

Tech Briefs

Service Clamp Coddles Carbon Fiber Frames

ST. PAUL, MN—Park Tool's ISC-4 service stand clamp expands internally inside a seat tube so the frame is gripped firmly without touching the paint or decals. "Years of thin-walled steel and aluminum frames trained mechanics never to clamp a frame mid-tube, but there is still reluctance to clamp a frame firm enough to keep it from turning," said Calvin Jones, Park Tool's director of education. The \$50 clamp works with any seat tube sized from 24 to 32 millimeters, but not with non-round aero seat tubes. Users must insert the ISC-4 into the frame's seat tube, tighten the knob and clamp into any Park Tool repair stand. The ISC-4's hex-shaped shaft resists twisting while clamped in the stand. Jones said many shops are using Park's Team Race stand to work on carbon fiber bikes because frames rest on top of it and are not clamped. "But for assembly, it's much faster to be able to rotate the frame around than to keep walking around it," he said.

Kuji Offers Helmets with Integrated Lighting

SAN ANTONIO, TX—By co-molding head and taillights into helmets, Integrated Helmet Technology's safety lighting is always where it needs to be. The company perfected co-molding electronics into helmets with its own line of Falcon helmets for bicycling police. Now the technology will hit the consumer market in three Kuji helmets—the Kona Elite, ACU2 and ILS-Pro—priced from \$85 to \$200. "The lights are bright enough to see with but they're really safety lights.

The white front lights can be seen for up to a mile, and the red rear lights up to half a mile," said Kerry Harris, Integrated Helmet Technology's president. The helmets feature an integrated rechargeable lithium ion power system and wide-angle LEDs built into the front and back. The entire lighting system weighs 1.3 ounces. Every helmet comes with a charge cord so it can be recharged for up to 14 hours of continuous use. Lighted Kuji helmets are available from Hawley and QBP.



MRP Brings Bolt-On Protection to Trail Bikes

GRAND JUNCTION, CO—Chainguard mounting tabs (ISCG tabs) are fairly common on downhill and freeride bikes, but lighter weight, triple chainring bikes also need protection. To help encourage wider trail bike use, Mountain Racing Products is introducing a new line of patented ISCG-compatible chainguides and bash guards for cross-country riders as well as freeride/urban/park riders. "Now that the tabs are cast into the bottom bracket, there is minimal added cost. For the type of riding we do here in Colorado, you need a triple chainring and good protection from rocks," said Tim Fry, MRP's president. ISCG-mounted guards take impacts off of the bottom bracket spindle and bearings diverting them into the frame directly, unlike crank-mounted chainring guards that still load the bottom bracket. MRP's patent covers chainguards that mount to the bottom bracket and extend downward, slightly beyond the outer diameter of the chainring. MRP's new guards are made from aluminum and replaceable polycarbonate skid guards.

Tensioner Lessens Problems for BMX Racers

SURREY, British Columbia—Ever since Yess Products discontinued its BMX horizontal dropout tensioner folks have been pestering the company to bring it back. The company has beefed up the design and is re-launching it. "It's not uncommon for BMX racers to throw a chain or break it. Adding our tensioner can avoid this," said Renny Husada, vice president of Yess Products. Husada said a tensioner allows racers to put their rear axle where they want it and lets the tensioner deal with the chain. The \$60 horizontal tensioner also enables single-speed riders to change gearing without continually resetting the brakes. Yess also is launching a \$50 derailleur version for single-speed conversions. Unlike many tensioners on the market, Yess' pulley tensions the chain by pushing it up so the chain wraps more of the cog and keeps the tensioner out of the way. The pulley also is easily adjustable for the chainline.

