

## Small wonders

Compact electric folders are the easier-cycling option you can take almost anywhere. Dan Joyce tests a FLIT M2 and MiRider 16 GB3 on roads, cycle tracks and trains

Small-wheeled electric folders are good for the same kind of journeys as their unassisted counterparts: urban commuting, mixed-mode travel and exploring from a holiday base such as a caravan. They're heavier but the motor and battery help overcome hills, miles and excuses not to ride.

FLIT and MiRider are two relatively new British brands that design and assemble their bikes here – FLIT in Cambridge, MiRider in Wigan.

### Frame, fork & folding: FLIT

The FLIT is built around Brompton-sized 16-inch wheels (ISO 349), using a futuristic-looking, bonded-aluminium frame and monoblade front fork. The battery is housed in the main tube; you can charge it in situ or remove the seatpost and slide it out.

Like the Brompton and Birby, the FLIT folds into thirds rather than in half. This gives it a longer wheelbase, while minimising its folded dimensions. To fold, you turn the front wheel, release a frame catch with your foot and flip the rear end under. Then you undo the fork hinge and fold the front wheel back on itself, engaging a nodule on the axle with a retainer on the swingarm. Undoing the stem hinge drops the handlebar down between the wheels.



Then you lower the seatpost and fold the pedals.

There's one more step I skipped. At the start, you retract the rear mudguard, sliding the rear section forward. This enables the folded FLIT to be rolled along on its rear wheel. It works fine – when you remember and don't fold the bike onto the un-retracted 'guard – but risks dirty fingers. I'd prefer a fixed mudguard and castors, à la Brompton.

The folded FLIT is compact enough for two or three to sit side by side in a train luggage rack, and light enough (for me) to be carried in one hand. When rolling it, I occasionally found the fork unclipping, even after ensuring it was properly engaged.

There's a max rider-and-luggage weight of just 100kg for the FLIT.

### Frame, fork & folding: MiRider

Like its singlespeed stablemate, the MiRider 16 (£1,595), the GB3 features the smaller, ISO 305 version of 16-inch wheels. It's a quirky-looking bike with a frameset of die-cast magnesium alloy rather than welded



**Middle:** The folded FLIT is a compact package that's easy to stash on a train  
**Bottom:** A longer wheelbase lets you take advantage of the disc brakes' power