

DETAILS

CLEVER YOKE

Pipedream's CNC-machined chainstay yoke is a smart way to ensure a strong rear end but still allow clearance for wider tyres and the chainring.

SUPER SLIDERS

Sliding dropouts not only allow multiple wheel sizes to be used, but also enable a little alteration of the frame geometry.

SHORT & SWEET

A 420mm seat tube – more often seen on very small frames – makes the largest Moxie Mx3 suitable for a wide range of rider heights, as well as use with long-drop posts.

PIPEDREAM MOXIE MX3

£649 frame The ultimate do-anything hardtail?

This latest Moxie hardtail shares its top tube with The Full Moxie, Pipedream's full-suspension bike, enabling it to be used with forks with 140mm to 170mm of travel. It's currently only offered as a frame, but the Scottish brand built us up a bike to fit our budget.

The frame

Pipedream craft the Moxie from custom-butted 4130 chromoly steel tubes. Adaptability is the name of the game – not only can it take a range of fork lengths, but also 650b, 650b+, 'mullet' or 29er wheel set-ups. This is thanks to a pair of sliding dropouts, which adjust the length of the rear end from 425mm to 441mm. At its shortest, a 29er hoop does fit, but clearance around the neat chainstay yoke is tight (especially with the wide

2.5in tyres on our bike). With two bolts per side and a bolted stop, it's easy to change the dropout position mid-ride. This set-up proved super-secure throughout testing. Like on the Cotic, cable routing is external. There's only one set of bottle bosses.

We were really impressed with the finish – everything slotted or slid in with minimal fuss, suggesting excellent attention to detail. Pipedream offer the Moxie in four standard colours, but they'll sell you a bare frame, along with a head tube badge and decals, so you can get it painted whatever hue you like. It only comes in three sizes – Longish, Long and Longer – but with short seat tubes (395mm to 420mm), these should fit a wide range of riders, up to 6ft 3in. Reach figures are lengthy, stretching from 440mm to 510mm.

The kit

Our bike was built with components available to Pipedream at the time –

JARGON

MULLET

A bike equipped with a smoother-rolling 29in wheel up front and a smaller, more agile 650b wheel at the back, in order to alter the ride feel, fit a wider range of riders (compared to a full 29er) and potentially allow use of a wider rear tyre, too.

BUTTED

A tube with a constant outside diameter but varying internal wall thicknesses, to reduce weight where it's not needed, potentially increase weld area and tweak the frame's ride feel.

a Fox 36 fork with 160mm of travel, a Shimano drivetrain and Pacenti wheels shod with Hutchinson tyres. They don't sell full builds, but can supply some parts, including DVO Diamond forks (as we went to press these were £599, down from £899.95) and Pacenti wheelsets.

The ride

As we were writing this review up, we checked back through our notes and were surprised to see that the Moxie was the heaviest bike on test – a testament to its great ride quality. The geometry is pretty much bang-on in our books. Our 'Long' frame had a healthy 470mm reach, a 64-degree head angle and a 315mm BB height. This gives the Pipedream a lovely balance between high-speed stability and agility in the turns. Leant over onto the tyres' shoulder tread, it hooked into the dirt and carved through corners. At the same time, it was easy to

BANG-ON GEOMETRY GIVES THE PIPEDREAM A LOVELY BALANCE BETWEEN HIGH-SPEED STABILITY AND AGILITY IN THE TURNS

HIGHS

Excellent ride that suits both aggressive blasts in the woods and all-day missions in the hills

Impeccably-built frame, with neat welds and lovely finishing touches

Geometry is spot-on – and adjustable

LOWS

No full builds available

Limited mud clearance in the short position with bigger tyres

MBLJK VERDICT

A beautifully-finished, feature-rich steel shredder with a fantastic ride quality



Ribble, the Pipedream skips around, encouraging you to square-off corners and rally around berms.

Our bike arrived with a 35mm stem, and initially we found it too easy to tip into a turn, making us reassess our lines early in the arc. We swapped this for a slightly longer 40mm stem, which calmed the handling down, while still retaining an accurate, snappy responsiveness. Because Pipedream are selling the Moxie as a frame only, we'd recommend having a play with a couple of stem options to find the right balance.



FOR THE SAME AGAIN

Pipedream Sirius S5 £649 frame
'Downcountry' hardtail built to work best with 100-120mm of fork travel.



FOR A LOT MORE

Pipedream The Full Moxie £1,499 frame
This steel full-sus machine has 140-146mm of travel for trail and enduro riding.