

Best e-bike subscription services 2024 – get a bike, repairs and insurance without the long-term commitment

by Rebecca Bland May 8 2024

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Volt London riding.JPG, by Richard Peace

Spend less in the short term with an e-bike subscription

An electric bike might not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about subscriptions. But just as you pay monthly for things like Netflix or Amazon Prime, you can now do the same thing for an e-bike.

You don't technically own the bike - it works as a rental scheme - but a subscription is a great way to get an e-bike without the longer term commitment or that sizeable initial cost. Many even include things like insurance and servicing – and some even include free battery swapping so you don't need to charge them at home all the time.

If you want to gain a better understanding of the quality of some of the e-bikes on offer, we've [reviewed plenty of them](#) and a number feature in one or more of [our various e-bike buyer's guides](#).

Quite a few more brands have jumped on the bandwagon since we first produced this guide a few years ago, and what once seemed a service largely reserved for those living in London and the South-East now looks to be expanding into the rest of the country - although choices are still relatively limited outside the capital.

Volt



British brand Volt has been growing pretty rapidly the past few years, both in popularity and the range on offer. You can already lease a Volt bike on a Blike subscription, but if you're not located in their chosen cities, then direct subscription through Volt may be a better option. There are over 100 dealer locations for you to test ride the bikes first.

There are seven e-bikes to choose from, with things like the Volt London, the brand's urban single-speed option, as well as their folding e-bike, the Metro. Prices start from £100.79 per month plus a one-off £99 joining fee. Your monthly payment includes insurance as well as maintenance and a yearly service.

If you want flexibility, this is a pretty enticing service, as you can swap between bikes as you please – unless you want to pay towards buying your bike, in which case you will own it after 36 months.

Find out more on the [Volt website](#).

How to choose the right electric bike subscription

How is subscription different to hire?

Most subscription services differ to hire schemes (both 'by the minute' bike share schemes like Jump and holiday type rental schemes) in that subscription is longer term and you get to treat the bike as your own for as long as you subscribe to the service. There are often additional services included in the subscription fee such as repair call-out and insurance, though exactly what is included varies, depending on the provider.

So why might subscription suit you? It's like renting a bike on a lease contract, but in theory simpler because you don't have to pay for repairs and wear and tear, so you know exactly how much to budget for each month. Those who don't wish to get involved in bike maintenance might welcome those subscription services that offer a repair or bike swap call-out service. If insurance and a replacement e-bike is covered in the subscription payment that could also be appealing.

If you are going to be using the e-bike for self-employed work purposes, day-in, day-out, then a subscription might make sense too – it should class as a tax-deductible expense and backup services should provide some piece of mind if you are relying on the bike for daily work.

Are e-bike subscriptions worth it?

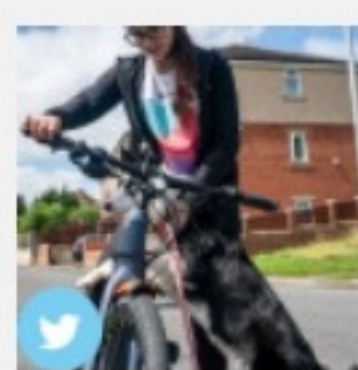
If you want to try owning an e-bike without the massive outlay, then yes, they're definitely worth it. You'll also likely get maintenance and servicing as part of your package, so that's even less for you to worry about compared to owning an e-bike. The price you pay per month will vary depending on contract length and the type of bike you want to lease, but if you fancy dipping your toes into the e-bike world without the commitment of ownership, then it may be worth considering.

Why not just buy an e-bike on credit?

Buying an e-bike on credit can be an affordable way to spread the cost of owning an e-bike, but if you lease an e-bike you will likely get things you don't get on credit - for example, insurance and maintenance. Alongside this, some schemes are flexible enough to allow you to change your mind on e-bikes, so if you decide to switch it up and go for something different, you can, whereas if you've bought a bike on credit, you'd obviously need to pay it off before switching to something else.

Electric bike reviews

Product type:
Buyer's guide



Rebecca Bland

Rebecca has been writing about e-bikes for four years, after a typically ill-timed career change pre-pandemic. She's been riding bikes since she can remember, and fell back in love with them after realising it was faster, cheaper, and more fun than getting the bus to work. Nowadays she enjoys all kinds of bikes, from road to eMTB and is training her border collie pup to become a trail dog.

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