



£700 650B hybrid

PINNACLE CHROMIUM 2 MIXTE

Journalist **Jack Thurston** and wife Sarah test a 650B hybrid with comfortably wide tyres

THE CHROMIUM'S defining features are its 47mm 'balloon' tyres on 650B wheels. My wife Sarah wanted larger-volume tyres than her traditional tourer's to cope with deteriorating country lanes and off-road trails. We put it to the test by riding the 102-mile Devon Coast to Coast with our 3-year-old and 1-year-old in child seats.

Frame and fork are aluminium. A diamond-shaped frame is available but Sarah chose the mixte version for easy mounting and dismantling, especially with a rear child seat fitted. The tall head-tube and swept back handlebars gave her the relaxed, semi-upright



Above: Mudguard room is fine despite the tyre volume, as 650Bx47 is about the same diameter as 700x28

riding position she favours. Twin braze-ons on the fork blades mean Monkii Gorilla bikepacking cages can be fitted.

On medium and small frames, the seatstay rack mounts may be too low to fit a rear rack level but a seat-clamp with rack mounts is a cheap solution – and some racks have extra long attachment struts available.

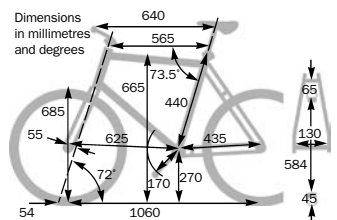
LOWER GEARING

Hydraulic disc brakes provide excellent stopping power, while the drivetrain is no-frills Shimano Sora with a bottom gear of 28 inches. That's low enough for most things except loaded touring in hilly terrain. For our tour, we fitted a mountain bike rear mech and replaced the stock 11-32 cassette with a 12-36.

Kenda Koast tyres offer good puncture resistance but the 30tpi casings make for a leaden ride compared to a more supple tyre such as Compass Switchback Hill 47mm or Panaracer Gravel King 42mm. For anywhere other than glass-strewn urban streets, a tyre upgrade would be money well spent. Mudguard clearance is fine. These unbranded full-length ones are sturdy though perhaps not as durable as SKS Chromoplastics.

Overall, the Chromium is a clever and capable reimagining of the hybrid, at a very attractive price. **C**

Tech Specs



PINNACLE CHROMIUM 2 MIXTE

PRICE: £700

SIZES: S, M (tested), T

WEIGHT: 11.3kg (no pedals)

FRAME & FORK: 6061-T6 heat treated aluminium, double butted, aluminium steerer and blades.

WHEELS: 650Bx1.75in Kenda Koast tyres, Alex MD-21 rims, 32x3 spokes, Joytech hubs.

TRANSMISSION: Shimano Sora 3500 46-34, Shimano HG50 11-32T cassette. Sora trigger shifters, Sora 3500 SS derailleur. 18 ratios, 28-112in.

BRAKING: Shimano Acera M396 hydraulic disc, 160mm rotors.

STEERING & SEATING: 600x31.8mm 30° backsweep bar, gel grips, 70mmx10° stem, integrated 1.1/8in headset. Pinnacle sport women's saddle, 350x27.2mm seatpost.

EQUIPMENT: mudguards

WEBSITE: evanscycles.com

OTHER OPTIONS



1 Cube Travel Pro

£699

700C wheels with large 2.25in tyres, Shimano Nexus 8-speed hub gear, hydraulic disc brakes, integrated dynamo lighting. Diamond frame also available. 15.95kg. cube.eu



2 Genesis Borough

£699

700C wheels with 35mm tyres. Steel frame with twin top tubes and 1x9 drive chain, includes rear rack. 13.3kg genesishbikes.co.uk