



# THE TOYS OF WINTER

5 FUN—AND INEXPENSIVE—RIDES TO HELP YOU BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

**Y**ou've ridden all summer and the weather's gone bad, but that's no reason to stop riding. We've tested a handful of bikes that, for a modest outlay, will keep you entertained and riding all winter long. Plus, we give you some workout tips and benefits to help you make the most of these sweet rides.

## JAMIS SPUTNIK

If you find truth and romance in stripping down to the basics of self-improvement—like the training scene in Rocky IV where Sly Stallone faces the “Soviet” Dolph Lundgren—ride a Sputnik this winter. Using a fixed-gear bike (which has no freewheel, hence no coasting) can make you a smoother and stronger rider, plus it's darn fun. And the Sputnik is an ideal choice for its combination of performance, value and comfort.

Unlike many fixies sold today, the Sputnik is designed to be used on the road, not at the velodrome. Its traditional road bike geometry results in predictable, though not sluggish, handling, and a smooth ride. A track bike thrusts a rider forward and has razor-sharp handling, but the Sputnik feels instantly comfortable. It isn't overly stiff, as is a traditional track bike, but it was responsive at any speed. Nice touches include bottle bosses, chain tension screws on the horizontal dropouts for fine tuning, and a flip-flop rear hub so you can mount a freewheel. We wish that the brake kit, a necessity for any sane rider, was standard, not an upsell. Also, the bike should come with easier road gearing (48x15 is a standard track gear) to match its road geometry. Still, based on our test rides through the farm country with light rolling hills, we think the Sputnik is so dreamy that you can forget you have a fixed-gear—though you'd better not. —Loren Mooney

**PRICE:** \$700 (brake kit, \$50) **HIT:** Instant comfort and confidence **MISS:** For max fitness benefit, you'll need to swap in an easier gear **WEIGHT:** 18.0lb. (53cm, w/brake) **SIZES:** 50,53 (tested), 55, 57, 59, 62cm **FRAME:** Reynolds 631 chromoly steel **FORK:** Easton EC70 carbon fiber w/alloy steerer **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** RPM forged-alloy 48t crankset; Formula 15t cog; FSA Powerdrive bottom bracket set; Tektro 423AG front brake and R200A levers; Alex DA22 rims; Formula alloy sealed track hubs, flip-flop rear; Vittoria Zaffiro 23c tires; Ritchey Comp handlebar, stem and seatpost; Selle San Marco Ponzia Lux saddle **CONTACT:** jamisbikes.com

