

GEAR UP

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REVIEW

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VELO, BY PAUL FOURNELL
£21

Reviewed by CTC Cycling Development Officer Gavin Wood
 Fournell's book is not a manual, biography or trip report. Instead, this is an assortment of short essays that bring to mind the character and mood of what it is like to ride a bike. The stories are a mix of the humorous with the more serious, and themes range from the look of a cyclist's tan to doping, and from being a 'baroudeur' (the opportunist of the peloton, apparently) to the smells and sounds of cycling. The book is nicely illustrated and it was the sort of book that I found easy to dip in and out. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone with even a passing interest in cycling. rouleur.cc

ZERO-12 HI-PRESS MICRO FLOOR PUMP £16 (RRP £20)
ZÉFAL PROFIL MINI RG02 £25
Reviewed by Technical Editor Chris Juden

I reviewed mini floor pumps in the June-July 2012 issue, p64. Here's a couple more, from Cyclestuff Direct and Zéfal.

First the Zero-12. Cyclestuff Direct have evidently found the same Taiwanese pump factory as Edinburgh Bicycle, but picked something slimmer from their range. I rated the Revolution Air-Mini (Giyo Mini 61) top value for money, and Cyclestuff sell its sibling (GM-71) for even less. At 27cm long and 182g (bracket 20g), it's also the smallest and lightest floor pump I've seen with a pressure gauge, which (unlike big brother's) is on the back of the chuck, where you can actually read it!

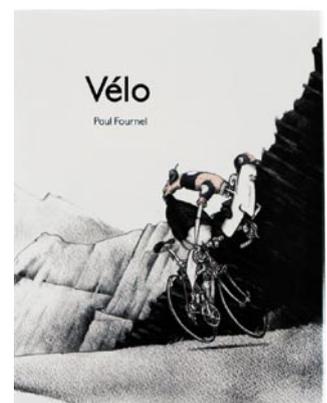
The pump works really well. Being smaller it delivers less volume of course; about twice as many strokes are needed to reach the same pressure, e.g. 200 for 6bar in a 32-622 tyre. But it gets there without as much force on the handle as most other small pumps, and on a narrower tyre it does eventually reach its claimed 140psi (9.5bar). Like all in-line gauges this one sticks and moves in steps, of about 0.7bar (10psi) in this case, but that'll be a lot better than a thumb for roadside use.

One fly in the ointment is the lack of instructions, which some users will need (hint: unclip swivelling wand from barrel and pull on valve chuck). Once you've mastered the hose deployment routine however, this pump should get top marks. Why pay more?

Zéfal's Pro Mini is even more compact. The RG02 is the smallest of Zéfal's three new portable floor pumps: only 23cm long and 170g, plus 36g holder. It doesn't have a gauge; for that you want RG01. Being smaller than the Zero-12 pump, it delivers less air with each stroke: 200 put only 4.5bar in my test tyre. But the action is smooth and the handle comfy so all you need is persistence. Zéfal claim 7bar (100psi) for the RG02 and it's still comfortable at that pressure.

The cast metal base and valve chuck are quality touches. It has the look and feel of a tough little pump you could simply chuck in a bag and shake it up with other tools for a few hundred miles, but still trust to function when needed. And that's how I'd carry it, leaving the strap-on rubber holder thingy at home. It's what a pocket-sized pump is for.

Zero-12: cyclestuffdirect.com
Zéfal: zefal.com and zyro.co.uk



D.O.M. T2 TRAILER

£325.75

Reviewed by CTC Cycling

Development Officer Steve Marsden

The T2 is a 12-inch wheeled aluminium bike trailer, a bit like the BOB Yak that I own. Instead of a metal platform for luggage, a waterproof bag is attached to a series of plastic props cantilevered from a central spine. The design is very light, just 5kg including the bag, but will haul 30kg/75 litres. It dismantles with a 4mm allen key to fit into a carry bag (not its waterproof bag).

The T2 has a quick release attachment that fits onto the towing bike's rear axle – normally for quick release hubs, but there are fittings

available for hub gears and solid axles. Like the BOB trailer, it pivots directly behind the rear wheel.

I used the trailer to commute and on day rides in the Peak District. I was amazed how stable it was and how well it handled, even on red-graded off-road routes. The only problem I had was when I let a gate close on the trailer, breaking two of the plastic props. Spares were quickly dispatched.

While I have always been happy with my BOB trailer, I am now considering changing to a T2, because it's lighter and easier to store and transport.

cyclemiles.co.uk



ROADHAWK RIDE

£149.95

Reviewed by CTC Cycling Devpt Officer Anna Cipullo

This camera is so tiny (32g) I barely noticed it attached to my helmet (via a lamp mount). The quality of the footage is fantastic, with smooth, wide-angle video in High Definition. I had some difficulty viewing the files on my computer. They did not play in Media Player so I downloaded VLC, which gave me footage but no sound.

If you don't move files onto your computer, then the camera will continue recording over the old files once the memory capacity has been reached (2 hours with the 8Gb SD card supplied). It saves files to the memory card in five minute segments.

As well as the software issues, I found two minor annoyances: the camera does not make a sound when you turn it on or off, which left me constantly checking it was on; and none of the supplied mounts is really cycle friendly.

At £150, there are less expensive cameras on the market, but this is the cheapest and highest quality 'bullet camera' available. For a longer version of this review, including video footage, see tinyurl.com/buyyvgv. roadhawk.co.uk

TIGR TL210 LOCK

£174.99

Used by Editor Dan Joyce, abused by locks expert Gary Zanco

The TiGr lock is designed both to absorb and resist attacks. It's a 2-foot long titanium bow, with a lock body on one end, capable of securing the rear wheel and frame to a lamppost, or both wheels. Locking is bit fiddly but you get used to it.

Starting at the bottom of the tool list, I attacked it with an 18-inch pole. The lock failed in under 10 seconds, the lock body popping off. Having broken it, I then did cutting tests on it in a vice. It failed in 7 seconds to a hacksaw and in 20 seconds to a

grinder. (Either method would take longer with the lock on the bike.)

The TiGr is an expensive lock and there are many cheaper options (e.g. D-locks and chains) that will outperform it by a considerable margin.

Dan Joyce adds: The TiGr TL210 weighs 742g, including the lock body. That's lighter than my Abus U-Mini 401 Yellow (1kg) but it's not as easy to carry. It's intended to be strapped around the head tube and top tube, but I sometimes caught my knees on it there. It's too big for any bag I own, except the *outside* of a courier bag.

cycleworx.co.uk and tigrlock.com





CAMELBAK SPARK 10 LR

£79.99

Reviewed by Cycling Development Officer Ginny Leonard

This new 'low reservoir' pack is the nicest hydration pack I've used. The weight is carried lower down, just above your hips, making for much more balanced riding. Its women's-specific harness (there's a gent's available: the Volt) is extremely comfortable and the pack itself is very light. The best thing is the lumbar compression. This produces a far better flow of water during the ride and prevents the reservoir joggling on your back.

The Spark 10 LR comes with a 2-litre bladder, with Camelbak's excellent bite valve, and there's 7.5 litres for storage. It's ample for a full day's ride, given a café stop to refill it with water. The waist straps double up as pockets, which are accessible while riding, and I easily attached my helmet to it off the bike. It's got extra zipped pockets inside the pack. The material repels water well: despite being caught in a shower the pack's contents stayed dry. Colours: pink/black or cyan/grey. zyro.co.uk

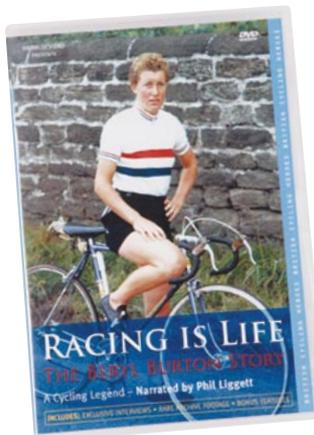
RACING IS LIFE – THE BERYL BURTON STORY

£18.99

Reviewed by CTC Women's Race Team member Tamina Oliver

This is a fascinating documentary about arguably Britain's best ever cyclist, narrated by Phil Liggett. It feels overlong at 130 minutes. Archive film footage from the late 1950s to the 1970s is initially mesmerising but not when repeated. I would like to have seen more of Beryl's relationships, and what led her to become so obsessive about cycling. Overall, though, the film is a positive, informative piece about history's highest achieving female cyclist, who must not be forgotten. Worth a watch.

bromleyvideo.com



PEARL IZUMI ELITE BARRIER CONVERTIBLE JACKET

£79.99

Reviewed by CTC member Dave Murray

This jacket solves the problem of what top layer to take on a long day ride. It is a lightweight windproof and water-resistant jacket with one-piece zip-off sleeves, making your jacket a gilet. It isn't totally waterproof but does breathe well, and it keeps the worst of the rain out whilst keeping you warm. I've worn it on days down to 2°C, and also on wet, windy sportives in the Dales. It is one of my favourite and most used items.

It packs down to fit into a jersey pocket (just). The arms and back are long enough not to ride up. The material feels soft rather than plasticky, and it has a soft-lined collar and zip cover so it's comfortable at the neck. There is a side-entry rear pocket that is useful for storing the sleeves, two front pockets, and a chest pocket. The sizing (S-XXL) is large, so do check the Pearl Izumi size charts carefully. madison.co.uk



ANANICHOOLA ARM WARMERS & GLOVES

£28.99 & £34.99

Reviewed by CTC Member Group Coordinator Julie Rand

These 'Her-Pleasure' arm warmers are designed for chilly spring days when short sleeves aren't quite enough but a jacket would be too much. They stay up well and are long enough to cover that awkward gap round the wrist. Fit is snug, so consider a size larger than normal. Sizes S, M or L, in white, grey, pink or black.

The Kestral gloves are a deluxe product made from softest goat skin leather. Reinforced thumb seams, comfy padding, reflective piping, wrist popper and terry towelling wiper are just some of the features that make these gloves look and feel special. They're not cheap but should last for some years on or off-road. Sizes: S, M or L, in white/pink or black/silver. ananichoola.co.uk