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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008  
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# Gear

When you're talking about the Jamis Xenith Comp (p. 88), or any of the four bikes reviewed here, value is only one of the virtues on offer.

## THE NEW LOOK OF VALUE

HERE, A GOOD DEAL IS MORE THAN A SIMPLE FISCAL DECISION—IT'S EXHILARATING.

Sometimes "value" means settling for less and cutting corners. But sometimes—as with these four bikes—it means getting more than you paid for. These rigs offer not only a lot for your money, but also more than you might expect for the price. From the surprising comfort and climbing ability of the \$770 Trek 1.2 to boutique manufacturer Parlee's \$5,800 Z4, a U.S.-made, carbon bike that's less expensive than competing models from larger manufacturers, these are bikes that wear the badge with pride.



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## JAMIS XENITH COMP

Jamis's Xenith Comp is a carbon bike with an amazing ride quality at a head-scratching price—just 1,850 samoleans. The Comp has the same monocoque frame mold and geometry as Jamis's top-shelf Carbon Race Xenith SL, but uses a simpler and less expensive layup of high-modulus carbons than the SL. The top and down tubes are tri-oval in shape, and the asymmetrical chainstays are ride tuned to resist twisting. For 2008, Jamis developed a new compaction process, which lets it use less resin to bond the carbon for a lighter frame that's just as strong. This process also allows a new oversized bottom-bracket area that improves stiffness and responsiveness. And the fork is full carbon, down to the steerer and dropouts.

We tested the bike on SoCal coastal roads and found that its price belied its capabilities. The well-built frame forms a generous platform for acceleration and stability, and the new bottom-bracket junction and oversized seat tube create a high-end feel during climbs or sprints for the city-limit sign. Still, the careful construction yields a degree of comfort for centuries or coffee-crew ventures. The bike feels stable at speed, but can cut a sharp line through traffic; it's aggressive when required yet capable of comfortable, everyday riding. The Xenith Comp blurs the line between expensive and affordable framesets. Hang some lightweight parts on it, and you'll have a super performer that will grow along with your abilities.—*Mike Cushionbury*

Jamis takes value to a new level with the versatile Xenith Comp (left);

**HIT:** Well-designed frame can handle it all **MISSES:** The frame's performance casts a spotlight on the wheels, which dull acceleration and are lackluster in comparison; brake pads lost their initial sharp grab after a few rides  
**PRICE:** \$1,850 **WEIGHT:** 18.86 lb. (56cm) **SIZES:** 48, 51, 54, 56 (tested), 58, 61cm  
**FRAME:** DYAD T700/M30 monocoque carbon **FORK:** Jamis carbon w/ carbon steerer **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano 105 shifters and brake levers, Ultegra rear derailleur, R-560 dual-pivot brakes, R500 wheelset; FSA Gossamer compact crank; Easton EA30 bar, stem; Jamis Carbon seatpost **INFO:** jamisbikes.com

