



Pashley Roadfinder X

Pashley Cycles has released a range of contemporary road and gravel bikes made from Reynolds steel. Guy Kesteven tests a Roadfinder X

Pashley is best known for classic roadsters, Post Office bikes, London hire bikes, tricycles and other utility machines. The 99-year-old UK company has a history of innovation, however, and that's clear in its new 'contemporary' range. I visited the factory in Stratford-upon-Avon to see the creation process and pick up a new Roadfinder X for review.

It's a proper pipe-to-complete-bike process under one roof in the Shakespearean suburbs. Depending on the final bike, most tubes either come in as four-metre lengths or pre-butt sections direct from Reynolds just a few miles up the road. The tubes are then mitred, drilled and prepped by hand as orders are placed. They're then meticulously welded, brazed and silver soldered - again depending on model or part of the bike - by hand.

It's not all trad methods, however, as Pashley is introducing 3D-printed stainless steel pieces such as the 'trouser' seatstay lug, UDH dropouts and super-neat cable ports. The Rangefinder also uses a T47 bottom bracket shell with a custom

Top: Good off road but more at the endurance road bike end of the gravel spectrum in terms of geometry

3D-printed sleeve to protect internal cables and hoses from the crank axle.

Frame and components

As each frame is made to order, you can pick which ports and fixtures you need so that the finished frame is as cargo ready or as clean as you want. Frames are then shot blasted in house before being e-coated locally. (Electrophoretic painting is a 15-micron thick corrosion coating inside and out. It's dipped with a current running through to pull it onto the frame, then oven baked to harden the coating.) It's then returned to Pashley for painting and assembly.

While Pashley offers three standard colours (rich burgundy, oak green, azure blue) and three standard builds (Shimano GRX £2,795, Campagnolo Ekar £4,595 and SRAM Rival AXS £4,295), those are up for negotiation, too. The build I picked was also their first using the UDH dropout to mount the new SRAM Rival AXS XPLR 13-speed groupset directly to the frame. I also substituted the stock Parours Alta carbon wheels →

Tech spec

Pashley Roadfinder X

- Price:** £4,295 (standard SRAM Rival AXS build).
- Sizes:** XS, S, M (tested), L, XL.
- Weight:** 10.2kg (no pedals).
- Frame & fork:** Reynolds 853 steel main tubes with 3D-printed lugs, T47 BB shell, UDH dropouts and fittings for rear rack, mudguard, three bottles and one top-tube bag. Columbus Futura Cross+ carbon fork with two triple-bolt cargo mounts and mudguard fittings.
- Wheels:** 45-622 Goodyear Inter tyres on Zipp 303 XPLR rims with Sapim CX-Ray spokes and Zipp hubs.
- Transmission:** SRAM Rival AXS XPLR E1 13-speed with 40t chainring and 10-46t cassette. 13 ratios, 24-112in.
- Braking:** SRAM Rival AXS E1 disc brakes, 160mm rotors.
- Steering & seating:** Zipp XPLR 70 bar, Zipp Service Course 90mm stem. Zipp Service Course 27.2mm seatpost, Brooks Cambium C15 saddle.

pashley.co.uk

Dimensions in millimetres and degrees

