



LETTER OF THE MONTH

## Battery packing

Thank you for another excellent edition of Cycle. I was particularly interested in Nick Sanders's article on cycling from Wales to London on an electric bike. I have been touring for many years, and I'm possibly reaching the point where my old legs can't take the pounding any longer.

So it's maybe time to consider going over to electric. But I need something lightweight – for getting on and off trains and up steps – and something that's possible to cycle when the battery runs dry. The battery has to be removable so I can take it into a café. And it has to have a decent range; wild camping means no power points. I want the impossible, I know. Range = weight! A light bike means an integral battery.

However, Nick seems to have solved the impossible. He has an extra battery, I know, but is it really possible to tour recharging only at cafés? Batteries surely take 2–4 hours to recharge.

*Peter Lloyd*

Nick rode a Yamaha Wabash RT, weighing a little over 21kg without luggage. He managed roughly 50 miles per charge, depending on the terrain and power-mode used. Sometimes he got 85. Nick has also travelled around the world this way ([cyclinguk.org/charging-around-world](http://cyclinguk.org/charging-around-world)).

The Wabash has ceased production but you could get something similar, such as a Boardman ADV 8.9E or Cairn E-Adventure, or there's the Cube Nuroad Hybrid C:62 range (with an integrated battery) if you want something lighter. Some fast chargers can charge an e-bike battery to 50% in 90 minutes.



### WIN THREE HIPIK JAW+ RACKS WORTH £113.97

**THE LETTER OF THE MONTH** wins three Jaw+ bike racks, worth £37.99 each, courtesy of Hiplik. These wall-mounted racks are adjustable to fit tyres from 20–75mm wide, and can be used in or outdoors. Each is supplied with fittings plus a lightweight ZLok Combo, which can double as your café lock. For more about Hiplik storage and security, visit [hiplik.com](http://hiplik.com).



### Longer loads ↑

The article on front pannier racks in the Aug/Sep edition states that a child seat on the back of a bicycle prevents use of a rear pannier rack. It doesn't. With the help of a reasonably cheap rack extender – which effectively lengthens the rear rack backwards, moving the panniers away from the leg area of the child seat – plus a frame-mounted child seat, everything fits fine.

The arrangement didn't work so well for heavy loads, such as child plus a week of shopping – probably because most of the weight was at the back. But combined with a FollowMe it was perfect for transporting two children (and their bags) three miles to and from school and nursery. My only discovery was that padded cycling gloves were a must, due to the increased pressure on my hands needed to keep everyone upright when one of my passengers looked round!

*Charlotte Dodson*

Proper family transport! I've exclusively used rack-fitting child seats for my own children and (now) granddaughter, so hadn't considered rack extenders. I'd still recommend a front rack unless money is tight. It will help prevent the tail wagging the dog and stop the front wheel lifting on climbs.

### Inhospitable parking ↗

I recently had to visit Ipswich Hospital, and decided to take the



environmentally friendly option of my trusty bike. On arrival I spotted a shiny new bike parking facility, with an encouraging 'Welcome Cyclists' sticker on the side. I thought to myself: "Excellent. At last, some decent cycle sheds."

I was soon sorely disappointed when I noticed a 'staff only' notice on the door. As far as I could see there was no provision for any public cycle parking; the old bike racks had been removed. Instead, I had to follow the lead of other cyclists and lock my bike to the handrails along the footway. To compound my frustration, the shiny new bike parking facility was almost empty.

Surely the hospital planners could have taken into account the needs of the public who want to cycle to the hospital? A huge missed opportunity to help those who want to take a healthier, more eco-friendly method of transport when they visit the hospital.

*Dave Alley*

### One for all

I liked your editorial in the Oct/Nov magazine. I also have an everything road bike – a Dawes Galaxy – and am