

Tech Briefs

Long-Tail Bike Maker Furthers Rack Standard

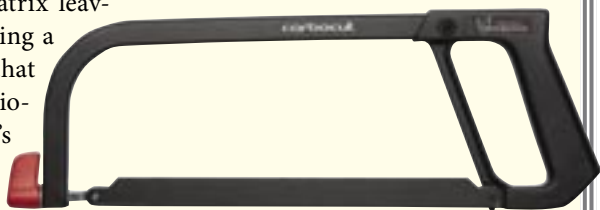
OAKLAND, CA—Sales of long-tail load-carrying bikes are heating up. However, those sales are raising a sticky issue: each long-tail bike uses unique rack-mounting points that require dealers to inventory different racks. Even worse, since long-tail panniers are designed for specific racks and specific loads they, too, are unique. Xtracycle president Nate Byerley plans to make the rack-mounting dimensions it uses on its popular Free Radical wheelbase extension available on its Web site as an open design standard for other long-tail bike designers. “Many small builders have asked for these dimensions so their bikes can work with all of our racks and accessories. With the growth of this category, it seems like opening our specs to everyone would be a good thing,” Byerley said. He thinks it will encourage rack, pannier and accessory builders to get creative, knowing their products are not limited to specific models, but anyone building a standard rack mount.

Tool Maker Prevents Damage to Carbon Parts

BRA, Italy—Effetto Mariposa has expanded its carbon tool offerings to include two new aerosol carbon mounting and disassembly products and a carbon-specific saw. “I’m very excited about the saw. Rather than using teeth that can rip carbon fibers out of the matrix leav-

ing a damaged edge, I’m using a tungsten carbide grit edge that grinds,” said Alberto De Giannini, Effetto Mariposa’s founder. Grinding leaves the edge of the carbon tube smooth, with no torn fibers,

and it saves on sandpaper clean-up time. Carbogrip is an aerosol spray for assembling carbon parts, especially those parts that still slip when torqued correctly. “It is so tempting to over-torque to stop the spinning, but that’s not the way to treat carbon parts,” De Giannini said. Spray on a bit of Carbogrip and its polymer formula is tacky enough to stop parts slippage without over-torquing. Its companion product, Carbomove, is an oil that penetrates seized carbon parts and frees them without damaging the carbon or metal parts. Effetto Mariposa products are available from www.cantitoeroad.com.



Designer Targets Mechanics with Bike Shorts

BELLINGHAM, WA—Clothing designer Brad Walton spent 12 years as a bike mechanic and it seemed like he spent most of the time looking for a 5-millimeter

Allen wrench. “So I knew one of the shorts in my line would have tool pockets so mechanics can work and then get out riding when they get their chance,” said Walton, who recently launched Spectrum Techwear, a new clothing company. In addition to tool pockets, Grease Monkey mechanic shorts have a little anti-JRA icon, because mechanics have heard it all. The \$30, 100 percent cotton Grease Monkey short comes in small to XXL sizing and in two lengths, regular knee length and three inches below the knee. Spectrum Techwear also manages to hide a riding short inside what looks like a cargo short. The Gunslinger is the riding short for end of workday shuttles. “I don’t really like riding clothes that say I’m a rider. So while all the clothes have the usual technical fabrics and details, they look like something you would want to wear off the bike,” Walton said.

