

Six of the best cycle gadgets

By Peter Jenkinson

As a kid, you may have delighted in adding a comedy horn to your bike - or an irritating electronic siren to let folk know you were on the way. You may also have revelled in the sound made by that lollipop stick you stuck between your spokes to rather unrealistically mimic the roar of a motorbike.

Now that you're all grown-up, and cycling is as much a commuter pursuit as it is for fun, let us introduce you to a few gadgets to enhance your two-wheel pedal experience.

With any one of these items as part of your cycling arsenal, you'll look like a true pro even if you've only recently said sayonara to those stabilisers.

Wind Power - Hymini charger

£44.99 plus £9.99 for bike mounting kit from www.nigelsecostore.co.uk

Mount one of these gadgets on your handle bars and transform your cycle into a touring power station, of sorts. The mini turbine comes with several different attachments so you can plug in a digital camera or mobile phone and juice them up enough for an extra 50 snaps or 15 extra minutes of talk time.

Music on the move - Lavod MP3 tube -

£99.95 from www.firebox.com

Don't tangle yourself up in wires on your bike, this nifty new gadget has enough space on its internal memory for hundreds of digital tracks to blast out of the built-in speaker. A simple twist on the control tube allows you to skip tracks and adjust the volume as you pedal, while at the opposite end there's a flash light for added safety after hours.

Look no hands- Bicygnals -

£39.99 from www.halfords.com

Letting other road users know which way you are turning is not only common courtesy but is an obvious safety measure, yet taking your hand off the handlebars just isn't. Attach this pair of Bicygnals to the front and back of your bike and, at the flick of a switch, your indicators will blink brightly and then after 30 seconds switch themselves off in case you forget.

Flashing feet - Pedalite pedals -



£34.99 from www.iwantoneofthose.com

Replace your existing pedals with a pair of these and you can't fail to be seen as the red, white and orange lights flash furiously without the need for batteries.

Powered by kinetic energy, the pedals also continue to flash for up to five minutes after you've stopped cycling, so you're highly visible even when at a standstill.



Information station - Garmin 705

£266.39 from www.thenavigationcompany.com

Having a SatNav system on your cycle might seem a little over the top, but imagine being able to simply enjoy the ride and the scenery as the map gives you turn-by-turn guides to your destination without having to pause for a thumb through that tatty map in your pocket.

The Garmin also offers information on heart rate, how high you've climbed and time to destination, and also lets you store your favourite routes.

Half Helmet - Stash foldable helmet -

£49.99 from www.boysstuff.co.uk

Wearing safety equipment on the roads is an absolute must, but the bulkiness of the cycle helmet does put some people off as it is a pain to squeeze in a rucksack.

This high-specification helmet folds away to almost half its original