



DIAMONDBACK JOKER

DB has always prided themselves not only in making quality bikes for the high-end rider, but also their more affordable bikes that help riders get their start, regardless of budget. Since Diamondback makes a few bikes in this price range, we chose the Joker, so you can see just how diverse the bikes that are available can be. This bike has it all, with four pegs, 48-spoke wheels with 14mm axles, front and rear Tekro U-brakes, an SST detangler, complete with DC Amplifier and soft pads, and beefy 2.1-inch DB Cellblock tires. What's the compromise? We can't find it, as this bike also comes with tubular three-piece cranks, a compact frame with "Pro" level design features and DB Sound aluminum pedals. So if the freestyle bug has bitten you, don't feel you have to settle, or change the way you want to ride, just because money is tight.

HEAVIEST BIKE
MOST POSSIBILITIES
MOST DURABLE



The Joker is an aspiring freestyle rider's dream with all the frills and compact geometry for small riders to perfect their skills.

DIAMONDBACK
HEAD TUBE: 74°
SEAT TUBE: 70°
TOP TUBE: 19.5"
CHAINSTAY: 14.25"
WEIGHT: 34.9 lb.
PRICE: \$199

WHAT WE LIKED

The top feature of the Diamondback is undoubtedly its limitless potential. As the only bike with four pegs and front brakes, we took it straight to the ramps and it felt right at home. Its compact frame design was perfect for our smaller test rider, and when you combine all the performance-enhancing features of its brake system, tricks on either wheel are a real possibility, which is often a challenge for bikes that are much more expensive, so we especially appreciate it in this price range. We loved the Cellblock tires on the ramps, biting into cement and wood equally well. Since we like to go big or go home, we really put the tubular three-piece cranks to the test, as well as the 48-spoked wheels, which both held up to all we could dish out, without so much as flinching. While we

are in the area, we also loved the new DB Sound pedals so much, for both their feel and traction; we had to stop a test rider or two from trying to "borrow" them after the test.

WHAT WE DIDN'T LIKE

The Joker was by far the heaviest bike in the test, though obviously the most outfitted. If you are into freestyle riding, then a little extra weight is something you will have to consider dealing with in the long run. That aside, we really like the idea of using 14mm axles on bikes that will no doubt be abused as riders learn to perfect their flow and skill, but on a bike this compact, obviously designed for smaller riders, a 3/8-inch axle up front would have saved a little weight and been plenty strong. At least you can do eight-foot airs straight into toothpicks with confidence.

