



Biketest

Small fold, big ride

Not all folding bikes have twitchy handling. **Dan Joyce** tests two surefooted 20-inch wheelers: the new Brompton G Line and Tern's BYB P8

The Brompton is the quintessential urban folder, slotting so neatly into that space in the cycling market that it has become the standard by which other folding bikes are judged. Many are found wanting: over the years a number of rivals have folded (pun intended). While it's very difficult to out-Brompton a Brompton, there are things other folders can do better. For example: ride better.

Tern's BYB and the new Brompton G Line both promise that. The Tern BYB P8 is a compact urban commuter with a better-quality ride. It is, Tern says, "perfect for mixed-mode commuters who do a stretch of their daily journey on a train or bus". Although there's also a sportier BYB, the P10 (£1,599, 12kg), Tern's own Verge models cover that ground better. Ultimately – and possibly to its cost – the BYB is a Brompton C Line rival.

The Brompton G Line is more of an alternative to the Birdy and Airnimal ranges than its 16-inch wheel stablemates. Brompton calls it "the all-new, one-bike solution for the city and beyond", saying that it's suitable for "gravel paths, towpaths, asphalt and well-maintained off-road routes". With larger wheels, fatter tyres, disc brakes and an Alfine

hub, it's reminiscent of the modified Bromptons from Ben Cooper at Kinetics (kinetics-online.co.uk). There's a 4-speed electric G Line (£3,499) and two unassisted models, one with the Roller Frame and mudguards, one without.

Frame & folding: Brompton

The G Line is basically a bigger version of the 16in-wheel Brompton. It folds the same way. You unclip the catch behind the seat tube and flip the rear triangle underneath, so that the bike sits on its haunches. Then you undo the frame hinge and fold the front end back on itself, hooking the front axle hook over the drive-side chainstay. Then you lower the saddle and the handlebar. The left-hand pedal quick releases and is stowed behind the fork crown.

The folded package is bigger than a 16in-wheel Brompton but still small enough for a train's luggage rack. It is a lot heavier so it's good that it rolls along well on its casters. The extra weight also makes the folding process more cumbersome. It helps to use a foot to flick the rear triangle under or back out.

There are three nominal sizes: S, M and L. There's only one frame size (and type – the electric version shares the same frame). Bigger sizes get longer or telescopic seatposts and



First look

The G Line is a bigger, burlier Brompton. The BYB P8 is Tern's answer to the original Brompton



DAN JOYCE

Dan has owned a Brompton – the same one – since 2001, and has tested most folding bike ranges on the market

Other options



BIRDY CITY £2,579+

At 12.9kg, this full-suspension folder is a couple of kilos lighter than the G Line, while the derailleur-equipped Birdy Touring is lighter still. Folds to 80×62×34cm. r-m.de



TERN LINK B8 £700

A fold-in-half commuter that, unlike the cheaper Link B7, will take a front bag. It folds to 38×80×68cm and weighs 13.6kg. ternbicycles.com