

Reinventing the Wheels: MH Lab Tests the Best E-Bikes to Suit All Needs and Budgets

E-bikes offer an easy way to zip between home, work and gym. The MH Lab team chased down the best picks for all needs and budgets



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DIY13

If you're reading this page, we'll assume you're already sold on cycling's benefits – whether your motivation is fitness, eco-friendliness or a desire to avoid dystopian public transport costs (and rush-hour germs). It's no surprise that last year 7.5 million of us donned our helmets, and the renaissance is rolling on throughout 2022.

Sales of electric bikes are gathering pace, too. By 2023, the Bicycle Association expects UK sales to triple. For the uninitiated, e-bikes look like your regular manual two-wheelers, but an electric motor and battery enable power-assisted pedalling. This takes some of the graft out of your ride, allowing you to travel farther and faster, while varying assistance levels mean you can ride at an easier effort on days you're not feeling your fittest.

Whether you're after a lightweight folding commuter model or something more robust for charging over rough terrain, there's a model that will take your cycling up a gear. The *MH* Lab tasked a panel of experienced cyclists to find the best bikes for both leisure and commuting.



Multitasker 95/100

Volt Pulse LS Step Through E-Bike
£1,949

voltbikes.co.uk

TERRAIN HERO: With a sturdy build, plus built-in racks and lights, this e-bike is a solid all-rounder. It's safe and reliable thanks to the puncture-resistant tyres and hydraulic brakes.

EXPERT OPINION: Though chunky, the Volt performs well on all terrains. It skips through its eight gears smoothly and offers a welcome boost on hills. Its weight makes controlling stop-starts tricky in traffic, but it's a great leisure choice.