Spacers on your steerer are a light and effective way to change the height of your handlebars, but Merida have an alternative for riders who don't want to upset the clean lines of their road bike. Different height wedges give you a choice of ride heights so you can have a low racy position or a more upright sportive one. As an added bonus the Revo comes with liberal splashes of this year's in shade of green... www2.merida-bikes.com

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Cycle Show, Earl's Court

LONDON HIRE BIKES



Transport for London's new cycle hire bikes were available to try on the test track. They've got Nexus 3-speed hub gears, concealed cables, dynamo lights, and roller brakes. There's a partial chainguard (a shame not to have a full guard) and a skirt

guard, plus a front rack with a luggage elastic. We found them comfortably upright, if a bit tank-like. Expect to see 6,000 on the streets soon. www.tfl.gov.uk

2 & 3-SPEED STURMEY ARCHER HUBS



Sturmey-Archer had resurrected two old hubs: a three-speed fixed hub, the S3X (1st 0.625, 2nd 0.75, 3rd 1:1); and a new take on the old Sachs Duomatic, the cable-less S2C Kick Shift (1st 1:1, 2nd 1.38). www.sturmey-archer.com, www.moultonbicycles.co.uk

TOUT TERRAIN MTB TRAILER



German company Tout Terrain, whose full-suspension tourer was in the Feb/Mar issue, had a single-wheel child trailer with an air shock. It looked singletrack capable, though the seatpost attachment may mean the trailer wags the tow bike when it's really technical. Cost is about 1400 Euros.

Also on show was a demo model of their neat hub dynamo-powered USB charger, with a port in the stem top cap. It will cost 149 Euros (not including the fork or hub dynamo) and you need to remove the steerer's star nut to accommodate the electronics. An expanding internal wedge, like on an old quill stem, keeps the stem and steerer together. It should be available in early 2010. www.tout-terrain.de

BROMPTON BAGS



Brompton had a couple of new bags: one handmade from Spanish leather and costing over £300, and this new waterproof 'O Bag', made by Ortlieb. Available in pink or black, it has a capacity of 23-litres. The O Bag has an integral frame and the £150 price includes the luggage block for the bike; without that it's £135. www.brompton.co.uk

OFF-ROAD DYNAMO LAMP



Off-road lights are all high power rechargeables, right? Wrong. This E3 Triple from Supernova is designed for 24-hour mountain bike races, night riding and cyclo-cross training. You'll need a hub dynamo front wheel (which Supernova also sell) but the extra weight of the dynohub over a normal hub is less than the weight of a rechargeable's battery and the E3 Triple's 680 lumens will shine all night. Olympic gold medal winner Bart Brentjens apparently rode a Supernova dynamo set-up to victory in a German 24-hour enduro. www.supernova-lights.com

LOAD CARRIER TANDEM



The Circe Helios Duo is a 20-inch wheel tandem. A telescoping rear seatpost means that it will fit either a small child (for whom you'll want shorter cranks or a second set of pedal threads) or a tall adult. The shorter wheelbase compared to a normal tandem means it should be easier to smuggle onto trains. Its *piece de resistance*, however, is a big bar with an integral rack that you can fit in place of the rear seat. This turns it into a longtail load bike, which will accommodate two childseats, two sets of rear panniers or a combination of both. Prices start at £899. www.cyclecentric.com

ANA NICHoola



These sandals eschew the thick-soled 'walker's sandals' look that other SPD sandals aspire to. Sadly they're still a prototype. The made-in-Britain waterproof polyester jacket is available now, however. www.ananichoola.co.uk



ELECTRIC DREAMS



Shimano's electronic Dura Ace, Di2, was first shown last year. This year it was fitted to a few show bikes, notably this De Rosa. The electric cables that Di2 uses are neatly routed internally, though the Li-ion battery is still external. How long will the latter last per charge? 'One Grand Tour', say Shimano. www.shimano.com