



more rear drive encouraged me to climb and sprint combatively on the Resolution 3, too.

In contrast, the slimmer tubes, longer plate sections on the chainstays and conventional bottom bracket of the Condor lay power down more smoothly and sedately. The skinny main tubes, fork legs and head tube of the Fratello are more flexible and springy. In conjunction with the steeper head angle and a narrower handlebar, the result is a faster-reacting, borderline flighty front end despite the deeper-section wheels holding a course more readily than swerving easily. Toe overlap on the mudguards is more of a potential issue, which made me more on edge riding the Condor.

Given the likely demographic of riders choosing steel frames, I lined up some swap-around testing sessions with friends of more traditional tastes than my admittedly gravel/MTB-tainted views. They clicked with the faster-steering, easier-to-correct handling of the Fratello, even on faster, swerving descents. In contrast, they felt the Mason could be on the stubborn and unresponsive side – particularly when trying to thread through potholed or

Above and right: Cables and hoses from the SRAM levers all run internally, even through the BB
Below right: Like the Condor, the Mason can be fitted with a rear rack – as well as mudguards over 32mm tyres



rough road sections or climbing out of the saddle.

Failing to avoid holes and ruts highlighted the stiffer ride of the Mason compared to the gliding ride of the slim-tubed Condor. This not only influences a difference in comfort levels through the bars, saddles and pedals when swapping between the two bikes. It also affected the traction and feedback levels, with the Mason having →

Tech spec

Mason Definition SRAM Force AXS

Price: £4,530 as tested (£1,795 frame & fork).
Sizes: 48, 50, 52, 54, 56 (tested) 60, 62cm.
Weight: 9.51kg (20.96lb), including guards but without pedals.

Frame & fork: Mixed Columbus Spirit and Life multi-buttet steel main frame with configurable internal cable and hose routing, two bottle cage mounts, flat-mount disc, mudguard and four-point rear rack mounts. Mason Aperture2 full-carbon fork with flat-mount disc, mudguard and internal disc hose and dynamo cable routing.

Wheels: 32–622 Continental GP5000 S TR tyres on Hunt 34 Aero Wide Disc SL alloy wheels.

Transmission: SRAM Force AXS 48–35t chainset, chain, shifters, derailleurs and 10–36t cassette. Hope T47 Dub bottom bracket. 24 ratios, 26–130in.

Braking: SRAM Force AXS levers, callipers, rotors.

Steering & seating: Mason bar tape, Deda Zero100 420mm handlebar and 100mm stem. Deda headset. Fizik Argo Tempo saddle, Mason carbon seatpost, seat clamp.

Equipment: PDW Full Metal mudguards.

masoncycles.cc

Dimensions in millimetres and degrees

