

Tech Briefs

Emergency Derailleur Hanger Fixes All Bikes



Wheels Manufacturing's emergency rear derailleur comes attached to its multitool.

BROOMFIELD, CO—Wheels Manufacturing's six-gram, emergency rear derailleur hanger packs a huge amount of safety into a small package. Riders who break a derailleur hanger only need to remove the broken hanger, remove the quick-release nut and spring, then slide the emergency hanger on the end of the quick-release. Then they'll need to replace the nut, tighten the quick release, mount the derailleur, and go. "Because the emergency hanger is moved outboard of the dropout, the derailleur cannot get to the innermost rear cogs, but it will still get you home with some of your gear range," said Daryl Nowak, sales manager at Wheels Manufacturing. A rider doesn't need to break the chain or resort to any other emergency maneuvers when a hanger breaks, Nowak noted. A

user can simply clamp it on the quick release and go. The company believes every rider ought to have one in their tool kit. The emergency hanger also is a simple insurance for tour groups, group rides and ultra-marathon races. It works with all road and mountain bikes with removable hangers, and sells for \$15.

VDO's Z Series Computers Calculate Power

ROLLINSFORD, NH—In addition to regular cycle computer functions, VDO's new Z series of wireless computers can calculate power output. All a rider does is input their weight, riding position, whether they ride mountain or road and their bike's weight. "The unit then crunches the numbers including cadence, speed and distance. But the most important part is using our inclinometer technology to calculate altitude gain and loss, which allows a credible power number," said James Penfold, president of Ibx Sports, the U.S. distributor of VDO computers. Penfold is quick to note that VDO's Z series does not replace the sophisticated SRM or Powertap power measurement systems, "but people are definitely knowledgeable about power measurement and the ability to track personal performance over a season in a more general way is the real appeal of these units. Plus they can be easily taken from bike to bike with minimal programming changes," he said. The \$235 Z1 is VDO's entry-level power measurement computer; the top-of-the-line \$350 Z3PC adds heart rate monitor, altimeter, cadence and power measurement. It also includes software to download measurements to a computer for post-ride analysis. VDO's Z3 is its middle-range offering, which sells for \$250.



Jagwire Provides Bar-Con Mounts for Tri Bars

BLOOMINGTON, MN—The thought of riders filing the insides of their carbon aerobars to fit internal-mount bar-con expansion plugs makes bar makers shudder. Jagwire's Bar-con Triathlon mounts, which accept all Shimano bar-con levers, use an external mount that grabs carbon bars on the outside and is sometimes a better option than internal expansion plugs. In addition, the mount can rotate for preferred lever placement without touching the lever itself. "Surprisingly, in certain circles our bar-con kit is being used to provide fingertip shifting on H-bar extensions, really giving a rider another hand option," said Jason Grantz, Jagwire USA's general manager. "And riders of the WTB drop bar find the inner diameter of the bar too small for the usual bar-con expansion plugs, but our mount works great on WTB bars." Jagwire is working with SRAM to develop mounts compatible with SRAM's bar-cons by fall. The company hopes to offer black and silver color options in addition to the current gold later this year. The \$75 kit includes bar-con mounts, derailleur cable, housing and shims to fit bars with 25.4- or 22.2-millimeter, outside-diameter bars.