

'07 HEAVEN THE BUYER'S GUIDE

MOUNTAIN BIKE

A SUPPLEMENT
TO RODALE INC.

WIN FREE
STUFF
(p. 16)



Scott's radical Spark
Limited—there's no seatpost.
Plus 62 other bikes inside.



The Ellsworth Rogue freeride bike climbs as easily as it descends. Read about it on p. 52.

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Get comfortable. The moment you lay eyes on this year's Buyer's Guide, you'll have a hard time walking away from it. Once again, we went above and beyond to bring you the best bikes of each type (see the categories listed below). We also reviewed loads of gear for your dreaming pleasure.

BY MOUNTAIN BIKE STAFF

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20 EYE CANDY

We grabbed our favorite goodies from the Buyer's Guide and zoomed in on them to give you a closer look at what makes them so special.

BY MOUNTAIN BIKE STAFF

COVER: The Scott Spark Limited, tested on p. 70. Photograph by Thomas MacDonald.

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➤ Ellsworth Rogue \$2,395*

While most freeride bikes are big, heavy gravity sleds, Ellsworth's Rogue is on the bleeding edge of a big change to the genre. That's because the Rogue is a freeride bike that's especially light, but with surprising all-mountain capabilities. Our test sled came spec'd for heavy-duty freeriding with FOX's massive, and glorious, 8-inch-travel 40 RC2 fork. However, in order to do some preliminary test rides before our first day of shuttling, we put a 6.3-inch travel FOX 36 on the front simply to ease our pain on SoCal's steep climbs. We expected a character-building slog, but, to our surprise, the Rogue showed remarkable climbing tenacity. We've always found smaller-travel Ellsworths to be very efficient pedalers and great climbers—and this longer-travel model carries on the tradition. Given its climbing skills, we thought the Rogue might have it all backward (all climb, no descending ability), like those innovators of rap, Kris Kross—kids, look it up on Wikipedia.

Pointing the Rogue downhill erased any doubts, though. It's a good freerider, because it's stiff, stable, and has gobs of travel. The suspension quality is tops, providing a ride that's at once supple and hooked up, yet has the control and bottoming resistance for those Kodak lines and drops.

With FOX's 40, we would use the Rogue to ride Whistler as well as The Shore. But, with a shorter-travel fork like the 36 on the front, we could also use it as a big-travel all-mountain bike. Our only complaint is that the massive rocker is wide enough to brush some riders' calves. The Rogue is at its best as a freeride bike. However, if you plan to make use of its pedals for more than getting from the parking lot to the lift, the Rogue's next-generation attributes make it a bike to lust after.—*Matt Phillips*

HIGH: A freeride bike with excellent pedaling efficiency **LOW:** Wide rocker bangs some calves **SIZES:** S (tested), L **WEIGHT:** 38.5 lb. (S) **FRAME:** Custom butted aluminum; FOX DHX 5.0 shock w/ 203mm travel **FORK:** FOX 40 RC2 w/ 200mm travel **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** SRAM X.0 shifters, rear derailleur, PG-990 cassette; Truvativ Holzfeller crank; Avid Juicy Seven disc brakes; Industry Nine freeride/DH wheels; Kenda Blue Groove/Nevegal tires; AtomLab bar and stem; FSA FR200 seatpost



*Frame only; \$5,825 as tested

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Ellsworth's Rogue is a freeride bike with stupendous pedaling efficiency—and it's shockingly light for the segment.