

## Old Man Mountain | Divide Rack

£165, [oldmanmountain.com](http://oldmanmountain.com)

The most versatile (and expensive) rack on test, the Divide has rough-stuff riders firmly in mind. Designed for both front and rear fitting, this black, aluminium 960g rack is rated to take a mighty 25kg. This increases to 31.75kg if you mount the rack to the front axle (QR or thru-axle) using the appropriate Fit Kit.

The Fit Kits are a sign of Old Man Mountain's commitment to riders of all disciplines. They're suitable for various thru-axle lengths as well as quick-release skewers. It should be possible to fit the rack to virtually any bike, including full suspension ones – so long as the tyres aren't bigger than 29×3in (75–622). In fact, fitted to my Surly ECR with 29×3.0 tyres, there was still plenty of space to play with.

The OMM website has a handy tool that can show whether the Divide will fit most mainstream bikes. Intuitive instructions make installation a breeze.

Given the off-road focus, panniers have a higher centre of gravity, but this only significantly affected handling on technical terrain where panniers would be a hindrance anyway. The height also interferes with what you mount on the deck, which means, say, zip-tying a basket and using panniers is a no-no.

★ **A versatile back-country adventure rack for just about any bike**



## Tubus | Duo

£100, [tubus.com](http://tubus.com)

Designed with touring bikes in mind, as they are likely to have the inner and outer fork eyelets required to fit it, the Duo is another tried-and-tested steel rack that has served tourers for decades in some of the world's further flung locations.

The rack weighs 616g and was supplied with all the bolts and simple instructions you need for mounting. Given it comes in two separate pieces, which fit separately to each fork leg, you'll have no issue with tyre size – a bonus for fat-bike riders.

I found fitting this rack fiddly, particularly on the inside of the fork where I nearly stripped a thread. While with the other racks you can mount them with the wheel still in place, this isn't possible with the Duo, which makes adjustments more of a faff.

That being said, you shouldn't need much more than a leisurely half hour to fit the rack. Perhaps due to my bike's fork fittings, I found the rack sides veered out at a slight angle from the wheel. While aesthetically displeasing, this didn't affect handling. In fact, the low centre of gravity made luggage carriage (a max of 15kg in total) as easy as it can be with a front rack. It's available in silver and black.

★ **A classic rack for all wheel and tyre sizes – if you have the right fork fittings**

## ★ Verdict

For my touring needs, where child carrying and a preference for rough-stuff converge, I'm torn between the Surly and Old Man Mountain racks. Both have an impressive weight capacity, work well with large tyres and have top decks allowing for the use of

a basket or other luggage. Overall, the Nice Rack wins out for its facility to fit a dynamo light and the ease of removing panniers without disturbing a basket on the top.

The Tubus and M Part offerings are more traditional road touring racks. If I were to

tour the world for years on end tomorrow, I'd choose The Tubus Duo for its reputation and quality. But despite all of my quibbles with the Explorer rack, I can't fault the price. This is one of the cheapest front racks out there – and from a trusted brand.