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Bike Mechanic: Tales From The Road And The Workshop



Synopsis

Bike Mechanic takes a look inside the daily life of the unsung heroes of the peloton, the bike techs who keep the stars riding smoothly and safely on the sport's steepest climbs, the most technical time trials, and the hairpin descents navigated at breakneck speeds. With behind-the-scenes access, the world's best bicycle mechanics tell stories of harrowing days at the Tour de France and the unconventional speed tuning requests from the top riders in the sport. Crisp photography makes Bike Mechanic a tool-lover's dream, with drool-worthy images of the machinery and equipment that fascinate bike fans. The captivating text also reveals tricks of the trade and secret techniques used by the sport's most experienced technicians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like this book a lot. It's hard to decide whether it is a book of pictures, or just a well-illustrated account of the world of very good, professional bike mechanics. Whatever it is, it's very entertaining if you love bikes, love how they work, and love working on them. The book is divided into 3 sections. The first is called "On the Road". It gives you a first hand feel for the life of a race mechanic. Race mechanics are a different breed from bike shop mechanics. I have worked as a shop mechanic, but the skills, temperament, and know-how of a race mechanic go well beyond what shop mechanics bring to the game. Being a good wrench is just table stakes. You also need to handle race day stress, drive the truck, hang out the windows of moving cars to adjust derailleurs or brakes " and they don't get paid small fortunes either. They'd better love it. The second section is "Hardware". This is about the tools and the facilities. The pictures are great "

beautiful workshops (check out the Vittoria workshop), hopeless messy workshops, shopworn tools, classic tools (esp. Var and Campagnolo). I'd love to see a book just about the history and art of great bicycle tools. You also get tips on what you need, how to organize what you need, whether you are a garage mechanic or a pro. The final section is "The Bike". The authors look at the bike mainly from the perspective of assembly and overhaul, although they include impressive and very helpful guidance on bike washing, something absolutely core to the job of race mechanics and probably under-appreciated by we amateurs. The book turns partly into a mechanic's manual, going step by step (with more beautiful color pictures) through such things as frame prep, clincher and tubular tire mounting, headset installation, .

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