



MEET THE MBUK TEST TEAM



ROB WEAVER

With two decades of riding experience, Rob knows what works and what doesn't



GUY KESTEVEN

Our Kes's relentless test schedule quickly exposes kit that doesn't measure up



ALEX EVANS

Al gives gear a real thrashing but makes sure he's still in bed by nine



JAMES BLACKWELL

Riding nearly as fast as he talks, Jimmer's been testing kit for MBLUK for 14 years



ED THOMSETT

Always on the hunt for new technical challenges, Ed gives his gear some serious abuse



BEN CANNELL

An optimistic trail hunter and chronic mis-navigator, Ben covers a lot of ground,

OUR RATINGS

We base our scores on value for money and performance



EXCEPTIONAL
A genuine class leader



VERY GOOD
One of the best you can buy



GOOD
It'll do the job and do it well



BELOW AVERAGE
Flawed in some way



POOR
Simply put, don't bother!



The best product on test, in terms of performance, quality and price



An exceptional product for the money – you're getting a fantastic deal



A truly outstanding product, regardless of price



Most wanted MBLIK

HIGHS

Bombproof rims
Excellent wheel build

LOWS

While they're super-strong, they're not the lightest
Deep rims can make it a faff to get a tubeless seal

Hope Tech DH-Pro 4 wheelset £390

Everyone recognises the loud whir of a Hope freewheel. It's just one of the things that the Lancashire-made hubs are renowned for – the others being their reliability, ease of servicing and a reputation for outlasting almost every other part of your bike. If the Pro 4 hubs used in this wheelset are anything to go by, we'd say this reputation is well founded – we struggled to find any faults with them.

They're laced to Hope's Tech DH rims, which are the burliest hoops they make. This does mean the complete wheelset is a bit weighty (1,075g front, 1,204g rear), but both the rims and the quality of the build seem to be pretty much indestructible so far. We've hammered them into rocks and cased some pretty hefty jumps, with not even a loose spoke to show for it.

Riders who've ditched the tubes will be pleased to hear that the Tech DHs are tubeless ready, just requiring you to add rim tape, valves and sealant. We did find that the deep profile of the rim can make it tricky to get the tape to seal, but once the tyres are holding air, the 28mm internal rim width gives them a good profile and you'll feel full of confidence blasting into anything you can throw at them. **Ed**
www.hopetech.com

MBUK VERDICT

A chunky yet super-solid set of hoops that's capable of taking on pretty much anything



M16 Extreme bike cleaner £5.99 (1l)

There's no recipe info on M16's website for this dirt-loosening bike cleaner but it smells nice (think Battenberg cake) and doesn't sting too badly if it gets in cuts. It's biodegradable, so it won't kill your lawn or poison your dog. As far as we can tell there's no silicone-style element, so it shouldn't ruin your braking either. It doesn't fade anodised colours (we left an old red seat clamp soaking in it overnight to check). The price is decent too. You may need a couple of sprays or a longer soak to loosen really stubborn dried muck or clean matt finishes though. **Guy**
www.m16extreme.com

