



### KINESIS RACELIGHT TK2

**Price:** £1099.99 (£349 frame only)

**Weight:** 9.86kg

**Sizes:** 48, 51, 54 (tested), 57, 60, 63cm

**Frame and fork:** Kinesis hydroformed aluminium with fittings for mudguard, rack and two bottles. Carbon fork with aluminium steerer, fittings for mudguard

**Wheels:** 25-622 Kenda Kriterium tyres; Shimano WH-R500 wheels

**Transmission:** FSA Gossamer compact chainset, 172.5mm, 50/34T; FSA external bearing BB; KMC Z-9000 chain; Shimano HG-50 12-25 cassette. Shimano Tiagra shifters and rear derailleur, Shimano Sora front derailleur. 18-speed, 36-112 inches

**Braking:** Tektro BR358 dual-pivot sidepulls with 57mm drop; Tiagra levers

**Steering and seating:** 42cm FSA Vero shallow drop bar; 11cmx7" FSA OS190 stem with 31.8mm clamp; FSA Orbit headset. Selle San Marco Ponza Power Lux saddle; 27.2mm K-UK seatpost

**Accessories:** chromoplastic mudguards

**Contact:** kinesisbikes.co.uk

#### WINTER ROAD BIKE

# Kinesis Racelight TK2

Cycling journalist **Mike Davis** reviews a good example of a surprisingly rare breed: a sporty, mudguard-ready road bike

▶ **THE KINESIS RACELIGHT TK2** is a fast road bike with room for substantial tyres and mounts for proper mudguards. Essentially it's a 21st century version of the traditional winter road bike that almost no major manufacturers actually make any more.

The TK2 has geometry almost identical to Kinesis's carbon race frames but is built from a proprietary aluminium that's claimed to be 25% stronger than 6061. With a huge flared down-tube and bulged top tube the TK2 looks heavy, but it's not – the 54cm frame has a claimed weight of 1.42kg. Kinesis also offer the T2, using the same frame design but in 7005 aluminium – 200g heavier but also £100 cheaper.

Kinesis offer a full bike build on the TK2 frame, with a choice of forks. The test bike had a carbon-bladed Kinesis DC07 fork, but you can save £70 by opting for an aluminium unit. That cheaper option comes in just above the Cycle To Work scheme price limit, which seems like an opportunity missed. Our test bike arrived with the 2011 build kit using a mixed bag of components – FSA chainset and a



(Top) As well as 57mm-drop brakes, the Racelight TK2 has fittings for a rear rack

(Above) The test bike came with a carbon fork. For £70 less, you can have an aluminium one

combination of Shimano Sora and Tiagra 9-speed transmission parts. The 2012 build kit will move to a full 10-speed Tiagra setup including the chainset. Note that Tiagra gear cables will prevent you from fitting a bar bag.

### Versatile performance

The build kit plays to the TK2's strengths, with mid-drop Tektro brakes accommodating robust 25mm Kenda tyres and full mudguards. The frame will take 28mm tyres with guards if you need more cushioning, although the TK2 is entirely comfy for longer rides. It's no sluggard either, with brisk acceleration only slightly dulled by relatively heavy, steel-beaded tyres.

While there are better deals around on paper – e.g. carbon framed bikes with better equipment – there aren't many bikes that have the TK2's successful combination of lively ride and all-season practicality. As it stands, it would be a very good winter trainer or year-round commuter, and with the guards off and lighter tyres would be just fine for summer sportives too. If you have parts lying around, the £349 frame-only option is worth considering.



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### Also consider

**1) Genesis Equilibrium 00 £899.95**

Sora-equipped version of the Equilibrium we tested last issue. [genesisbikes.co.uk](http://genesisbikes.co.uk)

**2) Ribble Audax/Winter 7005 £559.95+**

An affordable mudguard-ready road frame available on its own or with a huge range of build options. [ribblecycles.co.uk](http://ribblecycles.co.uk)