



LAUF True Grit Race Edition

US \$5,988 (approx £4,500)

Radical looking leaf-sprung suspended bike



We challenge anyone to look at the Lauf and not be instantly drawn to the fork. Essentially, it's a suspension fork, offering 30mm travel through the use of carbon fibre leaf springs. The looks divide opinions, but does it work? In a word, yes. Off-road, the True Grit feels incredible and smooths out gravel tracks, rough roads and even bridleways and rocky tracks really well, and it does so without you really noticing it. Very occasionally you will notice the fork rebounding over a larger bump but it never detracts from the performance.

The only slight downside is that on the road when pushing hard on a climb or sprint you can feel a little squish and there is more lateral

flex than a standard fork but it is amazing how quickly you forget about it.

Fork aside, the True Grit is exquisitely designed with brilliant attention to detail and lots of options covered. Three bottle cage mounts as well as the top tube mount for a 'bento box', which could be ideal for those who love longer rides, and while the bottle opener might be a bit of a gimmick in place of a front derailleur, it's a nice touch. It is possible in theory to run as a 2x drivetrain, but only using a wireless eTap system as although the front mech mount is there, there's no cable routing.

You'd expect front end comfort to be good with that fork, but we were surprised at how

smooth the back end felt too, giving a very well balanced feel overall.

The Force 1x groupset on our Race Edition is superb, especially the impressive brakes. The DT Swiss wheels are designed primarily for MTB but they are light, stiff, tubeless ready and the 22mm wide internal rim gives a broad, rounded tyre profile. The brilliant Maxxis Rambler tyres add incredible control off-road and are surprisingly quick on-road.

The Easton EC90 chainset is a rare sight, but performed impeccably and helps drop the weight to a very impressive 8kg. The finishing kit is equally good with a slight sweep in the EC70 AX bars. If there is a downside, it's that this level of performance does not come cheap.



GOOD

- **Smooth ride** – Suspension fork soaks up bumps well.
- **Frame design** – Slim, sleek tubing, loads of mounts and neat design touches.
- **Tyre clearance** – 40mm Maxxis rambler tyres are good for almost all kinds of riding.



NOT SO GOOD

- **Lateral flex** – Takes a little getting used to but doesn't affect speed or handling too much.
- **Looks** – It will get lots of curious looks and the jury is out as to whether it is good or not.
- **Satin Finish** – Can be harder to keep clean.



WEIGHT:

8.03kg (size Small Long)

FRAME: Lauf True Grit Carbon, Lauf Grit SL fork

GROUPSET: SRAM Force 1

BRAKES: SRAM Force 1

CHAINSET: Easton EC90SL, 42t

CASSETTE: SRAM 1195, 10-42

HANDLEBAR: Easton EC70 AX Carbon

STEM: Easton EA70

SADDLE: WTB Volt Pro

SEAT-POST: FSA SL-K

WHEELS: DT Swiss XR1501

TYRES: Maxxis Rambler, 40mm (measured 43mm)

CONTACT:

www.laufforks.com

Rating

FRAME
COMPONENTS
WHEELS
THE RIDE

OVERALL
8.9
10

CONCLUSION

For pure off-road performance, the Lauf is unbeatable, but it holds its performance on the road too. Fully equipped with lots of mounts it could make for an enviable bike for multi-day trips. Incredible frame design and neat touches make it easier to justify the higher price. Expensive but brilliant. 🚲