

Felt Bikes Increases Your Choices

More of a good thing coming your way

Felt Bicycles has a problem, and it is a good problem to have. They have been too successful. Their strong triathlon performances have overshadowed their mountain bike line. They are always thought of as that "tri company," and that gets their mountain bike guys bummed out.

While mountain bike sales still don't reach the level of the tri-bikes, the gap is closing. The big news for 2012 (at least the news of what has been released so far) is that Felt is making their mountain bikes available in more models to make their bikes available at all-new price points. □



Budget deal: Felt's \$10,000 Edict Limited dual-suspension, World Cup, cross-country race bike is joined by this \$5500 Edict Pro model, which gets a UHC Advanced DMC carbon frame and a Shimano XT 2x10 drivetrain. The stays are the same—FAST (Felt Active Stay Technology) pivotless rear suspension—as the ones on the Limited.



The Q factor: Felt's more affordable bikes certainly don't look cheap. They are bikes, like the Q620, that are worthy of component upgrades as your ability and budget grow.



Fast company: Bill Duehring (left) is the guy who makes sure that Jim Felt (far right) gets off his bike long enough to work his design magic. Olympic medalist Michelle Jones doesn't care how much Jim rides as long as he keeps her supplied with fast bikes.



The good flex: Felt uses FAST (Felt Active Stay Technology) pivotless rear suspension on their Edict models. The carbon fiber seatstays are engineered to flex just enough to act as the rear suspension's pivot. It wouldn't work on a long-travel suspension, but for 3.9 inches of travel, it is adequate.



Training wheels: We call the Q24 the FFK model (or "For Fast Kids"). It is designed around 24-inch wheels, and the frame is Felt's own aluminum tubing. Felt gives your youngster a taste of suspension with a 2-inch-travel fork.

Big-wheel expansion: The Nine series (29-inch-wheel hardtails) gets a major expansion with two carbon-framed bikes, the Team and the Elite (shown), and five aluminum-framed models. Prices will range from \$599 to \$5999. The \$2799 Elite carbon-framed 29er uses a SRAM 2x10 drivetrain and 3.1-inch-travel RockShox Reba RL fork.



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