

Reviews

Gear up

COMPONENTS, KIT, AND MEDIA SELECTED
AND REVIEWED BY BIKE JOURNALISTS AND CYCLING UK STAFF

Put to the test

Is there a product that you think needs reviewing?

Write to: *Cycle*, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ

@cycle@jamespembroke
media.co.uk



Pros & cons

- + Secure attachment
- + Stops phone dying
- Case lacks rain protection

SKS

Compit+ smartphone holder

Sturdy phone mount that's also a power bank

£79.99 + £9.99 (phone case) zyrofisher.co.uk

Like many cyclists, I use a smartphone to navigate rather than a dedicated GPS unit. This has two drawbacks: you need to make sure your phone is securely attached; and keeping the screen on can quickly drain the battery. The Compit+ system from SKS aims to solve both, with a solid mount that allows wireless charging on the move.

Compit+ consists of the handlebar mount, the phone case, and the battery pack. The phone can sit vertically or horizontally, with a 45° twist to lock or unlock.

The neatest part is the optional "COM/UNIT" battery pack, which fits between the mount and the phone. A similar size to a smartphone, this can also be mounted 'portrait or landscape', letting you put it at right-angles to the phone so its LED charge indicator is visible. It provides wireless charging plus USB output. There's also a built-in NFC chip to automatically trigger actions (e.g. starting Strava) on a compatible Android phone.

Testing it on all-day rides, I was impressed. The mount felt rock

solid on even the rockiest trails. The battery let me keep my phone screen on all the time to display the map. SKS claims that a full phone battery and full battery pack will give 10 hours of screen time. That may be optimistic as capacity is only 5,000 mAh.

I had a few niggles. My MTB stem is wider than the maximum 49mm that the handlebar mount, which clamps either side of it, is designed for. There was just enough flex to fit it. (A new stem-cap mount is now available.) While the battery is rainproof, there's no weather protection for your phone – indeed, the case feels less protective than the Spigen case I normally use. The holes in the case are annoyingly small for everyday use, too. The Lightning port will only fit the skinniest of cables, and accessing the mute switch is awkward. So I wouldn't use the phone case when not riding. ●

Rob Kingston

Other options



QUAD LOCK £45.95+

Similarly solid vertical or horizontal locking system with a huge range of mounts for different activities: bike, car, motorbike, desk, armband, etc.

quadlockcase.co.uk



TOPEAK RIDECASE £44.99

Rugged phone case that attaches to a choice of stem-cap or handlebar mounts. Portrait or landscape mounting. Case includes flip-stand.

extrauk.co.uk

Verdict

A rock-solid mount that keeps your phone topped up. A bigger battery capacity and a more protective case would be nice.



Cycle's test promise

At Cycle, we are proudly independent. There's no pressure to please advertisers as we're funded by your membership. Our product reviews aren't press releases; they're written by experienced cyclists after thorough testing.



Pros & cons
 + Stable
 + Inexpensive
 - Axle attachment rattles



FollowMe

Cargo Trailer

An easy way to haul two (or two more) panniers

£265.00 followmetandem.co.uk

Cargo bikes aside, it's hard to beat a trailer for carrying a large amount of stuff by bicycle. The FollowMe makes light work of loads of up to 28kg and, unlike a cargo bike, is small enough to be stored easily. That 28kg maximum may not sound much but it easily exceeds the 9kg per pannier limit of Ortlieb Back Rollers, plus the weight of the panniers themselves, leaving another 8kg for a tent or suchlike attached to the FollowMe's top deck.

Instead of on a large luggage platform, the load is carried in panniers placed on a rear rack-style frame either side of a single wheel. This limits both the size and weight of the load but makes

for a shorter trailer, with the weight of the load directly over the wheel axle.

A vertical pivot just ahead of the wheel allows the trailer to follow the cycle's direction, while the clip-on attachment to the bike's rear axle provides the freedom for the trailer to move independently over bumps. Safety clip retainers prevent the axle attachment coming off inadvertently. The model tested has a 20-inch wheel and fits bikes with a standard quick-release hub.

For the test, I packed 15kg of hardwood logs evenly into a pair of Back Rollers. Such a load would make any bike fairly unwieldy if placed entirely on a rear rack. As it sits over the trailer wheel axle,

the only significant weight on the bike rear wheel is a small part of the weight of the trailer, which is useful when using it with a lightweight rear wheel and tyre.

Wheeling the bike and trailer around requires some thought but little strength, the trailer following obediently. So it does when riding, with minimal perceptible effect on the cycle's handling save when making quick directional changes. Only rattles from the loose-fitting axle pivot remind you of the load. Even uphill it felt easier than a bike with the same load rack-mounted, despite the extra 5kg of the trailer itself. ●

Richard Hallett

Verdict

Adds decent carrying capacity to any cycle, lightweight road bikes included, without adverse effects on handling or budget.

Other options

EXTRAWHEEL BRAVE £475

Extra-wheel type trailer, as the name says, with 35kg load capacity and optional dedicated panniers.

extrawheel.co.uk



BOB YAK 26" £459

Classic long-wheelbase single-wheel trailer with optional dry-bag and 32kg load capacity.

bobgear.com, ambadistribution.com

