

# Tech Briefs

## Unicycle Rim Builder Busy with 29er Orders

MARIETTA, GA—Kris Holms designed his XC 700C rims for unicycle trail riding, but they have become the rim of choice for 29ers. “I have had to step up production for 29ers. Also, the original model was available in 36 hole only, which was the version spec’d on my unicycles. Now a 32-hole option is available,” Holms said. For bike builders like Lennard Zinn, Holm’s rim is his only option. “The 29er rims on the market are too narrow for my 250- to 300-pound riders. All they get is pinch flats. But Kris Holms’ rims are wide and strong and are the best freeride 29er rim out there,” said Lennard Zinn, owner of Zinn Cycles and technical writer at *VeloNews*. The rims are not only necessary for the super-sized crowd Zinn builds bikes for, but the growing number of big-hit 29ers being built for freeriding. The double-wall 7005 alloy rims are 38 millimeters wide, weigh 844 grams (29 ounces) and are available in 32- and 36-hole drillings with stainless steel eyelets. Bike shops can source the rims, which retail for \$45, from Quality Bicycle Products or the wholesale side of Unicycle.com.

## GT Unveils All Carbon Fiber Ultra Box Beater

MADISON, WI—The Ultra Box BMX racing frame, GT’s top racing frame, is not only popular but it’s also seen as hard to beat even within the company. GT took the wraps off of its own Ultra Box beater, and it’s all carbon fiber. “Initially we were going to go with a new look, a one-piece design using an aluminum clam shell,” said Robert Taylor, GT’s senior production manager. “But to keep it one piece it turned out cheaper to make it out of carbon,” he added. The frame is one carbon piece all the way back to the dropouts. GT’s first prototype frames were too stiff, and the company’s racers like Joey Bradford said it felt dead out of the gate. So engineers tweaked the lay-up schedule for a little forgiveness in the bottom bracket, and racers report the frame is starting to get dialed in.



## Langley’s Article Answers Carbon Questions

BOULDER, CO—Respected tech editor Jim Langley has hammered out a more than 4,700-word article on carbon fiber for SmartEtailing’s 761 shops to use. “One of our retailers noted that customers buying carbon bikes wonder if the bikes require using standard tools and procedures, and about damaging their bikes. Then blame the shop for not explaining the special needs these bikes have,” Langley said. So Langley took an encyclopedic approach to describe how to care for carbon bikes and components from repainting to crash inspections, repair stand dos and don’ts, car racks and bottom brackets. “A common practice with metal handlebars is to snug them up and then test to see if they’re tight enough by tugging or twisting. Never do this with carbon bars as twisting and tugging can turn the parts, scratching and/or scoring them, leading to failure,” he said. “Always align the components correctly first, then tighten fully to the recommended torque specification.” Here’s a link to just one of the retailers posting Langley’s article on its Web site: <http://agouracycles.com/page.cfm?pageId=226&preview=yes>.

## Reflective Stripes on Tires Prevent Punctures

REYNOLDSBURG, OH—Engineers at Kenda discovered an unintentional advantage of their sidewall reflective stripes—they shed trail debris that can eventually lead to punctures. “It’s not sticky like rubber sidewalls, so thorns fall off rather than stick and work into the tire,” said Jim Wannamaker, Kenda’s marketing director. Kenda has made the reflective stripe a bit wider, 3/4 inch, and added it to a variety of tires calling it Side Wall Shield (SWS). The stripe adds 25 grams (less than an ounce) to a tire. “You know how a tire sidewall winds up as a rider accelerates. This stripe stiffens the sidewall so that doesn’t happen. A rider’s input gets right to the trail,” Wannamaker added. Kenda is downplaying the SWS’s origin as reflective sidewall, covering it up with black sidewall rubber, but the glitter sidewall sheen is still visible. The SWS version of its popular Nevegal tread sells for \$65.