



Other options



PASHLEY ROADFINDER CAMPAGNOLO CHORUS £3,995

Pashley's new Reynolds 853 all-rounder combines traditional UK craftsmanship and hand painting with 3D printing and bang up-to-date features like T47 BB, UDH dropouts and 40mm tyre clearance. pashley.co.uk



SHAND STOOSHIE £4,320

Recently returning to UK-made independence, Shand has reduced its range slightly but still offers the super versatile, extensively customisable, Columbus-Life-tubed Stooshie all-rounder. shandcycles.com



Photos: Guy Kesteven



Left: With beefier dropouts, a T47 bottom bracket and larger diameter tubes, the Mason gives a stiffer ride

a clearer, brighter road feel, while being more likely to rattle or skip out of grip in turns or under power than the more compliant Condor. As mentioned previously, I swapped wheels to double check it wasn't just the difference in rubber brand and volume or the distinctive tripled spoke layout of the Campagnolo wheels distorting comparison.

While these traits will polarise riders, I'd say that they match each bike very well. The brighter feel and more progressive handling matches the modern fixtures and aesthetic of the Resolution 3, whereas the more traditional character of the Fratello is reflected in its ride and look. It also aligns the Condor much more closely with the lithe and sinuously smooth ride that tubing cognoscente would expect from a ferrous frame. By contrast, the Resolution 3 is closer to aluminium in its taut feel, which comes at the expense of occasional punishment over the roughest roads.

Although you can specify either frame with whatever equipment you want, both bikes feel holistically

correct as they are. The choice of Campagnolo, with its lengthy road race heritage, feels right when you consider that Condor has been in business since 1948.

Even though Resolution designer Dom Mason had years of bike design experience at Kinesis before setting up Mason 10 years ago, he's a relative newcomer to the steel-frame scene. And compared to Campagnolo, SRAM (which the Resolution uses) is regarded as the new kid despite producing parts since the 1980s and subsuming storied brands such as Sachs into its family over the years.

Verdict

The Resolution 3 is an unashamedly modern interpretation of a steel all-rounder, with clean looks, stable handling and punchy power transfer for a steel bike. That gives it a muscular rather than mellow overall feel that brings it close to an alloy frame – not least Mason's own Definition, which is both lighter and cheaper.

In contrast, the Condor is an update of the classic 'clubman' bikes that formed the majority of the York CTC Easy Riders group that I used to join as a young teen over 40 years ago. It prioritises a smooth glide over stand-up grunt, but still with fast handling for when the café ride becomes a criterium race.

Whichever you prefer, both show that steel still certainly has its place in the materials menu of modern cycling.