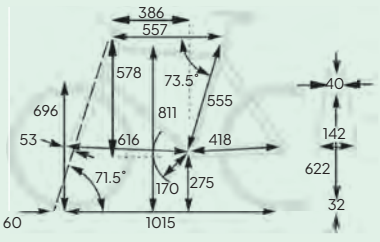
Tech spec

Bombtrack Tempest AL

Price: £2,550.
Sizes: S, M (tested), L.
Weight: 10.3kg/23.4lb (without pedals).
Frame & fork: 6061-T6 double-butted aluminium, stealth mudguard mounts, 68mm T47 BB shell, two pairs of bottle bosses. Seido Banjo full-carbon, tapered-steerer fork with low-rider rack mounts and internal hub dynamo cable routing.
Wheels: 30-622 Schwalbe One TLE tyres, Seido Sinus i21 tubeless ready rims, 28×2 Pillar PSRTB2016 triple-butted spokes, Seido Tau sealed hubs.
Transmission: Shimano Tiagra 50-34 chainset, Seido T47 Pro external bottom bracket for 24mm spindle, KMC X10 chain, Shimano CS-HG500 10-speed 11-34 cassette. Shimano GRX 2×10 shifters, Shimano Tiagra derailleurs. 20 ratios, 27-122in.
Braking: Shimano GRX hydraulic disc brakes, Shimano SM-RT66 180mm front and 160mm rear rotors.
Steering & seating: Bombtrack Command bar tape, 31.8mm Seido Tackle Road bar with 2° flare, 95mm × 7° Seido Scatter aluminium stem, Seido Yew aluminium 27.2 x 350mm seatpost. Bombtrack Prime clamp.

bombtrack.com

Dimensions in millimetres and degrees



Photos: Simon Withers and Nige Edwards

me...), the Bombtrack excels on tarmac, with enough road-bike-like handling for fast commutes and brisk training rides.

It climbs well, both in and out of the saddle. It's not touring-bike heavy, and the gearing and braking are both first rate, which helps on both climbs and descents. It descends quickly and surely.

The braking is as controlled and powerful as you'd expect from good-quality hydraulic discs. The front brake's power is boosted further by a 180mm rotor.

While aluminium may not be everybody's first choice for long rides, frames built from it can be stiff and strong, not just light. The Bombtrack comes with a healthy 120kg limit (although the wheels are restricted to 110kg). Get out of the saddle, which even I do occasionally, and the stiffness and efficiency of the Tempest's frameset come to the fore.

As for the contact points: I'm a big fan of shorter saddles and got on very well with the Seido, although I might pick a longer saddle for extended touring for the facility to move around more. I particularly like the Seido bar and Bombtrack tape pairing, which helps with front-end comfort. The rubbery tape is thick, plush and grippy, and the the slightly ovalised bar is gently swept back so you're not stretched out. I'd have preferred a bit more flare than the 2° it delivers, for the extra control that would offer on poorer surfaces.

Above: The unusually shaped Seido drop bar is comfortable, and (hurrah!) the cables and hoses don't run through the headset

Other options

DOLAN GXA ALUMINIUM DISC GRAVEL BIKE £1,899.98
Available with Shimano GRX in either 1×12 or 2×12 configurations, the GXA comes in five sizes, and you can choose from loads of kit and colour options. ***dolan-bikes.com***

KINESIS G2 £1,700
The British company's aluminium adventurer comes with SRAM Apex, Novatec wheels and Schwalbe tyres. ***kinesisbikes.co.uk***

Verdict

If you're looking for a single bike to encompass fast commuting, year-round training, light touring and big days out, the Bombtrack Tempest AL is well worth considering. I think it looks great, and it rides equally well. Braking and gearing are very good, you can add mudguards for off-season use and group riding, and the rims and tyres are both tubeless ready.

In fact, the only real criticism I have about the Bombtrack Tempest AL is the price. While it looks smart and has a nice ride, I feel it's somewhat expensive for what you're getting.