

50

PAUL BURWELL,  
TECHNICAL EDITOR



**BLACKBURN MOUNTAIN AIR MINI PUMP**

Blackburn has stopped making this pump, opting instead for the twist-head Mountain III, which in my opinion is inferior.



What makes the original the best is the simple thumb-lock to keep the head secured on the valve, an easy Presta or Schrader conversion and comfy handle.

After two years of rolling around in my pack it still works perfectly. Bring it back, I say!

[www.madison.co.uk](http://www.madison.co.uk)

**SPECIALIZED STORM CONTROL TYRES**

I only discovered this tyre last year, but it's currently my first and only choice for winter mud plugging. It has a dual-compound tread (hard centre, soft edge) so rolls quickly but finds grip even on the wettest off-camber, root-infested singletrack. That it's tubeless ready and only £23 a pop is a bonus.

£22.99 each  
[www.specialized.com](http://www.specialized.com)



**THOMSON ELITE X4**

Not the stiffest or the lightest stem on the market, but this is a class piece of machined exotic. It has a ribbed finish, which looks pimp and stays that way. It's available in a wad of sizes from 45mm to 130mm and reassuringly remains unchanged since it appeared about six years ago.

£74.95 [www.i-ride.co.uk](http://www.i-ride.co.uk)



**ULTIMATE PRO-ULTRALITE WORKSTAND**

Fixing your bike is a chore, made worse when you have to do it on the kitchen floor or leaned up against the car. The Pro-UltraLite isn't cheap but it's the best stand on the market. And if you treat it right should last 10 years, maybe longer. It's money well spent.

£199.99 [www.2pure.co.uk](http://www.2pure.co.uk)



**BIG SOCKS**

What's the point of those socks you can't see? You know, those ones tennis players wear; socklettes, trainer socks? Anyway Defeat and Sock Guy make proper man's socks and they're the only choice for me; smart-arse slogans optional.

Around £9 a pair  
[www.i-ride.co.uk](http://www.i-ride.co.uk) [www.silverfish-uk.com](http://www.silverfish-uk.com)

**661 RAJI**

The perfect trail glove — why? The elasticated cuff doesn't cut off the circulation, the palm is wafer-thin for excellent grip and it lasts forever. I have a couple of pairs that are two years old and still going strong.

£24.99  
[www.mmasports.com](http://www.mmasports.com)

