

# Tech Briefs

## Handlebar Umbrella Mount Keeps Cyclists Dry

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—Dutch company Drybike has come up with a solution to peddling in the rain. The company makes a handlebar umbrella mount that allows riders to keep dry. The Drybike mount, which sells for 24 euros or about \$37 U.S., clamps around the handlebar close to the stem. At the bottom of the mount is a swiveling joint, then a solid tube ending in an eight-inch flexible rod on top that has the umbrella clamp. The company does not expect riders to use the device at high speeds. However, the umbrella should work fine on slow rides or for running errands in a rainy city. If used with a Senz umbrella, which is also made in the Netherlands, higher speeds may be possible. The unique shape of a Senz umbrella pairs a short front with a longer tail. The shape keeps the front of the umbrella always heading into the wind. Senz claims its umbrella can withstand a 70 mph headwind without flipping horizontal and collapsing. You can check out the wind tunnel video of its umbrella's performance at [www.senzumbrellas.com](http://www.senzumbrellas.com). To check out the Drybike mount go to [www.drybike.nl](http://www.drybike.nl).



## QR Pedals Make Removal and Switching Easy

TOKOROZAWA, Japan—Cyclists often knock something over or scrape a corner with their pedals when negotiating their bike into an indoor storage area.



Japanese pedal giant MKS has come up with a line of quick-release pedals to prevent that from happening. Using a disconnect similar to air hose couplers, MKS Ezy quick-release pedals only require a sleeve to be pushed in and the pedal pops out, leaving a low-profile coupler behind on the crank. The system works well with folding bikes, people who frequently pack their bike for travel or those who like to get one more bike on rear hitch racks. MKS launched its first quick-release pedal design a few years ago, but the line has grown to five pedals including an inexpensive resin cage pedal and a clipless version. The coupler, which threads into the crank, works with all the pedals in the line. With MKS' pedals, commuters can ride a platform pedal during the week and switch over to a clipless pedal on weekends for more spirited cycling. MKS Ezy crank couplers are available separately. They retail for \$40. Ezy pedals with crank couplers range from \$50 to \$110 for the clipless version.

## Sports Bracelet Offers Lifesaving Information

MAUI, HI—Xtreme Sports ID hopes to turn the ubiquitous silicon rubber bracelet into a potentially lifesaving device. Each of its silicon rubber bracelets carry a medical symbol, toll-free telephone number and the wearer's ID number. "Of course the first telephone prompt after calling the toll-free number is to call 911 in case of an emergency. Then the voice system prompts the caller to enter the wearer's ID number," said Bryan Gillam, Xtreme Sports ID's national sales manager. "Once the wearer's ID is called up, the caller is prompted to enter one if they want the wearer's name, two brings up emergency contacts and so on for medical alerts like high blood pressure or a pace maker," he added. The Xtreme Sports ID bracelet retails for \$8, which offers a year of coverage. Coverage can be renewed after that for \$5 a year. All the buyer needs to do is go to the company's Web site and create their ID record. Using text-to-voice technology, the user information is read out to anyone calling the toll-free number who enters the ID number. The bands are available in a variety of colors and are sized for small children as well as adults.

