



Free Slalom
Marin Quake 9.0 \$1,366
Slalomy, jumpy
With gears to go up and down
More than big doubles.

What's the difference between a free-ride hardtail and a dual slalom bike? We're not sure, but with a long-travel fork, reinforced frame, adjusted geometry and short stem/rise bar combo, a bike like the Quake 9.0 is versatile enough to tackle either.

Other Contenders:
 Kona Chute, K2 Brass Monkey



Old School
Rivendell All-Rounder \$3,100
Sculpted lugs, steel tubes
Yesterday shoots tomorrow
Funny handlebars.

Choosing to swim upstream because it feels good and looks great, Grant Petersen leads Rivendell into an aesthetic no-man's land. The All-Rounder is something of a funky handle-barred, long-legged flagship statement for the brand. One bike that's made to do everything comfortably and crafted to stay in style.

Other Contenders: Stands alone



Singlespeeds
Spot Singlespeed
Cyclocross \$1,850

Singlespeed 'cross bike
Travis Brown wins nationals?
One tough freak on mud.
 One gear, two 700c wheels. Simple, elegant, pure. No suspension and a small rubber/ground contact patch coupled with little drop bars, spells either fun, fun, fun 'til daddy takes the T-bird away or the dumbest thing to spend money on since you coughed up the cash during that Flobie infomercial. This Spot further narrows the already narrow category of singlespeeds.

Other Contenders: Bianchi B.u.S.S., Phil Wood Kiss Off, Surly 1x1

Resist Adulthood Bike
Specialized P.3 \$1,300
Like old baseball cards
A perfect thrash-around bike
Is instant childhood.

Yup, another one of the latest Slurpee-retrievin', dirt-jumpin' bikes. Is it practical or wise to buy something that looks like Frankenstein's BMX bike? Probably not. But then again, neither is spending Saturday morning watching cartoons. Unwise, yes, but oh so rewarding...

Other Contenders: Kona Roast, Santa Cruz Chameleon

