



SANTA CRUZ HECKLER

Now tweaked and tuned to perfection?

£1000

Frame only

SPEC CHECK

PRICE £1000 (frame only)

COLOURS Black, White, Orange, Liquid blue and Gangreen powder coat or Black or Silver anodized (£1099) or polished (£1190)

SIZES S, M, L, XL

WEIGHT 29.3lb

FRAME Custom 6069 alu

FORK Fox Float R 140mm travel

SHOCK Fox Float R 150mm travel

WHEELS DT Swiss EX5.1 rims on DT340 Disc hub

TYRES Kenda Nevegal Blue Groove 26x2.3in

CRANKS Truvativ Stylo

GEARS SRAM X-9 Trigger shifters and rear mech, Shimano XT front

BRAKES Avid Juicy Seven, 185mm rotors

HANDLEBAR Race Face Atlas Low Rise, 31.8mm

OTHER STUFF WTB Pure V saddle, Race Face Evolve XC stem, Cane Creek Aheadset, Thomson Elite seatpost and locked grips

CONTACT Santa Cruz UK 01423 780088 www.santacruz bikes.co.uk

So if you've read the rest of this feature, you'll realise that Santa Cruz's do it all single-pivot swingarm frame (it was called Tazmon back then) has been around for well over a decade now. Yes, back when everyone raced everything, and your XC bike was just yesterday's XC bike but with the bar ends put back on and the tyres pumped up.

This latest Heckler sticks with a single-pivot swingarm, but it's now wrought in the latest swooping, twisting hydroformed tubing. Curved replaceable hanger dropouts blend onto the radius of the seatstays, top and down tube sandwich a smooth box gusset with plate gussets above and below. The back end now bolts onto a 15mm thru axle with a lifetime bearing guarantee, there's room for up to 2.6in tyres and the new seat QR is lovely.

Dimensions have been subtly tweaked. The medium-sized frames lose an inch of seat tube length, while small get longer and the XL gets shorter, for closer, less 'gappy' fit. All bikes get 7mm extra travel at the back, and they'll take 10mm more (designed around 140mm travel fork but take up to 170mm) at the front. BB height comes up quarter of an inch too.

Whatever the numbers, the result is one of the most easily rideable,

enjoyable bikes we've even ridden. It feels totally at ease whether you're swinging through the trees or launching flat out into lunacy on a technical night ride. Yes, the swingarm chatters and kicks a bit over rocks or under braking, but there's masses of feedback and communication to work with, so you know exactly what's going on all the time. Impressively low frame weight means the complete bike is a very competent technical climber as well, yet it still feels super secure on the descents. Our large-sized test ride would even be well sub-30lb with a Pike or Fox 36 Float up front to add some real attitude.

Lifetime bearing warranty, easy cleaning plus big tyre space make a great UK-proof parade, and price is excellent. Build it light for long days or burly for play days, choice is yours.

WHAT MOUNTAIN BIKE

VERDICT

UPHILL

DOWNHILL

AGILITY

VALUE

Simply one of the best do it all bikes we've ever ridden. An instant classic

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



The first bike to score a 10/10 in 12 months!

