



JUST LANDED

Touched down and ready for review

Le Col Mariana

WHO doesn't like a nice, close fitting, thermal gilet that's small enough to fit into a pocket yet adds plenty of warmth? The Mariana ticks all the boxes in our world and looks great to boot. £129.99, www.lecol.net



Nalini Traill L/S base layer



NALINI Traill has flatlock seams to help prevent chafing and is made from Skinlife material, which is designed to be close fitting and highly wicking. The densely woven material should help keep you warm along with the deep collar stopping draughts from chilling your back, all for £43.99. www.chickencycles.co.uk

Giordana E774 Nordic Anti Vento



THE Nordics are constructed around a neoprene toe cover, so with the inclusion of a Windtex membrane your feet should keep toasty. We also like the fact they are £35.99 and come in five sizes. www.yellow-limited.com

Shimano R133

AT £139.99 there is some serious competition as far as Shimano's 'Expert' level shoes are concerned, but a tight design, UD carbon sole, and a good basic last gets our vote. www.madison.co.uk



Zullo Inqubo

TIZIANO Zullo has been making handbuilt steel frames in northern Italy since the Seventies, and during the Eighties and early Nineties, when every pro rode a made-to-measure bike, he supplied frames to the Dutch TVM team.

When aluminium and then carbon arrived, and steel was dismissed as yesterday's material, Zullo scaled back his business, moved to smaller premises and produced fewer frames, but never stopped building in steel for enthusiasts mostly from the Far East and USA.

His persistence paid off, because with the revival of

interest in handmade steel bikes, Zullo is now regarded as the genuine article.

Last year London's Mosquito bikes sealed the deal with Zullo to make bikes for import to the UK, and is offering six models, including the 1991 TVM Tour de France replica.

The top race frame is the Inqubo, made from Dedacciai EOM 16.5 heat-treated oversized steel tubing. As with all Zullos, each is individually built and custom fitting is included in the cost of £2,100 for frame and fork. Zullo frames are also painted by hand at the workshop in Castelnovo del Garda and there's a variety of schemes.

Contact: www.mosquito-bikes.co.uk



Signature design: Zullo's seal of approval

Each frameset is hand-painted



3T ARXA stem

3T'S got all angles covered with its new ARXA stem. The design incorporates a splined hinge, enabling it to be finely adjusted through a 35° arc and as it can be used either way up, that equates to a full 70° adjustment. That should be enough to satisfy some pretty extreme positions, although the fact that it's only available in 100mm does limit its application somewhat. We suspect more lengths will soon follow, after this stem hits the shops in February. The splined interface should make sure it stays put at the desired angle desired and, unlike other similar

stems we've seen, the ARXA has a very respectable weight — 199g for the Team version and 230g for the Pro. Price TBC.

Contact: www.i-ride.co.uk



Park Tools Blue Box tool case

THE name says it all — it's a blue case for carrying tools, but this is no ordinary case. It's best described as what James Bond would use if he was a bike mechanic. Bond may have gone for something stealthier than striking corporate 'Park Blue', but it is practically bombproof. The shell is made from a dent-proof resin-moulded composite, surrounding a super tough, anodised aluminium frame that is double lockable, with key and combination. Inside are 35 tool pockets, specifically designed for bike tools,

four universal tool modules adjustable to accommodate a wide variety of tool shapes, a small parts organiser and a removable tool board, made of durable 600D ballistic nylon, that hangs neatly on the front. Granted not everyone's idea of a good way to spend £249, but awesome nonetheless.

Contact: www.madison.co.uk



Pro Clean Degreaser

A CYCLIST needs degreaser like a fish needs water — life's a struggle without it. Unless you're rich enough to replace your chain as soon as it gets dirty, that is. A good degreaser should offer more than just powerful cleaning. Water solubility, environmental friendliness and being non-harmful to bike paint and graphics are all very important in our eyes. Cost is important too, because if you are looking after your bike well, you should be getting through a fair bit of the stuff. As far as we can see the Pro Degreaser, from Pro Clean, gets a tick in every box. First impressions have shown outstanding performance yet it's one of the cheapest we've found at £5.99 for one litre and it comes with a handy spray trigger too.

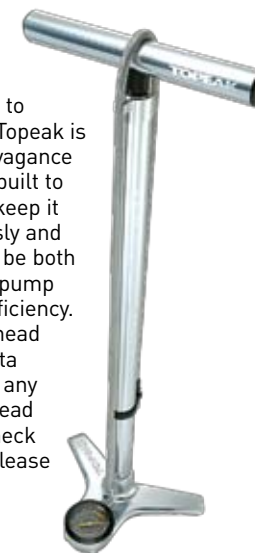
Contact: www.bike-cleaner.com



Topeak JoeBlow X.O.

A TRACK pump is an essential piece of everyday equipment for any cyclist not wishing to burst a blood vessel trying to get tyres up to pressure. The latest JoeBlow from Topeak is perhaps erring on the side of extravagance at nearly £100, but at least it looks built to last a lifetime. A wide base should keep it stable when you're pumping furiously and its extra long, braided hose, should be both durable and will not expand as you pump up the tyre, giving you maximum efficiency. The new SmartHead 'ThreadLock' head works with both Schrader and Presta valves without the operator making any adjustments plus a large, easy-to-read gauge means you can accurately check your pressures, with a useful air-release button for fine tuning.

Contact: www.extrauk.co.uk



You know you're a cyclist when...

IT'S the January sales, and on impulse you buy the dream bike you've had your eye on. You can't really afford it, but think of the huge saving. You have chosen the same colour (blue) as all your other bikes, in the hope that it will blend in. You sneak it into the garage, and hope it doesn't get noticed for a while...



By Claire O'Brien