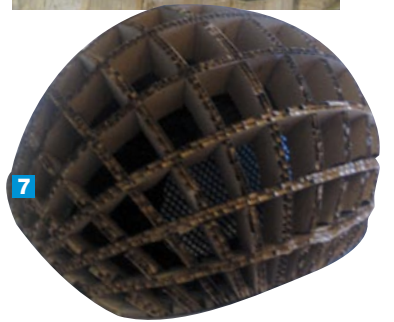




SHOP WINDOW



WORDS DAN JOYCE PHOTOS DAN JOYCE & MANUFACTURERS

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012

Bike shop owners – and journalists – are invited to distributor shows in January and February, and new products get top billing. Here's a sample of what we saw

THE MOOD AT cycle industry shows this January and February was fairly buoyant. The economy at large might be wilting but the cycling industry seems to be doing well.

Road bike sales are still booming, and the continuation of the Cycle to Work scheme has seen tills ringing with the sale of sub-£1,000 bikes, hybrids in particular. Sales of mountain bikes are flatter, which might account for the marketing momentum behind 29ers; they were everywhere at these shows.

Disc brakes were a common sight too: they're on cyclo-cross bikes, urban hybrids, touring bikes, and even some road bikes. We

don't yet have hydraulic drop-bar levers, however, and some of the solutions to fitting pannier racks to disc braked bikes still look clumsy. GPS bike computers and power-output-measuring devices, on the other hand, are steadily getting slicker, smaller, cheaper, and more numerous.

1. GARMIN BEATER?

Bryton is a new kid on the GPS block, with unit prices that undercut Garmin's and a fine route-logging website. The entry-level Rider 20 is a GPS bike computer for just £100 – or £140 with optional heart rate strap. The Rider 60, with OS mapping,

is due later this year. zyro.co.uk and byrtonsport.com

2. A BIG GREEN OGRE

Ugly? Maybe, but it's a functional and versatile frame that will accept disc brakes, V-brakes, derailleur gears, hub gears, racks, mudguards, tyres up to 29×2.5in, and a Surly or BOB trailer. It's meant for commuting, load lugging, on or off-road touring, 'or just riding', say Surly. £1,400 complete, £430 f&f. ison-distribution.com

3. HYDRAULIC DISCS FOR DROP BARS

Hydraulic brake levers for

drops aren't here yet, so in the meantime we've got adapters like this TRP Parabox: cables go in, hoses come out. It's a clever bodge but a bodge all the same, and at £350 it's not cheap. I'd wait for new levers. trpbrakes.com

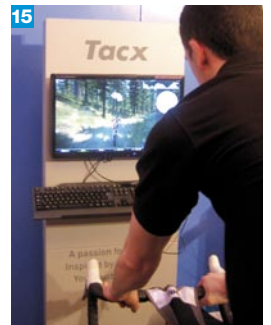
4. NEW SCHOOL TI

The GF on the frame of this Kinesis stands for 'Gran Fondo'. It's a titanium sportive bike, something we're seeing more and more of: Genesis are launching a titanium Equilibrium, and there are already long-distance road bikes from Van Nicholas, Spa, and Enigma, to name three. kinesisbikes.co.uk



TRIED AND TESTED

These are just previews. For bike and gear reviews, turn to p62 onwards



5. GUARDS, GUARDS

SKS were reporting lots of interest in the Raceblade Long guards we reviewed last issue, but it was these Longboard mudguards I noticed. As the name says, they're longer fore and aft, for greater wheel wrap-around and less spray. They could be just the thing for commuters. sks-germany.com

6. CYCLING 'SNEAKERS'

Bike shoes seldom match casual clothes – unless you've got an outfit that'd be improved by, say, silver slippers? – so these SPD-compatible DZR trainers are a nice option for clipless-pedal-using urban cyclists. Some are even vegan-friendly. fisheroutdoor.co.uk and dzrshoes.com

7. CARDBOARD HELMET

Due in June thanks to a tie-up with Abus, we've seen prototypes of the Kranium before. The

crumple zone is interlocking corrugated cardboard, treated so it won't get soggy. Compared to polystyrene it's lighter and, we're told, better at absorbing impacts. kraniums.com

9. MORE ENTRY-LEVEL TOURERS

We should see two new touring bikes from Ridgeback this summer. The one at the back is a disc-brake version of the Voyage I reviewed two years ago. The one in front is a new entry-level bike that will come with rear rack, mudguards, and a mix of Shimano Sora and Acera. It should be £600-£650. ridgeback.co.uk

10. RETRO CINELLI

This Gazzetta Della Strada is modelled on a 1950s Italian steel road bike, apparently. It comes with this front rack and would take a rear one. It also has mudguards, 57mm-drop brakes,

28mm tyres, and 18-speed Sora gearing. It's £1,000. chickencycles.co.uk

11. QUALITY TRAILER CYCLES ARE BACK

Good, rack-fitting trailer cycles have been hard to find lately. You can get hold of Burley's 7-speed Piccolo again now. It's £350, while the singlespeed Kazoo pictured is £300. extrauk.co.uk

12. BRIGHT IDEA

Rechargeable light experts Exposure had this prototype 450-lumen hub dynamo lamp at the London Bike Show. The hub is a lightweight Shutter Precision SP-8, which they'll sell with the lamp – either by itself or in a range of wheel builds. No dates or prices yet. exposurelights.com

13. WORLD TRAVELLER

Schwalbe's Marathon Mondial is a replacement for the much-missed Marathon XR expedition

tyre. It's available in 50-559, 55-559, 37-622, 42-622 and 47-622. schwalbe.co.uk

14. DISC-READY RACK

Blackburn's TRX-2 Ultimate Commuter offers a simpler and neater solution for avoiding a seat-stay mounted brake calliper than most racks we saw. It's designed to carry a U-lock too. You can mount bags high or low, though they'll always be further back. madison.co.uk

15 VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING

I get on my bike to escape the computer but if you're mad about fitness training and have £1350 and a decent PC, the Tacx Genius turbo trainer might appeal. You can program course 'topography' into it, even downloading videos of famous routes; race friends over the internet; train with an Xbox-like virtual reality display (pictured); and more. tacx.com