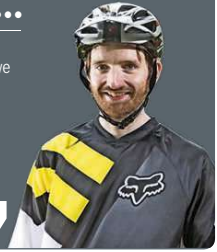




WINNERS

Tester says...

“ There are few components that we rely on so heavily yet give so little thought to in terms of looking after them. A good set of pedals will just let you get on with riding your bike. A truly great pair will let you continue to do so for years to come. ”



WEIGHT: 407g

Shimano Deore XT M785 Trail

£79.99 Madison www.madison.co.uk

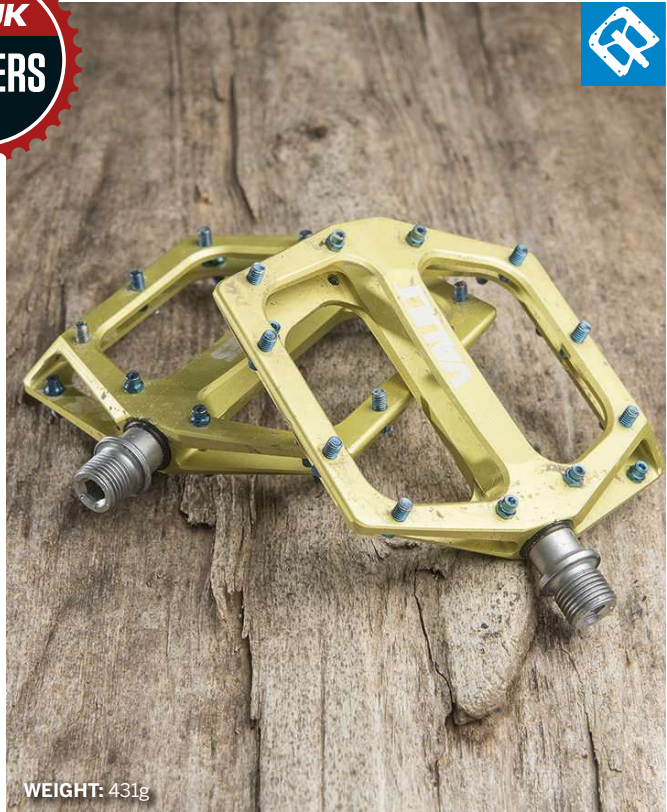
SHIMANO'S CAGED 'TRAIL' design has been around for a few years now and it's a firm favourite. The SPD mechanism is protected from rocks and crashes by an alloy body and when everything gets a bit spicy you have a bit more pedal to get your foot onto. The cage's benefits are so great that you'd have to be a weight weenie racer to opt for the unprotected M780 Race version. You can go a lot cheaper (M530) or a lot pricier (XTR M9020 Trail) in the Shimano family but all you're really bargaining over is a few grams, making the M785 Trails pretty much the perfect balance at 407g.

The body sheds mud effortlessly and you'll be able to clip in even in winter's most clay-like gloop. Engagement is the trademark Shimano 'click',

which is intuitive and reliable, great for beginners and experienced clipless pilots alike. The tension adjustment mechanism is incredibly hardy and easily tweaked with a 3mm Allen key.

The secret to our love for the Shimano XT Trails is their longevity though. The build quality is superb and we have several pairs on their second or third bike without a trace of play. Even after years of being shot-blasted with grit and slime before being basted in aggressive cleaning agents and blasted clean again, they always come up ready for more. There simply isn't another set of pedals that can match them as a long-lasting investment in performance and durability.

MBUK ★★★★★



WEIGHT: 431g

DMR Vault

£99.99 Upgrade Bikes www.upgradebikes.co.uk

UK-BASED DMR effectively spawned the hard-hitting mountain bike flat pedal with their original V12s back in the 1990s, and the Vaults are a continuation of that lineage. Weighing in at 431g, they have 11 adjustable pins per side. The platforms are large in size without being barge-like so they're ideal for taller riders and for big bike use. Even when things get squirrely, no matter what angle your foot goes onto the pedal there's plenty of surface area to grip onto. They work well with today's ultra-low bottom bracket heights too thanks to their low-profile design, which makes clipping the deck less likely. There's a wide range of colours to choose from and even a couple of pro signature models from sponsored riders Brendan

Fairclough and Andreu Lacondeguy. The fact that those two riders sit at the top of the DH and freeride worlds more than attests to the Vaults' gravity credentials. That said, their weight makes them a great option for the trail rider intent on hanging the back end out on a Sunday afternoon as well. The Vaults do what DMR's top models have always done – they're tough yet smooth. They're not cheap, but if you're a dedicated flat pedal rider then they'll comfortably outlast the vast majority of the competition and are fully worth the investment. Magnesium bodies and titanium axles are available too, if you want to lose some weight and can stomach the extra outlay.

MBUK ★★★★★