

THE HYBRID BIKE

[AKA THE CITY BIKE, TOWN BIKE, CROSS BIKE, OR COMMUTER]

So called because it is a happy mix of mountain and road bike, the hybrid is great for commuters who might also want to do a bit of leisure or fitness riding at the weekends. Generally, it offers the comfort and ease of a vintage bike but without the weight – though it is a far less handsome machine. The *Guardian* columnist Zoe Williams once referred to it as ‘the bike equivalent of elasticated trouser’, which sums up the hybrid’s lack of street cred rather brilliantly. Expect to pay £200–£700 for a new model.

PROS

- Quite cheap for what you get
- Easy to ride
- Durable
- Flexible – good for commuting as well as weekend adventuring
- Lighter and faster than the Dutch bike

CONS

- Often rather ugly and usually come in very boring colours
- Generally come with derailleurs gears, which is a system of sprockets (bike-speak for cogs) and pulleys. Good for getting a good range of gears, but makes it difficult to fit a chain guard and more likely to be affected by adverse weather
- Their neither one thing nor t’other nature can be a disadvantage if you find you want to use the bike for sport

