

Pipedream Sirius £199 → Weight 2160g (4.76lb) Sizes 16.5in, 18in, 19.5in Contact www.pipedreamcycles.com

Starting off the bidding in our test is the cheap yet complete Sirius frameset.

The 'Pype' steel is designed to be as refreshingly free from 'Hype' (see what they did there) as the rest of the bike. There are enough double-butted sections on this heat-treated chromo tubeset to keep overall frame weight low.

We've ridden several Sirius bikes and they've always impressed, with a purposefully pert rather than oversprung ride. To quote *WMB's* technical editor Steve Worland: "Singletrack handling is superb... the ride is lively and well balanced".

While this frame is cleared for forks with up to 130mm of travel, we felt it worked better with nearer 100mm of travel. There's plenty of room in the long top tube to cope with a short stem if that's your style, though, so Pipedream's adjustable travel TALAS recommendation (or a RockShox U Turn fork) seems wise.

Apart from a plastic head badge and folded sheet hose guides, there's no sign of the low price in the build quality, with excellent finishing throughout the tidy disc-specific frame. There is only one set of bottle bosses, but there's masses of mudroom in the A-frame stays as well as a forward-facing seat slot for mud protection. Add a choice of five standard colours (custom colours for an extra £60) and it's our clear top value choice.



WMB VERDICT

SPEED	██████████
STRENGTH	██████████
SINGLETRACK	██████████
VALUE	██████████

Great price for a totally sorted, reasonably light XC steeler

OVERALL 9

