



Other options



ESTARLI E20.7 £1,510

Despite its low price, this 20in-wheel, 7-speed e-folder comes with mudguards, rack and lights. It folds to 830x660x460mm and weighs 18.5kg. estarli.co.uk



BROMPTON ELECTRIC C LINE E-MOTIQ 4-SPEED £2,999

Brompton has switched from front hub motors to rear but has kept the convenient battery bag up front. It folds to just 585x565x270mm and weighs from 17.6kg. brompton.com



Photos: Dan Joyce



Left: Your left hand changes both gear and assistance mode, as a throttle is on the right

Ride

Both bikes provide a sit-up-and-beg position that suits utility-orientated e-cycling. There's scope to adjust the MiRider's position as it has a telescopic stem. I was happy with the FLIT's handlebar height, however, and preferred its firmer, narrower saddle.

The FLIT rides more like a normal bike. That's partly down to its torque-sensing power assistance, which feels like an amplification of your own efforts instead of an accelerator switch. Also, the longer wheelbase provides more stable handling.

The MiRider's assistance begins after half a crank revolution. This felt odd to me. On a hill start, I pulled an alarming and unexpected wheelie when the power lurched from about 200 Watts (me) to around 450.

I didn't like the MiRider's URT suspension. With a variable saddle-to-pedal distance, I found myself bobbing on the saddle instead of pedalling smoothly. Preloading the spring (tightening it) minimises this, but I'd prefer no suspension at all.

When it comes to hills, the MiRider is the clear winner, despite FLIT's video showing the bike being ridden (partly) up Snowdon. While the FLIT is brisk on slopes of 10% or so, it struggles on very steep hills. Motor and I gave up on the toughest, 25% section of the hardest test climb. The MiRider managed this in first gear – with only a little front wheel lift.

Steep climbs hammered the range of both bikes. I got around 20–25 miles on them using high assistance levels in hilly terrain. In better circumstances, the FLIT can do 50km (31 miles), the MiRider 'up to 45 miles'.

Verdict

The FLIT M2 is better as an everyday commuter. It's light and compact, with Brompton-like attention to detail, decent handling and electric assistance that's seamlessly integrated with its singlespeed drivetrain. I'd like a USB outlet and a different mudguard but, for around £500 less than a Brompton Electric C Line, it's a compelling option.

The MiRider 16 GB3 will do bike-rail but is harder to haul around. It's more suited to the leisure market as a handily portable electric hybrid – one that will climb any hill. While it's well specified and good value, I didn't get on with its abrupt power delivery and short-wheelbase handling. The bigger MiRider 24 – still compact enough for a hallway – promises a nicer ride, and the singlespeed version is only £1,995.