

Tech Briefs

Pivot Cycles Specs Press-In Bottom Bracket

TEMPE, AZ—Chris Cocalis has barely launched Pivot Cycles yet his first mountain bikes are coming with new press-in composite XTR bearing cups from Shimano. Cocalis designed a larger bottom bracket shell that accepts current external bearings in a press-in sleeve Shimano developed. The new oversize shell is 92 millimeters from outside edge to edge, the same outside measurement as current external bottom brackets. “With these press-in cups riders can run any external bearing crank from Shimano, Race Face, FSA, Truvativ or others,” Cocalis said. “The oversize bottom bracket allows us more room to put pivots and stiffen up this important area nicely,” he added. Because the new shell and press-in bearings are designed for mountain bikes, the outside diameter is still small enough to allow clearance for 22-tooth chainrings. Similar to the press-in Dura-Ace cups Scott USA uses in its Addict road bike, the composite press-in XTR cups are available to any manufacturer.

MRP Develops Hartlett 20-Millimeter-Axle QR

GRAND JUNCTION, CO—As the off-road crowd migrates to six-inch-travel forks, manufacturers are switching to thru-axle designs to meet suspension needs and keep steering precise. But who wants to break out the tool kit just to change a flat? Mountain Racing Products (MRP), maker of White Brothers forks, is developing the Hartlett quick-release thru-axle system for some of its 2008 forks. “We own the U.S. patent rights to the Hartlett system and will be offering it on forks late in 2008,” said Paul Aieta, Mountain Racing Products’ vice president of sales and marketing. “We are also working on rear wheel thru-axle designs.” To use the Hartlett system, fork makers would need to add a pin across the axle opening on one side. The one-handed quick release is pushed into the fork and hub to butt against the pin. A twist of the quick release pulls it over the pin and the system locks into place. Closing the quick-release handle snugs the lever and keeps the quick release from twisting.

Internal Hub Transforms Single-Speed Bikes

CHICAGO, IL—SRAM’s new I-Motion 9 internal gear hub is now disc ready. The hub, a product of SRAM’s German design team, is just the thing for single-speeders with gear envy. Users can build it up with the rim of their choice, slot it into their rear drops, pull off one grip to install the grip-shifter, zip-tie the shift cable and their single-speed becomes a nine-speed winter commuter bike. “I-Motion combines the best of what we know about internal-gear hubs into one elegant package,” said Michael Zellman, SRAM’s public relations and media manager. The I-Motion 9 is designed to shift under load as well as at a stop sign. The disc brake-compatible version weighs 2,000 grams (4.4 pounds). Swobo’s Dixon, released this fall, is one of the earliest production bikes built around the I-Motion 9 disc hub.

Reality Show Highlights Bike Storage Hanger

CAMBRIDGE, MA—It’s hard to tell how surprised Craig Forrest and David Moeller were to be selected to compete for the \$1 million grand prize and the American Inventor title on ABC’s “American Inventor” reality show. They clearly think they have a great product with the Claw, a bicycle storage hanger. “How many times have you struggled to get your bike up onto a ceiling or wall hook?” Forrest said. “Now with heavy downhill bikes it’s even harder.” Unlike a hook, the Claw is cocked and ready to receive a bike tire or frame tube. All the user has to do is whack a four-inch target and the Claw closes two jaws to capture the bike. Whack the target again and the Claw opens to release the bike. “It opens wide enough to be out of the way and doesn’t get tangled up in your spokes,” Forrest said. The two inventors are developing a sliding wall bracket that allows the Claw to adjust for various wheel sizes and a locking accessory for outside use. They hope to have the Claw in production in six months and will be searching for distributors at Interbike. For more information, go to Forrest and Moeller’s Web site, www.americaninventorclaw.com.

