



Most wanted
MBLIK

HIGHS
Smoothly squeezed, heat resistant, lightweight control with eco-friendly oil

LOWS
Adequate rather than amazing power
Early bite point won't suit everyone



Formula Cura brake £158.95 (per end)

The Cura is the first Formula brake to use mineral oil rather than synthetic DOT fluid and it also has a conventional compression (rather than extension) actuated master cylinder. Feel is still signature Formula though, with careful set-up required for scuff-free running and early pad contact that won't suit 'lever on the grips' fans. Power is adequate rather than amazing too (their RO brake is significantly more stoppy) so aggro riders will want a 200/180mm rotor pairing.

A set we've been testing on an e-bike in the testing terrain of the Maritime Alps has only been fading slightly on the most mental and extended descents. It's also managed 850km on the first set of sintered pads, with no oil contamination either. Our second set, being used back home, has worn faster and we've had squealing issues and some slow-return pad drag in really clarty conditions, but the softly squeezed control in slippery situations is impressive.

At 404g (brake, 180mm rotor and all mounting hardware) the Cura is significantly lighter than other stoppers at this affordable price (brake only, £119). That potentially makes it a bargain if you're looking to save weight rather than add control. **Guy**
www.silverfish-uk.com

MBLIK VERDICT

Average power but signature softly modulated, early start Formula feel at an affordable price



Lezyne Digital Pressure Drive mini pump £69.99

This little alloy pump has a detachable hose, which screws neatly into the handle when not in use. A bleed valve on the hose makes it easy to unscrew the pump from the valve without removing the valve core or twisting the valve stem in the rim – a great feature, which saves faff on the trail. Its real selling point, though, is the in-built digital pressure gauge. Although we did get the odd high or low reading, for the most part we found it to be very accurate, which meant we didn't need to carry a separate digital gauge.

This is the all-rounder version of the pump, capable of inflating tyres to a whopping 120psi – useful if you have a commuter or road bike too, but the higher-volume Digital Alloy Drive (£69.99) will get mountain bike tyres up quicker. With the Digital Pressure Drive, it took us 120 strokes to inflate a (tubed) 29x2.4in tyre to 29psi. Our only real gripe is the 174g weight – we wish it were a touch lighter. **Alex**
www.upgradebikes.co.uk



WTB Convict 27.5x2.5in tyre £49.99 (Tough/High Grip version)

WTB's new Convict is a suitably thuggish-looking tyre designed for max grip in all conditions. There's a lot of growl from the big, split, one/two/one block treads on smoother surfaces but matching mechanical traction where they can dig in. The rank of supported split-top side knobs does the same when you get it leant over too, and it's potentially a promising tyre. Where WTB's offerings still fall down compared to the best of the current aggro tyres is the carcass. The 'Heavy Duty' version is nearly 1,300g and as solidly wooden and uncommunicative as old DH tyres, even at low pressure. While the 'Light' carcass saves a couple of hundred grams, it's still over a kilo and is prone to squirm and collapse if you drop pressure too low. This means the Convict isn't as controlled as similar weight, well-damped tyres like the Mavic Charge, e*thirteen TRSr and Schwalbe Magic Mary when the riding gets radical. **Guy**
www.hotlines-uk.com

