

Other options



LIV AVAIL AR2 £1,399

The cheaper, Tiagra-equipped sister of the Avail AR1 that I tested in the Feb/Mar 2025 issue of Cycle. It comes set up tubeless. [liv-cycling.com](https://www.liv-cycling.com)



CUBE ATTAIN RACE £1,199

Aluminium frame, carbon fork, Tiagra 2x10 gearing, hydraulic brakes and tubeless-ready wheels. Lacks guard and rack mounts, though. [cube.eu](https://www.cube.eu)



Left: It comes with mudguards and has fittings for a rear rack, so could also be used as a commuter or credit-card tourer

the toe overlap with my size 7s was hard to ignore. It feels stable while descending, and again the smaller frame meant I could move freely around the bike. A bottom gear of 34/34 makes gradients manageable, and the bike climbs well – or at least will plod uphill steadily with a chunky, middle-aged woman aboard.

So where's the rub? The wheels. This is where the budget decision has been taken. The hubs are Novatec cartridge-bearing disc hubs. Novatec makes thousands of hubs, many of them OEM, and these are just a standard budget set. Servicing is straightforward enough and you can get spares. However, the spokes are plain gauge and the rims, while labelled 'Sector A 519', are just inexpensive alloy rims. They're not

tubeless ready, and while the Maxxis Pursuer tyres are perfectly reasonable at their price point, this tyre/tube combination did see me having to fix punctures by the side of the road, something I haven't done in ages.

Were the 4S my bike, I would invest in different wheels with tubeless rims. I'd then be happier using well-surfaced tracks and trails in addition to tarmac.

The loose-ball headset is also a budget decision. I'd run this until it died, then replace it with a cartridge model for easier maintenance. ●

Verdict

The Kinesis 4S is a sensible and practical bike suitable for a wide range of activities. Mudguards mean club runs and winter riding are fair game, and rear rack fittings enable it to double up as a commuter bike quite easily. The gearing is practical enough for climbing, while 10-speed Tiagra offers a good compromise between price, performance and longevity. The riding position is comfy for endurance rides, and the handling sure footed.

Value for money is good overall, especially if you get it in the sale. The only weak points to consider are the wheels and headset.