



In the frame



Swrve Transverse Regular Short

£80, swrve.co.uk

I've worn Swrve's Cordura jeans for years. These 94% nylon/6% elastane shorts have some similar features: heavier-duty, four-way-stretch fabric; triple stitching for key seams; a seamless gusset; a non-elasticated waist; and a jeans-style button that won't pop open. They're better in the rain thanks to a water-repellent coating and the fact that they're not cotton.

They suit mountain biking, commuting and walking, where the tougher, heavier construction will pay dividends.

There are five pockets

– one zipped – but the two front ones are mesh lined and snag keys or tools.

Colours: black, grey, blue, green.

Sizes: 30–38in (32 tested). No women's.

★ **Durable shorts for trail and town use.** Shame about the mesh pockets



Altura All Roads Men's Shorts

£65, altura.co.uk

Altura's All Roads Shorts have a tailored fit and an unobtrusive style that makes them a good choice for city streets, country lanes and gravel tracks.

The mid-weight stretch polyester is unrestrictive and doesn't flap, while the waistband is adjustable at both sides so you can fine tune the fit without a buckle in your belly.

There are three pockets: two front and a zipped rear.

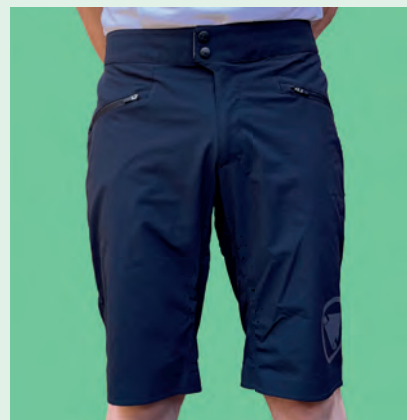
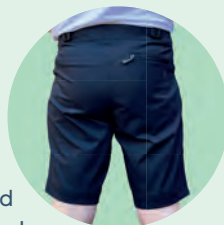
There's no gusset, but the flat seams didn't cause me any discomfort.

These were the first shorts I reached for during the test as I could put them on and leave them on, whatever activity I'd be doing that day.

Colours: black, green.

Sizes: S–XXL (S tested); women's 8–18.

★ **All-day, everyday shorts.** Tailored fit suits commuting, road and gravel



Endura Men's SingleTrack Lite Shorts

£90 endurasport.com

These are the short-fit version, with legs 4cm shorter. They're the most comfortable shorts I've worn, on road or off. They have a seamless gusset, Velcro waist adjusters and plenty of stretch in the 85%/15% elastane fabric. The material is super lightweight, making the shorts unrestrictive and airy. Perforations on the inner thighs provide extra ventilation.

There are poppers to fit Endura Clickfast liners.

Sadly, the waist fastens with poppers too, not a button. There are three pockets, all zipped, and some reflective detailing.

Colours: black, carbon grey, dreich grey, green, orange.

Sizes: S–3XL (M tested); women's XXS–XL.

★ **Lightweight, airy and comfortable** – but quite clearly bike wear



★ Verdict

Jaz: Vulpine's pair stands out for the smart looks and thicker fabric, making them ideal for cooler days and riders who want something more refined.

Rapha's shorts are a premium, lightweight, close-fitting option, best suited to touring and commuting.

Madison strikes the middle ground with

traditional MTB fit that's comfortable, practical and versatile across different types of riding. Zipped pocket are a winner.

Dan: I liked the Swrve shorts for mountain biking and general mooching around in, but didn't wear them as often as I might because the mesh pockets kept snagging my keys. Normal pockets, please.

Endura's airy SingleTrack Lites are ideal for summer trails and work well for other disciplines if you don't mind some flapping. But they're more conspicuous off the bike.

The Altura shorts were the ones I wore most often. Their fit and style made them more versatile than the Endura shorts, and their pockets are better than the Swrve's.