



Bike test

Temple Cycles Adventure Disc 3

Simon Withers tests a £1,600 tourer that mixes a traditional steel frame and triple chainset with modern disc brakes and thru-axes

The word Adventure in the Temple's name isn't a misnomer: this bike's built for big cycling experiences. Every part, from the frame to the groupset, wheels and cockpit, is chosen for its practicality. Were something to go wrong whether you're in Rome or Romania, Baku or Berlin, you should be able to source replacement 9-speed components.

In spite of the bike's understated looks, it still turned the heads of my non-cycling friends. The muted finish masks a Reynolds 725 frame that's neatly manufactured in the Far East before being powder coated in Europe. The single-colour paint job is accompanied by a metal head badge, simple graphics, matching bar

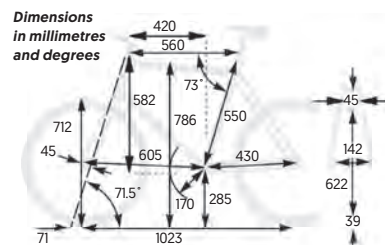


Top: Triple chainset gives a good range with small steps
Bottom: Flat-mount cable discs are effective and easy to fettle

tape and saddle, and a silver bar, stem and chainset.

And that classic-looking chainset delivers adventure-ready gearing, a knee-friendly 20in bottom gear and no large jumps. I think the braking is equally well chosen, too. The Temple's dual-piston cable disc brakes offer control and consistency regardless of the weather, and they'll work if the rims are knocked out of true.

I chose a Temple-branded saddle though you could go for a Brooks. Steel and wide rubber combine to deliver impeccable long-distance comfort while carrying kilos of your kit. The saddle and bar tape proved comfortable, and the 40mm Schwalbe tyres took the sting out of poor road surfaces, gripping gravel and towpath well when venturing away from the asphalt.



Tech spec TEMPLE ADVENTURE DISC 3

Price: £1,680 as tested (from £1,588).

Sizes: XS, S, M (tested), L, XL.

Weight: 13.5kg (29.76lb).

Frame & fork: TIG-welded Reynolds 725 steel frame, 12mm thru-axle, flat-mount disc, 3 x bottle bosses.

Investment cast fork, lugged fork crown, flat-mount disc, 12mm thru-axle, 2 x bottle bosses.

Wheels: 40x622 Schwalbe Marathon tyres, Shimano RX rims, 14g double-butt spokes, Shimano RX hubs.

Transmission: Flat pedals, Temple Corinthian triple 48-36-26 170mm chainset, Shimano UN25 sealed bottom bracket,

Shimano HG53 chain, Shimano HG400 12-36T cassette. Shimano Sora 3030 shifters, Sora derailleurs, 27 ratios, 20-111in. **Braking:** Shimano Sora levers, TRP Spyre cable discs, 160mm rotors.

Steering & seating: Temple foam bar tape, 44/48cm Temple AL-6061 handlebar, Temple polished 90mm stem, Temple steel 1 1/8in Aheadset. Temple Bristol saddle, Temple 27.2mm seatpost, integrated seat clamp.

Equipment: Tortec 25kg-capacity rear rack (+£47), SKS Bluemels mudguards (+£45). templecycles.co.uk

The bike's not light, but that's neither here nor there when fully laden, and while that makes it a sedate climber, you can still spin comfortably in the bottom gear. The riding position is pretty upright and friendly on your back, so visibility is great and you can take in your surroundings. The wheelbase is shortish for a tourer, making its handling a little livelier than some, but the wide, slightly flared bar offers great control. ●

SPA CYCLES D'TOUR ▶ 725 DISC TOURER 9-SPEED £1,525

The same Reynolds 725 tubing and an extremely similar Sora-based groupset and triple chainset make this a like-for-like competitor. Only £1,395 at time of writing. spacycles.co.uk



GENESIS TOUR DE FER 20 £1,499.99

Genesis's own Mjolnir steel frame is accompanied by a 46-30 Shimano Claris double chainset and an 11-40 cassette in this very well-equipped machine. genesishikes.co.uk



Verdict

Old-school looks perhaps, albeit with disc brakes and thru-axes, but Temple has delivered a smooth-riding mile-muncher that's ideal for both big adventures – the clue's in the name – and day-to-day duties. Excellent comfort, well-chosen and comprehensive kit, a ride you'll never tire of and a steel frame that should outlast you.