

Words: Jamie Wilkins Photography: Jon Ashelford



FOFFA ONE { £350 }

The lower down the price scale you go, the harder it is to find a bike that retains some half-decent components and is possessed of ride characteristics that make you smile rather than wince.

By £350 you're pushing your luck and you'll likely have to wade through lots of poorly made and badly equipped bikes to find something you actually want to ride. This is where the new Foffa One sweeps in to save the day. Foffa's Prima, the singlespeed on which the One is based, starts at £545. However, by making it an off-the-peg bike only and specifying components that offer the maximum value for money, Foffa have been able to price the One at just £350.

At its heart is a 4130 chromoly frame that has a really satisfying zing to it. Granted, you won't mistake it for a high-end XCR or titanium frame - either from the saddle or from 10 paces back - but likewise, nor will you be forced to resign yourself to a charmless, lumpy ride. A good steel frame should be pleasing at a casual pace and this one is.

The alloy bull bar is the only shape available but that's fine because it looks good and offers extra hand positions compared to a straight bar without asking

you to bend double onto a drop bar. The colour matched bar tape and saddle are comfortable to use and look good, especially this really stylish slate grey and light brown combination. The One also comes in all-black and burgundy/white.

The 48x18t (70in) gear is perfectly judged, allowing low-effort cruising around town and the ability to get up gradual hills without walking. The Promax brakes are entirely decent and the 'aero' 30mm wheels feel sturdy and don't flex all over the place when you get out of the saddle to stomp up a rise. Some of the parts feel a bit cheap but when the price of the whole bike is *really* cheap, that's actually a compliment, albeit a slightly backhanded one. Spec items such as the Kenda puncture-resistant tyres, in a comfortable 28c size, are really impressive at this price.

The One goes on sale mid-December, exclusively through Wiggle.co.uk. Foffa tell us they have more exciting new models due in the early part of next year.

{ 9 } Great looking, sweet riding and outstanding value for money

Frame Chromo 4130 steel / Fork Chromo 4130 steel / Wheels 30mm V-section rims, Joytech hubs, flip-flop rear / Transmission Forged alloy crankset, 48x18t / Brakes Promax callipers and crosstop levers www.foffabikes.com