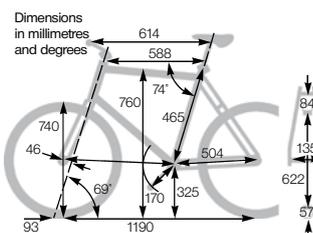




Tech Spec



CUBE STEREO HYBRID 120 PRO 29ER

PRICE: £3199 WEIGHT: 21.75kg

SIZES: 41, 46, 51, 56cm

FRAME & FORK: 7005 aluminium with four-bar rear, 120mm Fox Float CTD shock. Fox 32 Float 29 CTD 120mm fork, tapered, 15mm

WHEELS: 57-622 Schwalbe Nobby Nic tyres, DT Swiss CSW AM 1.9 wheels, 28/32 spokes, 622-23 rim

TRANSMISSION: Miranda Cube Hybrid Crankset, 18T (geared-up inside casing, equivalent to 45T chainwheel), XT shifter & mech, 11-36T cassette. 10-speed, 36-119in. Bosch 250W Performance Cruise Drive Unit

BATTERY: Bosch 400Wh with charger. Replacement costs £530

BRAKING: Shimano Deore M615 hydraulic discs with 180mm rotors

CONTACT: cube.eu/uk/cube-bikes/

£3200 FULL-SUSPENSION PEDELEC

CUBE STEREO HYBRID 120 PRO 29ER

Pedelecs are no longer just tarmac transport. *Richard Peace* tests a German full-suspension mountain bike

DON'T BE MISLED by the word hybrid: this is a full-suspension mountain bike powered by pedals and a second generation Bosch crank motor. On paper, it looks like it should conquer any trail. Like a motorbike? No. It's only around 8kg heavier than the unpowered equivalent, and the motor offers no assistance over the legal assist limit of 25km/h (15.5mph). Its impact on trails should be no greater than any other bicycle. Who's it for? Anyone who needs a helping hand off-road, particularly on climbs.

HYBRID POWER

The Stereo is a pedelec: you pedal and the power kicks in as a response. The settings of Eco, Tour, Sport and Turbo give maximum assistance (as a percentage of your pedal

power) of 50%, 110%, 170% and 275%. The power level control is by your left grip, making it an easy matter to change power levels whilst riding. A full/empty battery icon lets you keep an eye on remaining power; it's a lot of bike to pedal unassisted.

Motor and battery are located low down in the main triangle, and their additional weight is suspended. So their impact on the bike's handling is limited. The Fox fork and rear shock are CTD units that can be adjusted on the fly, and there's a dropper seatpost too.

Although it's only 250W (any more is illegal on a pedal cycle), the quick response of Bosch's motor, allied with hydraulic brakes, coped with every climb and descent I encountered in the South Pennines, mud and 1-in-6 gradients notwithstanding. With the added power, 10 gears felt plenty.

Range per charge varies by terrain, rider weight and power settings chosen. For a 70kg rider, it will likely be 25-70 miles. Using mainly Eco power on hilly roads, I got a ground-breaking consumption estimate of 6.3Wh per mile: that's 60+ miles from the 400Wh battery. Over true off-road terrain – mud, rocks, cobbles and grass – I managed 15Wh per mile, or 25+ miles on a charge. That was using the power settings liberally so that I barely got out of breath. If you want a workout, choose lower power settings. ●



● The left-hand control sets power assistance, while the display shows – among other things – power remaining

Also available



1) SCOTT E-SPARK 710 E-BIKE £3799

Trail-orientated eMTB with 27.5in wheels. scott-sports.com



2) HAIBIKE XDURO FS SL 26 2014 £2850

Attractively priced 26in eMTB, the lower price meaning a smaller 300Wh battery and an earlier model of motor. haibike.de/en/