

DREAM HOOPS

Got a disc brake road bike? These could be your next upgrade



If you're looking to get more from your bike, a new set of wheels is arguably the most effective way to improve its performance. Wheels can have a significant effect on weight, handling, acceleration, speed and comfort, and the introduction of disc brakes has allowed manufacturers to tinker with wheel technology in interesting ways. With no need for heat-resistant brake tracks, wheel rims can be made lighter for better acceleration, and more curved for aerodynamics. The lack of rim callipers also leaves room for rims to get wider and use bigger tyres, which can improve traction, rolling resistance and comfort.

It's too early to know if disc brakes will become a permanent feature in the pro peloton, but the wider bike market already seems convinced of the benefits, and more and more road bikes are now being launched with disc brakes. You may not own a disc brake bike now, but there's every chance your next bike could come with discs, so it's worth taking a close look at the wheel options on offer.

Reynolds Stratus Pro Disc £699

Weight: 1,702g inc skewers (front 785g, rear 917g)

Reynolds is better known for its carbon offerings but this alloy tubeless-ready wheelset is a great all-rounder. With a relatively wide 17mm internal rim width, they will happily accommodate a 25mm road tyre as well as a tubeless 38mm gravel set-up, allowing lower pressures and making the Reynolds wheel ideal for everything from long days on the tarmac to short races on muddy cyclocross courses. At £699 for the pair, they also represent excellent value for money. Although these wheels

are a touch on the hefty side, Reynolds has done a good job of keeping the weight away from the rim where it matters most (remember your GCSE Physics on rotating masses). The wheels are generally stiff, which helps with power transfer and handling, although we did notice a bit of flex at the front hub when climbing out of the saddle. We put this down to the skinny quick release skewers, and no doubt the bolt-thru axle version would reduce this – but that will depend on the fork you're using. upgradebikes.co.uk



BikesEtc

BEST
IN TEST



Rating

VERSATILITY

SPEED

VALUE

up

OVERALL

9

10