

AXIOM PHOENIX DLX REFLEX ALLOY FENDERS

By MICHAEL TIERNEY

Made of aluminum alloy, the Axiom Phoenix DLX Reflex full-length fenders use heavy-duty stainless steel stays, 3M Reflex reflective strips, and special fork eyelet adaptors. The stays are connected with a bar that screws onto the fender at a 90° angle; the stays slide through small holes on the ends of the bar and are tightened down with small screws. This process eases the traditional frustration that can crop up with installation of this type, and better yet, all parts are easily replaceable. I mounted the 700c version on a cyclocross bike and tested it under varied conditions, from urban commuting to long stretches of loose gravel. These fenders held their own in all conditions.

The eyelet adaptors are a nice addition. They essentially alter the mount location to negotiate the tight areas near disc brakes or racks mounts, and also provide some flexibility by allowing for changes in the length of the stays to offer the best fit around the curvature of the wheel, while limiting foot contact. At first I thought that the lack of a curve to the fender edges would be a functional detriment, but that was not the case, and actually improved the clean look.

I had some difficulty with the point where the rear fender attached to the seatstay, as the fender slid a little within the fender bracket. Also, the front mounting piece near the fork arch did not provide for my carbon fork's internal hanger mount, forcing me to mount the fender on the front of the fork arch, which misaligned the fenders' fork-clearance grooves.

The Axiom Phoenix DLX Reflex Alloy fenders are a high-

end product that will not only enhance the appearance of your bike, but also remain durably intact while keeping you clean and dry on the way to your destination. At \$120, they don't come cheap, but having been through a series of plastic fenders, you will get what you pay for. They are made in Taiwan and come with lifetime warranty against manufacturer defects. www.axiomgear.com



PHOTOS: MICHAEL TIERNEY

SWOBO KAZHWOL JERSEY

By MATT KASPRZYK

You know what's awesome? Wool is awesome. Not the suit-wearing, whiskey-drinking, womanizing bro awesome, but the real way, kind of awe-inspiring. The anti-microbial, moisture-wicking, and breathability qualities that science tries to mimic are expertly handled by New Zealand Merino sheep. For \$90, Swobo takes the Merino wool and spins it into a looser-fitting, almost casual-style jersey, with a 1/4-length zip. It's lightweight, so you can wear it as a baselayer or stand-alone top in warmer weather.

My large jersey is cut long enough to keep me covered when on a bike without being anywhere near as tight as lycra. Think of it as a wool T-shirt with a zipper. No pockets on the Kashwool jersey, but maybe your shorts will have one or two. Swobo says it's machine washable, but take care—it is 100% wool. After washing, mine did shrink a little. Made in U.S.A.

www.swobo.com



PHOTO: JUSTIN STEINER