

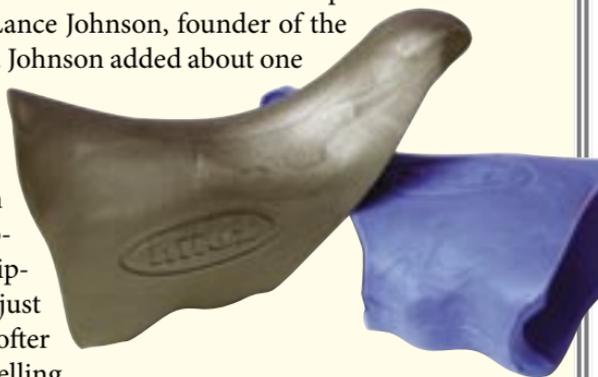
# Tech Briefs

## Fewer Bearings Make the AER Headset Light

FLETCHER, NC—Cane Creek's \$125 AER headset weighs 45 grams or about half the weight of a normal lightweight headset. AER achieves its feather weight using half the bearings and about half the volume of 7075 aluminum in its bearing cups compared to traditional headsets. The company replaced the top steel bearing with a Norglide synthetic bushing, and it removed large portions of the bearing cups that press into the headtube. "We are targeting weight-weenie roadies and we are not recommending it for mountain bike use," said Josh Coaplen, R&D director for Cane Creek. One of Cane Creek's reservations about mountain bike use is how pressure washing—which can drive grit into labyrinth sealed conventional bearings—will impact bushing performance. The AER isn't as forgiving of sloppy installation as a two-bearing headset and the installer needs to pay attention to pre-loading instructions. But once installed properly, a rider will notice no difference. "I can't say it will be smoother than a traditional headset, but it's as smooth. The bushing lasts about 450 hours in normal use, which is quite a while," Coaplen said. AER also comes in an Integrated System (IS) version that weighs 33 grams. The IS version gets the top Norglide bushing but not the heavily machined bearing cups. IS headsets are void of cups.

## Custom Brake Hoods Update Bike Ergonomics

BOULDER, CO—What better way to change the look and feel of a bike than to swap out stock brake hoods for a set of colorful \$30 Hudz? Hudz are available for Dura-Ace 7800, Ultegra 6600, Campy Ergo 2 and all SRAM Double-Tap levers in 14 colors and a choice of rubber durometers—Original and SoftGrip. "Our goal was to stay true to the feel and function of the stock hood but to improve ergonomics when possible," said Lance Johnson, founder of the aftermarket brake hoods company. Johnson added about one centimeter to the vertical height of the Dura-Ace Hudz, smoothed the transition from the bar to the hood and added finger contours on the underside. Hudz's Original rubber durometer is like original equipment hood rubber; SoftGrip is just like it sounds—the hoods are softer and tackier to grip. "Dealers are telling me that they are doing a lot of business selling saddles, bar tape, water-bottle cages and Hudz. Riders get a new looking bike for little money," Johnson said. Hudz offers a custom color program for dealers. Color options include swirling colors together. The company also sells cable donuts in colors to match its Hudz. It's working on new models to fit 7900 Dura-Ace, 11-speed Campy levers and others.



## LED Dynamo Hubs Are Light, Exert Less Drag

HILLSBOROUGH, NH—LED lights are the gift that keeps on giving. Not only are they light, brighter, rugged and easy on the environment, their low-power demands mean dynamo hubs can be made lighter and exert less drag. Schmidt, long the standard in dynamo hubs, has a new lightweight hub line that powers halogen or LED lights. The 390-gram SON20R is about 200 grams lighter than previous Schmidt hubs and comes with ISO or Shimano Centerlock disc-brake compatibility. "The SON20R is designed for 16- and 20-inch wheels but we hope to have the SON28R for 700c wheels shortly," said Sheena Gerhat, who works in Peter White Cycles' customer service. Peter White Cycles distributes the Schmidt product line. The low power requirement of LED lights lowers dynamo hub drag to the point that some riders leave the lights on all the time. Not only do they gain reliability by not having a switch in the system, but they increase their visibility using a bright light during daylight hours. Prices for the current SON20R run range \$260 to \$330 depending on disc compatibility and color option. The forthcoming 700c hub will be priced in the same range.