

A new custom frame, and notes about customs



CZ's new custom, a really neat purple road, 60.2cm (makes all the difference, that 0.2!). What an unusual build. Nothing wacky, all good, but a common one doesn't expect to see. The Schmidt hub with the Berthoud saddle sorta go together. The threadlessness and the roady frame kind of do. The downtube shifters, maybe, not sure. The Ultegra double, not with the saddle or Schmidt. The Spider pedals, definitely not with the Ultegra double. He likes a long stem, but is open to raising it in the future, so it's shown low here.



A custom frame has tubing picked for your weight and riding surface style intent. It's a small thing, and if you're a midweight there a custom might be 3oz lighter, which is more unimportant than anything else in the world. The geometry is designed just for you, but won't be way far off what you'd get in a similar style stock frame. We like shallow seat tubes, low bbs, long chainstays, high bars, good tire clearance, and if you're looking for anything much different, we're not the right ones.

Mark Nobilette builds our customs, and puts about 22 hours into each one, and lots of slow handwork. We pay him fairly and it costs more. Joe Bell paints them, and that's another \$1,000 or so. Whoa, but nice paint. The headbadge (above) is screwed on.

Extra lug carving is available, but even the standard custom lugs are fancy, and not to be found on non-custom frames.

The base price of a custom is \$3500, as shown here. If you want extra carving, it's \$75 to \$250 more. A fork is included of course, and look around. Pick up a Buyers Guide to 2011 bicycles. You'll see plenty of lesser bikes that cost almost twice as much, and will last at most one-fifth as long. It is hard to justify a custom when you can get a \$2,000 Hilsen, but look outside at other bikes, and then the Rivendell customs seem super fair. You can pay more, you can wait longer, but I don't *think* you can buy a better bike. It may not be your style, but as a bike goes, it's really good. The wait is about nine months right now. G

