

THRASH TESTS

KOObI PRS ALPHA SADDLE

Add cush to your tush

THRASH TEST RATING

- ★★★★★ Perfection
- ★★★★☆ Delivers above average value and performance
- ★★★☆☆ Recommended for intended application
- ★★☆☆☆ Shows potential but has drawbacks
- ★☆☆☆☆ Save your hard-earned bucks



great option for female riders who have saddle issues, and Koobi does offer it in a women's-specific shape. Finally, we have worked with Koobi for years, and they are tops when it comes to customer service. Koobi's employees are passionate riders, and it shows in their product offering and ordering procedures. How many saddle companies sell you a saddle based on your weight and the number of hours you cycle every week? That's how Koobi sells theirs. A true custom component.

Saddle comfort has always been a major issue with new and experienced mountain bikers alike. The \$199.95 Koobi Alpha Saddle addresses the comfort issue with tunable elastomer bumpers.

Tech features: The PRS Alpha is designed for serious riders who ride enough to appreciate a firm saddle. The saddle uses titanium alloy rails. It is 6 inches wide at the rear and 11 inches long. There is a relief channel running the length of the saddle. Each saddle comes with three sets of elastomer bumpers of different densities. Our saddle weighed 10.6 ounces. You can reach Koobi at (877) 743-3566.

Test results: The PRS Alpha appears to be a conventional saddle until you look under the hood. Easily accessible cups that hold small elastomer bumpers are molded into the rear of each rail. These captured elastomers press against the seat base and provide a cushion between the saddle's base and rails. This gives the saddle two distinct padding sources: the pads sewn on the top of the saddle and the adjustable elastomers.

If you are expecting an annoying, bouncy ride from the saddle, you will be pleasantly surprised. The elastomers do not bounce the rider. They function more as chatter buffers than trail bouncers. You really need to concentrate to "feel" any movement in the saddle. But don't fixate on it; instead, just ride and let the saddle do the buffering.

The bikes that benefit the most

from the Koobi PRS Alpha saddle are not mountain bikes. Fixie single-speed road bikes and tandem riders get the most bang for their buck out of this saddle, but that doesn't mean we mountain bikers are not invited to the party. While the saddle won't make much difference on a dual-suspension bike, it will add comfort to any aluminum hardtail and many carbon fiber hardtails. While this is only speculation, the Alpha seems like a

