

# BIKE STUFF YOU CAN USE

by Mike Deme

## Stone Cold Outdoor Bicycle Cooler Bag (\$29.95, [stonecoldoutdoor.com](http://stonecoldoutdoor.com), 913-236-0449)

Going out for a pleasant summer ride to your favorite picnic spot and you want to make sure your beverage of choice is nice and frosty when you get there? Or maybe you want to pack a lunch and ride to work? For whatever reason you might need to carry a cooler on your bike, the Stone Cold Bicycle Cooler Bag may be for you.

Basically, it's a nylon cooler/pannier lined with 10mm-thick insulating foam that keeps drinks cold for hours, and you can add two square cooler bag bottles (\$9.99 each) that fit perfectly into the bag.

It attaches to your rack with two



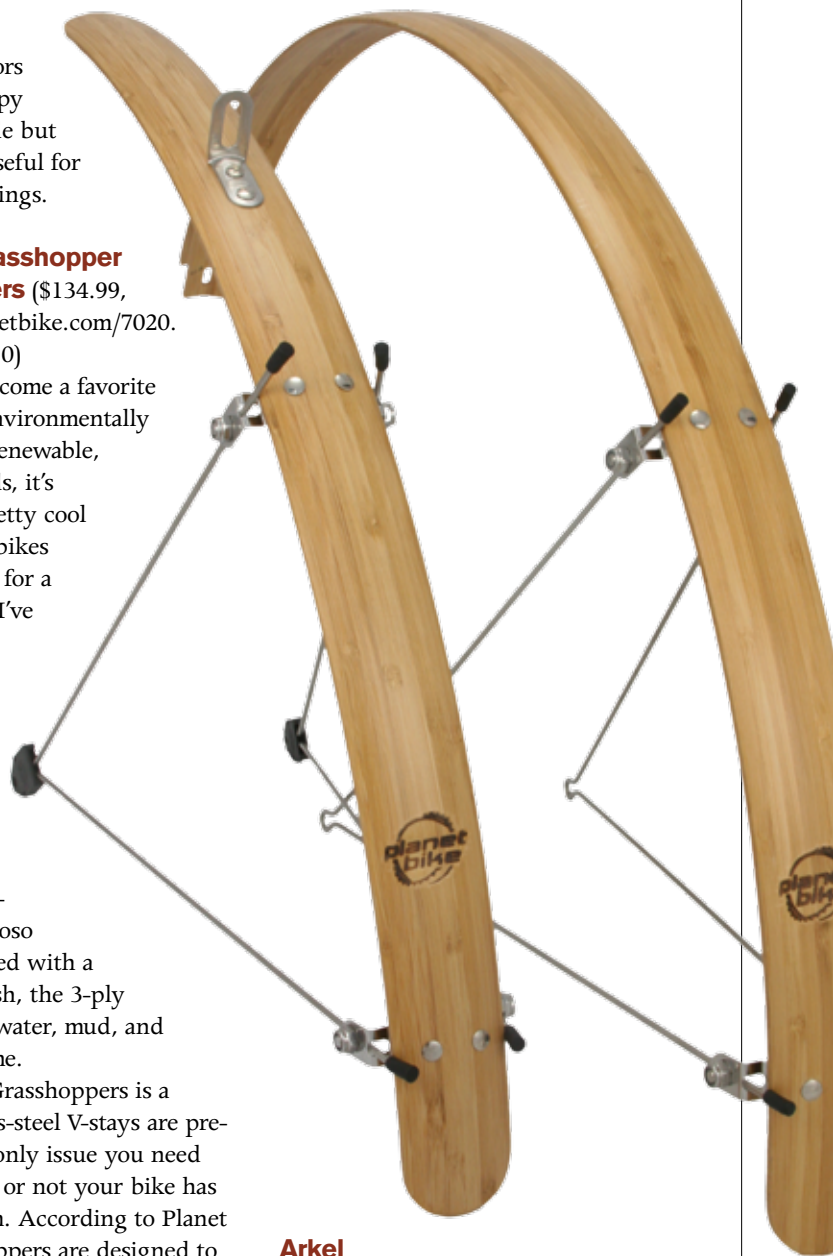
frame hooks and can be secured to the bottom of the rack using the supplied velcro strap and D-rings located at the bottom of the bag. While this solution works well on mildly rough surfaces, the Stone Cold Cooler is not designed to

withstand the rigors of a severely bumpy mountain-bike ride but you may find it useful for less strenuous outings.

## Planet Bike Grasshopper Bamboo Fenders (\$134.99, <http://ecom1.planetbike.com/7020.html>, 866-256-8510)

Bamboo has become a favorite material for the environmentally conscious — it's renewable, it grows like weeds, it's strong, and it's pretty cool looking. Bamboo bikes have been around for a while and, lately, I've seen bamboo bike trailers, handle-bar grips, and saddles. Planet Bike decided to take it a step further and create the Grasshopper fenders. Made from Moso bamboo and treated with a marine-grade finish, the 3-ply fenders repel the water, mud, and road assorted grime.

Installing the Grasshoppers is a snap. The stainless-steel V-stays are pre-installed and the only issue you need to face is whether or not your bike has clearance for them. According to Planet Bike, the Grasshoppers are designed to fit over tires of 27" x 1 1/4" or 700C x 35mm, however, your frame, fork, and brake configuration may also need to be taken into consideration. If you're thinking about buying a set of Grasshoppers but have questions about whether they'll fit your bike, drop by your local bike shop and see what the pros think.



## Arkel OverDesigns Randonneur Rack (\$89.95, [arkel-od.com/us/arkel-randonneur-rack.html](http://arkel-od.com/us/arkel-randonneur-rack.html), 888-592-7535)

If you're looking for a versatile rear rack for a trunk bag, look no further than the Randonneur from Arkel. Unlike other racks that attach to your

seatpost, the Randonneur employs a three-point attachment system. A quick-release bracket slips through your saddle rails and is secured to them creating the first two points of attachment. The third point is your seatpost, to which a rubberized clamp attaches and is secured with a velcro strap. Once the rack is in place and all necessary 4-millimeter hex nuts are tightened, the Randonneur is solidly attached and ready to carry your load (Arkel's Tailrider makes the perfect companion). Additionally, it can be removed and reattached very quickly so you can switch it between or among your different bikes.

The Randonneur is designed to fit bikes with both short and long seatposts. It is initially configured for the long seatpost set up but with a few adjustments, mainly the removal of the extension brackets and repositioning of the quick-release mechanism, you can arrive at the short seatpost set up in no time. Whether in the long or short set up, you'll need 4 inches from the saddle rails to your seatpost clamp.

There is one catch, however. Since the saddle rails are used as attachment points, the quick-release mechanism will only securely attach to rails that are 2.5 cm apart. Because there are so many saddles with different rail configurations, the Randonneur may not fit them all. Arkel is aware of this and is working on adapters that will help alleviate this issue.

**Simple Pleasures Quick-True Tool** (\$41.95, [spbicycles.com/products](http://spbicycles.com/products), 541-408-2960)

There are a lot of mechanical issues that crop up on a bike ride or tour that can be repaired onsite, but one that often causes the need for a lift to the bike shop is a warped rim. Well, if you don't mind carrying eight ounces in your pack, you can now handle that repair as well thanks to the Quick-True Tool from Simple Pleasures.

Consisting of the tool base, slider rod, adjuster head, and indicator screw,



the Quick-True can attach to your chainstay, seat stay, or fork via rubber mounting straps. Once it's been secured, you use the adjuster head and indicator screw to find the section of your wheel that is out of true. When you've found it,



you can use the included spoke wrench to begin the process of straightening your rim using basic wheel-truing techniques. Pretty nifty.

Simple Pleasures states that there are limitations to what the Quick-True can handle so if you completely taco your wheel you're probably still going to need that lift to the shop, but within 5 to 6 millimeters or warping, it should do the trick.

**Deuter Front Triangle Bag** (\$18, [deuterusa.com](http://deuterusa.com), 877-384-9252)



If you're looking to carry some basic gear and are also thinking about trying out a framepack for the first time, you might want to consider the

Deuter Front Triangle Bag. At 4 ounces, it's constructed of 210 Denier nylon with ripstop threading and is PU coated. At this weight, it

barely adds to the gear you're carrying. Its dimensions are 4.7" high x 14" wide x 2" deep so it fits nicely in the triangle behind your head tube, and it attaches via two velcro straps to the top tube and one to the down tube. One issue that you might take into consideration is whether and/or where you carry a water bottle on your frame. If you do, and it's located on your down tube, the Front Triangle Bag may run interference between you and your favorite liquid. If your frame is quite large, you may not have this problem.

**Bolle Helix** (\$169.99, [bolle.com/products/helix/crystal-smoke-rose-blue.aspx](http://bolle.com/products/helix/crystal-smoke-rose-blue.aspx), 800-423-3537)



Although they are categorized for medium-sized faces, the Helix offers a larger lens similar to glasses designed for larger faces, and they offer some interesting and unique design qualities. The pinless hinges allow for quiet and smooth operation of the

temples and reduce the possibility of mechanical breakdown. The use of Thermogrip, a hydrophilic rubberlike material, on both the temples and the nose pad helps reduce slipping, keeping the glasses firmly

in place. The best feature of the Helix, however, is the adjustable nose pad. Both “wings” of the nose pad are free of the frame and can be maneuvered forward and backward, which allows for the adjustment of the glasses away from or closer to your face. They can also be adjusted inward and outward to accommodate thinner or wider noses. Not only that, but they can self adjust by applying a bit of pressure so that the nose pad conforms to your particular features. The bridge of my nose is wide and crooked (read broken many times) and, after a bit of pressure, the nose pads look as if they’ve been tortured, but they fit my face very well. This feature helps eliminate the crooked look that many non-adjustable glasses give.

The Helix comes in a variety of frame and lens colors, offering something for everyone, from the flashy white and orange to the subdued black and grey. If you’re looking for a new pair of shades, the Bolle Helix is a good match for cyclists.

**Optic Nerve Eyeque** (nerveusa.com, 800-234-0735)

The Eyeque is designed to fit medium



and smaller faces and offers excellent value. The Eyeque comes in two versions: photomatic (\$69) and IC (\$59).

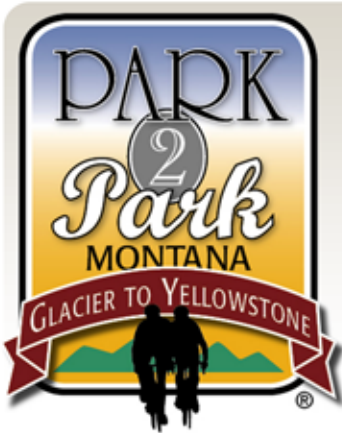
The Optic Nerve photomatic system incorporates crystals embedded in the polycarbonate resin of the lens. It’s these crystals that darken when exposed to UV rays. The more UV, the darker they get, lessening the amount of UV that reaches your eyes. Out of the case, the lenses are light brown and continue to darken depending on the amount of UV detected. It works pretty well. It happens so gradually that it’s really not noticeable while it’s happening, but when you take the glasses off, you notice the color change. One drawback is that photomatic glasses are best used when they won’t get splattered by mud. When the mud covers a portion

of the lens, the UV detection mechanism is tricked and the crystals lighten. Once the mud is removed, it takes some

time for them to darken again so for a short time there’s an uneven distribution of lighter and darker portions of the lens.

If you’re not interested in the photomatic version, the IC version is the same but offers a variety of options and interchangeable lenses. You can get any combination of frames (white, black, or blue) and lenses (metallic blue, orange, brown, or clear). Both offer a slip-free tactile rubber nose pad and lens venting, provided by a slot in the outer edge of each lens which enhances air circulation between the lens and the eye, helping to reduce fogging.

If you’d like to give the photomatic version a try, they’re available through Adventure Cycling’s *Cyclosource* catalog or online at <http://www.adventurecycling.org/store/index.cfm/category/25/miscellaneous.cfm>. **AC**



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