

# TRACK PUMPS

Which of these home-workshop tyre inflators will blow you away?

## 1 Birzman Maha Grand P&T III £69.99

**SO GOOD...** Birzman's metal barrel gives a smooth action. The base is stable, the gauge is large, the hose is long and there's a bleed valve on the head to adjust pressures. Its high-pressure capacity (220psi) is handy for those with road bikes as well as MTBs.

**NO GOOD...** The Push & Twist head can be difficult to screw onto Schrader valves, causing air loss. We didn't find the gauge as accurate as some, and its location at the base and cluttered dial make it harder to read. The low-ish volume means it takes marginally more strokes to inflate your tyres than most. It's the priciest here. [www.silverfish-uk.com](http://www.silverfish-uk.com)

MBUK ★★☆☆☆☆

## 2 Park Tool Home Mechanic PFP-8 £30

**SO GOOD...** The PFP-8's low-volume barrel delivers a light action, but it took double the strokes of the Topeak to get tyres up to full pressure. While the handle is narrow, its curved shape makes it comfy to use. The gauge is large and fairly easy to read, and goes up to 160psi. It's the joint-cheapest pump here.

**NO GOOD...** The head is basic, there's no bleed valve and our gauge wasn't that accurate. You must weight both footplates to keep it stable, and the short-ish length means you have to bend over to pump. Also, air escapes during the first few strokes (from Opsi). [www.madison.co.uk](http://www.madison.co.uk)

MBUK ★★☆☆☆☆

## 3 SKS Air-X-Press 8.0 £29.99

Value  
MBUK

**SO GOOD...** This pump is good value and, in years of use, has proven utterly bombproof, even if it doesn't feel particularly sturdy. The two-hole head works well, while the gauge goes up to 140psi, proved accurate and is easy to read from a distance. In use, the plastic handle is comfortable to hold.

**NO GOOD...** It's rather wobbly, and the hose is the shortest on test. The barrel is short, so you end up stooping to pump. While we managed to seat a tubeless tyre with the Air-X-Press, it took some furious pumping and more strokes than others. The action isn't the smoothest either. [www.zyrofischer.co.uk](http://www.zyrofischer.co.uk)

MBUK ★★☆☆☆☆



## 4 Scott Syncros Vernon 2.0HV £54.99

**SO GOOD...** HV refers to the high-volume build of this MTB-specific pump, which takes joint honours for the fewest strokes to get our tyres up to pressure. It's solidly constructed and, despite not having the widest base, remains stable during pumping. A long hose leads to an easily swappable and secure head. The gauge is mounted at the top of the barrel and has a clear PSI and bar scale. Next to this is an easy-to-access bleed valve.

**NO GOOD...** The action is fairly stiff, which makes seating tubeless tyres hard work despite the ample air volume, not helped by the basic plastic handle. A max pressure of 40psi limits its versatility. [www.scott-sports.com](http://www.scott-sports.com)

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## 5 Topeak Joeblow Mountain X £54.99

**SO GOOD...** With its high-volume metal barrel, the Joeblow gets tons of air into tyres with the fewest strokes on test and seats tubeless tyres easily. The head has a large locking lever, with separate holes for each valve type. There's a big bleed valve near the base for fine-tuning pressure, via the large, easy-to-read gauge located midway up the barrel. A rubberised handle and smooth action add to the comfy, solid feel.

**NO GOOD...** It's not quite as stable as we'd like and the hose isn't that long, so using it on bikes mounted in a workstand is tricky. The high volume means a stiffer action, and it only inflates to 60psi. [www.extrauk.co.uk](http://www.extrauk.co.uk)

MBUK ★★☆☆☆☆

## 6 Lezyne Classic Over Drive £60

Winner  
MBUK

Most  
wanted  
MBUK

**SO GOOD...** Its long, mid-volume barrel and quality metal construction help the Lezyne pump strike a great performance balance, with an easy action, smooth feel and low stroke counts. Although the gauge is at the base, it's easy to read and accurate. The hose is long, and it's easy to swap between valve types.

**NO GOOD...** There's no bleed valve for spot-on pressure adjustment. Some won't like the screw-on head, although we had no issues with the valve core working loose. Max pressure is only 60psi. [www.upgradebikes.co.uk](http://www.upgradebikes.co.uk)

MBUK ★★☆☆☆☆