

# Tech Briefs

## Light Shines on Riders' Legs for Added Safety



LONG BEACH, CA—Safe Bicycling Innovations is offering a new take on bike lighting to keep commuters safe at night. Instead of lighting the road where a cyclist is headed, the company's light illuminates the rider. "I was commuting to work one dark morning and I almost got hit by a guy backing out of his driveway. I had on head and taillights but I realized those lights offer little protection from the side," said James Carillo, Safe Bicycle Innovations' president. The

light uses 16 LEDs, eight on each side, and mounts to a bicycle seat tube or seatpost to illuminate the back of a rider's legs. "Not only does that greatly increase side visibility, but the movement of a rider's legs gets attention," Carillo said. The \$99 light is not meant to replace a commuter's front and rear lights, but to supplement them. It mounts with a Velcro strap and silicon pads. It uses rechargeable batteries and can be set for strobe or continuous light.

## Khakis Incorporate Hidden Reflective Liners

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Cordarounds' Bike to Work pants look like regular khaki office pants. However, pull out the reflective-lined back pockets and roll up the pant legs to expose a reflective liner, and the pants turn into eye-burning safety clothing. "We tested the usual features that people think of when they think bicycle pants—gusseted crotch and cinched lower legs," said Chris Lindland, founder of Cordarounds. "But all cinching the pant legs did was make the pants too wrinkled to wear around the office, and most bike people like the rolled-up pant leg look." Lindland opted



to make the pants look like high-quality office pants on the outside, hiding the highly reflective rear pocket liners and lower pant liners inside the garment. The 12-inch Teflon Illuminate liner on the lower leg also shrugs off grease, rain and muck kicked up when riding. "The longer rear pocket liners flap while riding, really catching the attention of approaching cars," Lindland said. The pants come in brown, green and khaki, in waist sizes 30 to 38, and in 32- or 36-inch lengths. They sell for \$95. The company hopes to offer a women's pant and an office-ready cycling jacket soon. Dealers interested should contact Lindland through the company's Web site, [www.cordarounds.com](http://www.cordarounds.com).

## Shimano Offers Capreo for Small Wheel Bikes

IRVINE, CA—What do you call a component group with a rear cassette that goes down to nine teeth? Capreo. That's the name of a Shimano road group that targets small-wheel folding bikes and recumbents. Capreo parts have been available to Asian and European builders for the past few years, but the company is stepping up its marketing of the group to North American riders. "Folding bikes are taking off in our market and if any of our large cities follow London's congestion charge lead, the market could really explode," said Dave Lawrence, Shimano's road product manager.



"So we want to get the word out that we have Ultegra-level equipment with technology designed specifically for folding bikes," he added. Capreo's rear derailleur has a unique parallelogram design to follow the smaller cogs. Capreo does not offer a front derailleur because most folding bikes are designed to keep the drivetrain simple and compact. The cranks are only available in 165 and 170 millimeters to make folding a bike easier. Shimano also tuned its V-brakes to work with smaller wheels, and offers an anti-skid modulator.