

eXotic Matrix Stem review

by Moe



Mmm Carbon....What's so sexy about Carbon Fiber? Is it the weave pattern? how light it is? its dampening properties? I don't know but Carbon Fiber is one of my favorite bike materials. When RL showed me the [eXotic Matrix stem](#), I knew that this stem BELONGED to my KHS Team Alite.



The installation was quick and easy, I just needed an extra spacer and I was ready to hit the trail. We opted for the 90mm stem, this was the right decision as the steering of my Alite Team became more nimble but still very responsive.





For those gram counters, the eXotic Matrix stem is 142 grams, 28 grams less than my Ritchey Comp stem and 18 grams less than a comparable Thomson Elite stem.



I was a little concerned about the rigidity of the stem, the stem showed no flex whatsoever. I was also concerned about the possibility of breaking it, but after reading about the Matrix process:

MatriX is the manufacture process for melding aluminum or alloy with carbon fibre. It allows our components to take advantage of the strengths of both materials. Carbon fibre is light and strong and alloy is heavy but flexible, so in matriX we get the best of both material's properties.

I was reassured that the stem would take the stress of riding off-road. So was I able to feel the dampening properties of Carbon Fiber? Well, not really... My SID Race fork does most of the dampening.

PROS:

Sexy looking stem

Lightweight

Not a bank breaker, the stem sells for \$63.40 at www.discobrakes.com

CONS:

Limited degree angles.

Would I recommend the eXotic MatriX stem? If you are Carbon Fiber fixated or a weight weenie and don't want to spend over one hundred bucks for a Carbon Fiber stem, this stem is for you.