

# The verdict

While there are some real rubber-sniffing tyre fanatics out there – including a fair number among our own test team – most riders just want a set of tyres that they can stick on their bike and leave on whatever the weather until they wear out.

In terms of proven favourites, there are plenty to go at, as the relatively high scores that we've awarded throughout this test prove.

## New tyres

As far as value goes, the evolved Choir Master R is a great all-round tyre for the money, with plenty of grip and stability for when you really want to push hard. The Hutchinson Toro is a deservedly popular tough and fluid feeling all-rounder and the Bontrager XR4 is a fine example of a big, all-weather tyre.

But it's the new light, yet big and grippy Rubber Queen Black Chili 2.2 that offers the best performance out of our selection of newcomers – if you can stomach the price.

## Classic tyres

The Black Chili compound also puts the new revamped Vertical Pro straight onto our favourites list. The evolved Nobby Nic is another great all-rounder if you can afford it and the Panaracer Fire XC and the Syncros Point'n'Chute are cracking choices in the right conditions. If it's a bargain you want then Specialized's Captain is a great lightweight, feature-loaded all-round tyre.

Despite plenty of people trying, there's still nothing that beats the Maxxis Minion mix of traction, protection and reasonable rolling speed though. So ignore the potentially misleading 'DH Front' labelling and get a pair of the best ever all-rounders on your rig, whatever and wherever you're riding.

## Next month Hardtail trail frames

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