Tech Briefs

DT Swiss Offers Quick Release with a Twist

GRAND JUNCTION, CO—DT Swiss has abandoned cams in favor of a ratcheting, thread-on design for quick releases targeted at suspension users. "On standard quick releases you have to go over the high spot of the cam and back down. So by design you never end up with as high a clamping force as is available," said Kenny Roberts, DT Swiss' U.S. sales and marketing manager. Its ratcheting lever tightens clamping forces up to 50 percent more than cam designs. "When frame travel gets over six inches using standard hubs, flex can be a big issue," Roberts noted. Suppliers that have tested the new DT design reported up to a 20 percent boost in frame stiffness. DT's quick releases could show up as original equipment. The company is offering road and mountain quick releases in steel, alloy and titanium versions. Weights range, starting at 36 grams for the titanium front road skewer. It also is offering fat-axle quick releases with nine and 10-millimeter axles for use with its own hubs with an end cap change. They sell for $96 to $132, depending on material.

Reelight LED Lights Work Without Batteries

MIAMI, FL—Imagine having bike lights that are always on, never require batteries and don't create additional wheel friction. Reelight developed such a lighting system. It relies on magnetic induction to generate power for its LED lights. "It mounts in minutes and you never have to fiddle with batteries again. It does not produce enough light to drive by, but it's bright enough that you will definitely be noticed," said Chris Dupuis, product manager at J&B Importers, distributor of the Reelight. The system requires two magnets to be mounted on each wheel, and two light units—containing an internal coil of wire—on a fork leg and rear seatstay. When the wheel magnets pass the light unit, electrical current causes the LEDs to flash. The standard Reelight sells for $50. The company also has a capacitor version, which keeps the lights working when the bike isn't in motion, that sells for $60. "Parents can mount it on their kid's bike and never worry about them being caught out at night again. The safety factor of the lights always being on is great for commuters," Dupuis added.

Key Protects Clamp Areas on Bars and Tubes

SPARKS, NV—Ritchey has developed a four-millimeter torque key preset for five Newton meters of torque. "Using this Allen wrench avoids potential damage to clamp areas of carbon bars and steerer tubes due to over-tightening," said Mark Deterline, Ritchey's director of marketing, North America. The torque key sells for $20 and is only available in a four-millimeter size, but that covers most stems, including Ritchey's. Ritchey also has released liquid torque, a $4.50 pack of grainy gel that provides friction on carbon parts that don't have textured clamp areas for levers and stems, or where textured areas are not sufficient or are worn out. Liquid torque also protects carbon components because bolts don't need to be as tight for sufficient hold.

Sigma Sport Simplifies Computer Calibration

BATAVIA, IL—Sigma Sport's Fast Setting Box is just what the name implies—a way to quickly program a computer using an easy-to-see screen and buttons. A retailer just places the computer to be installed on the Fast Setting Box, answers a few quick questions, and the computer is programmed. "Dealers can install and program a standard wired computer in under two minutes, and wireless computers can be installed in less than a minute," said Brian Orloff, Sigma's U.S. managing director. Sigma reported that some dealers program computers with their most popular wheel sizes ahead of time to save more time. The Fast Setting Box is free with the purchase of 20 Sigma computers. It runs on two AA batteries.