

P&K Lie truing stand speeds wheel building



SEATTLE, WA—To say Ric Hjertberg knows a lot about wheel building is a bit of an understatement. So when he gets excited about a \$1,950 P&K Lie wheel-truing stand, you can bet his enthusiasm is about more than its elevated cost.

"The unique non-linear lateral and radial gauges are the heart of the system. For a custom wheel builder they can cut the time to true up a wheel by half," said Hjertberg, who owns Wheel Fanatyk, a distributor of custom wheel building equipment. The finely machined steel and brass stand is produced by siblings Peter and Kerstin Lie in Germany. "Because the gauge is non-linear it can be used on a very untrue wheel. Two centimeters of lateral or radial play is only a 120-degree sweep on the dial. As the rim is trued, the dial's sensitivity becomes similar to most other gauges," he added. A wheel builder using traditional dial gauges cannot use them until the wheel is almost true—within the range of the gauge. In addition to its dial, Hjertberg says the axle holding and centering aspect of the stand is also noteworthy. "For a custom wheel builder building 50 to 500 wheels a year, the increase in speed alone could pay for the stand," he added. P&K Lie also makes distinctive spoke wrenches in various sizes that retail for \$18.

Wahoo Key lets smart phones track ride data



GAINESVILLE, GA—Wahoo Fitness' \$80 ANT+ Wahoo Key plugs into phones, allowing data tracking of cadence, heart rate, power and other ANT+

encoded data. "It's a much lower-cost option than having to buy a fitness cyclocomputer or fitness watch, plus you have color, graphics and large readable numbers," said Brad Hobbs, Wahoo Fitness' media spokesperson. "And an iPhone has more computing power than any fitness meter." A Key-enabled phone also speeds post-ride downloading. Just hit the app button and it syncs all new ride data—no need to boot up a computer to sync with a fitness device that needs to be pulled off the bike. Wahoo also sells a \$120 water-resistant case with integral ANT+ compatibility and accessories to mount the case to handlebars. For clean handlebars

and total stealth mode, an app like Cyclemeter will whisper your power or heart rate numbers in your ear over earphones. Other popular apps like Endomondo, MapMyRide, RoadBike, Strava as well as many from Wahoo Fitness all seamlessly include ANT+ measurements, and many also incorporate GPS data.

Silverback bikes charge USB devices as they go



STUTT GART, Germany—Anyone who has run the GPS function on a smart phone knows it sucks the battery down quickly. Acknowledging that cyclists will not give up their connectivity, Silverback incorporates a dynamo hub in its Starke 1 and 2 models and dangles out a USB plug at the top of the stem to make recharging handlebar- or stem-mounted devices easy. The hub also powers Starke's Supernova lighting system. The USB charging has been a popular aspect of its 2012 Starke bikes. And according to Silverback spokesperson Elena Retief, the company is in discussion with North American distributors but has not finalized its distribution plans. In Europe the Starke 1, with a 1-by-9-speed Shimano drivetrain, hydraulic disc brakes and lighting system, sells for 3,199 euros. The Starke 2, with a Suntour/SRAM drivetrain, hydraulic disc brakes and lighting system, sells for 1,199 euros. Both include the USB-charging dangle.

TSG making custom run of rim-drilling machines

EINDHOVEN, the Netherlands—Rob van Hoek's engineering design firm Total Sports Group (TSG) built a six-axis rim drilling machine for Shimano Europe to use on its Pro series of products. Given van Hoek's recent purchase of the Swiss hub and wheel company Edco, he decided to do a small run of drilling machines for himself and other interested companies. "Wheel builders or rim suppliers can inventory undrilled rims to quickly service customer requests. It's cheaper than having to inventory a variety of drilled rims and you can quickly make what the customer wants," van Hoek said. He notes that if a wheel builder needs a new spoke pattern rim out of Asia they are looking at six-week lead times. The machines handle carbon as well as alloy rims, and because the machines are custom, limited options are available. Van Hoek estimates he will build 20 to 40 machines, depending on interest.

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