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{ F R O M }

THE EDITOR



WHERE DO THE nice road bikes go in winter? I guess some fly south with their owners. Others hibernate, hanging on walls in garages, waiting for drier and warmer weather. Some continue to clock up the miles, spraying their riders with winter filth.

It's a tricky one. You can have a nice road bike but you can't have proper mudguards on it. The fashion police and much of the bike industry are in agreement about this. Mudguards look naff. They spoil a bike's 'clean lines'. (Clean!) They add weight.

Of course, they won't fit that faux racer in any case, due to insufficient clearances and lack of eyelets, so maybe there's an element of denial... You don't need mudguards. There's *nothing wrong* with your bike. (Apart from its propensity to spray you with cold water. Which you don't care about.)

Road bikes built for 57mm-drop sidepull brakes, so that they'll accept mudguards and a 25 or 28mm tyre safely, are a strangely small niche. They're mostly British brands – for obvious reasons – mostly called audax bikes, and mostly made out of steel. We found a couple in carbon fibre (see page 64) but it took some searching.

Professional racers are paid to ride bikes without mudguards, and even amateur racers have good reason to eschew them. But if you're not racing, and you're riding in the UK, why wouldn't you use mudguards? On any bike?

DAN JOYCE



Below: Pendragon Sports



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