

Overview: Bike security

Bike security goes beyond steel to GPS and text messages from a stolen bike

Combining a lock with a saddle or seatpost means a bike that will never be without theft protection.



AXA foldable lock

Two young companies at Eurobike have products that do just that. Their innovations are just some of many imaginative new methods for protecting bikes from thieves.

The rise of e-bikes has led to electronic safeguards for bikes, and the ability to track down a stolen bike by GPS.

Of course, good old hardened steel and other old-school locks are always in fashion. Here are some of the new — and tried-and-true — locking systems you'll find in the Eurobike halls.

The name gives it away: **Seatylock A7-306A** combines a bike seat with a heavy-duty folding lock.

"We saw cyclists dragging heavy locks

around and in many cases taking their seat and seatpost with them after locking up," Seatylock co-founder Ilan Mor said, explaining the origin of the concept.

A Seatylock replaces a stock saddle. Undo the QR lever on the seat and the Seatylock lifts off the bike. Then, undo the folding lock with a key and it transforms into a 1m (3-foot) lock.

The seat-and-lock combo weighs 1.3kg (2.9 lbs.) and is available in a range of colors. The adapter for the seatpost weighs around 300g.

Seatylock is offering preorders at \$90. While it's selling directly to consumers, it's also seeking OEM orders. Seatylock now offers trekking and comfort saddles and says it is developing others.

If its successful Kickstarter campaign is a sign, there should be consumer demand for the Seatylock. The company exceeded its crowdsourcing goal and raised \$137,000 in less than 60 days. The company has also launched the more conventional Foldylock, a folding lock made of hardened steel with rivets that protect against drilling.

Interlock FG-B4/6 is another young company with a bright idea for an intuitive security product. A Eurobike Award winner last year, with a product already shipping to customers, Interlock sells a cable lock that tucks away inside the seatpost. Interlock is available in 28 countries and is spec'd by OEMs on several bike brands. Interlock recently announced that private and institutional investors had committed \$750,000 in financing for the company.

Interlock is launching its ComboLock at Eurobike. It's a less expensive, keyless seatpost lock offering a "basic" level of security.

Ixow A1-314 has a simpler saddle-based system that will fit just about any bike seat. The Lassolock is a cable lock that hangs off the back of the seat rails. The cable plugs into the same hole as the mounting nut so the lock cannot be removed from the seat while locked.

Led by the e-bike boom, bikes are becoming "smarter." They are packed with sensors that report to smartphones and transmit ride data to the cloud — abilities that can be turned into anti-theft features as well.

The carbon fiber, \$5,000+ **Visiobike A4-601** is a prime example. The user has to enter an unlock code to get a Visio e-bike to work. It also has a rear wheel



Fahradläger Insect

hardware lock, and, if stolen, sends text messages of its movements to the user's smartphone.

Stromer's B3-502 e-bikes are equipped with GPS tracking. The company says at least one U.S. bike shop and police used the feature to recover a stolen Stromer, whose new owner didn't have a chance to ride it before the thief did.

FahradJäger's FO-104 Insect uses the power of crowds to deter bike thieves. The Insect module is a standalone alarm combined with GPS tracker that attaches to any bike, standard or electric, via the water bottle mounts.

It links to the rider's smartphone through a wireless Bluetooth link. The Insect switches on automatically once the bike is parked and sounds an alarm if its sensors detect unauthorized movement.



Pinhead seatpost lock

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The SEATYLOCK

The SEATYLOCK is a bicycle seat which quickly and effortlessly converts from a bike seat to a solid lock, then back, in 15 seconds or less. Because it's an integrated part of your bike and under your seat, it doesn't burden your ride or cause you to be imbalanced in any way, and you'll never have to worry about where it is, or about saddle theft. SEATYLOCK has a universal adaptor that enables a perfect compatibility with

any bicycle and it's a perfect solution for OEM customers or as an aftermarket product. It locks your bike to a fixed external object and after a simple installation it can be adjusted to your preferred saddle position. (Backward & forward or upward & downward).

A7-306A

www.seatylock.com



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KRYPTONITE

Gravity Line

Kryptonite's new Gravity Line offers an innovative solution to wheel and component security and allows a cyclist the ability to secure both wheels and frame while traveling with only one lock. With the Gravity Line, the bike is locked when it is upright and unlocked when the bike is upside down.

The Gravity Line does not require a special key to install or remove. With the WheelNutz and WheelBoltz simply rotate the bicycle 180 degrees and remove with either a 15mm wrench for the WheelNutz or a 5mm hex wrench

(included) for the WheelBoltz. WheelNutz come in 3 sizes for standard fixed axles (M9, M10, 3/8") and the WheelBoltz come as a set — both standard axle lengths of 130mm (front) and 150mm (rear). The Gravity Line provides a cyclist peace of mind knowing that their wheels are safe from theft. Both WheelNutz and WheelBoltz have a lifetime warranty.

B2-400E

www.kryptonitelock.com





Oxford D-lock with alarm

The bike's owner can use the Insect's built-in GPS to track a stolen bike. In a neat twist, other Insect app users receive an alert to be on the lookout for the bike. FahrradJäger is offering Insect pre-orders for €40.

Making noise is always a deterrent, and there are several add-on bike alarms to be found in the Eurobike halls.

The **Crops A5-202** Lion alarm lock works in conjunction with Crops' K4 cable and chain locks. A Crops

its new Superbright series of high-viz wearable locks will catch the eye in more ways than one. The highly reflective lock sleeve gives 360-degree visibility because it is worn like a belt around the rider's waist.

The new DX range is Hiplok's strongest D-lock yet and is designed to clip onto belts, bags and pockets. The DXC has extra cable for locking a helmet or other items to the bike when left unguarded. Also new is the FLX cafe lock, a wearable lock with a rear LED light.

For the more traditional approach involving cables and shackle locks, check out the UK's **Henry Squire, A4-702** one of the oldest lock manufacturers in the world. It offers a huge range of bike locks, many of which feature "Sold Secure" ratings issued by an influential UK consumer testing organization. Look out in particular for the innovative, carabiner-shaped Snaplock, with barrel locking.

Pinhead B4-107 which markets its heavy-duty locks with a whimsical approach, debuts a strong, light city lock at the show. It's 660g (less than half the weight of similar frame locks, the

strong, sleek-looking Bordo Centium. A combination of stainless steel and black, hardened steel, it brings style as well as security to cycling. Along with gritty city locks, Abus also launches a series of kid's locks that are based on popular storybook heroes.

Keep an eye out for **Trelock's A5-401** new FS200 Two.Go folding lock, "for urban cyclists and for general daily use." At 100cm and 700g, it's rated for what Trelock says is "strong protection against casual thieves."

Trelock's new Protect-o-Connect RS451 model takes things to the next level, which for Trelock means "protection against professional thieves." The frame lock (known to some as "granny locks"), typical of traditional Dutch town bikes, is given a modern twist with the option of locking ports in it for a range of stylish, colored chain locks.

For those just needing the lightest of locks for stops where the bike is never out of sight — so called cafe-stop locks — **Knog's B1-504** Milkman range offer an attractive design and 900mm of cable alongside a four-digit barrel lock.

Because bike thieves are often content to just steal parts instead of the whole bike, a number of products promise to protect wheels, saddles and just about any removable components.



InterLock

Pitlock FW-304 is debuting thru-axle security that is compatible with RockShox's Maxle Lite axle, with others to follow. Pitlock is also launching its Pitstopper screw head security system.

Ixow takes a funky French design approach to the same practical problem. It offers secure wheel skewers, seatpost clamps and saddle locks. Ixow also offers keyless "gravity" securing screws that can only be unscrewed when upside down — usually impossible when a bike is securely locked.

The Ixow Stemlock rotates the bike stem 90 degrees so the bike is not only impossible to ride, it's easier to store.

Pinhead has a well-thought-out single key system for wheel skewers, handlebar stem and seatpost. ■ **RICHARD PEACE**

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Seatylock

Linkstation, fixed to the bike, provides the interface between the lock and the alarm. Users can program it to go off at a volume of 60, 90, or 120 decibels.

Cobi A2-111 sells a smartphone "hub" that attaches to the handlebars and has a built-in alarm. If the hub's accelerometer detects movement when armed, it sets off a visible, audible alarm. The system resets when the user's smartphone comes back in range.

Oxford Products B1-309 from the UK is launching its Alarm D range at Eurobike but offered no details at press time. A D-lock with an alarm is uncommon but not unheard of.

Wearable lights are becoming commonplace, but how about wearable locks? UK firm **Hiplok A2-504** hopes

company says) with a 40mm cross-section and integrated seat tube mount. It uses the same security key system as the rest of the Pinhead range for wheels, seatpost, headset, etc.

Think D-locks and cable or chain locks take up too much space? **AXA's A7-502** Foldable series extols the virtues of compactness and easy storage.

The series offers "the flexibility of fixing of a chain lock ... with the ease of use of a folding lock," the company says. Each neoprene-covered link can be folded any which way, and the lock stows away in a frame-mounted holder. AXA also offers a single-key solution for e-bikes, so users can use the same key as for the battery lock

Abus A5-210 has a new folding lock, the



Ixow Lassolock



Pitlock security thru-axle for RockShox Maxle Lite

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