



ENIGMA Echelon

£2,150 frameset (£4,199 as built)

A rare, British-designed and welded titanium frameset

A brief glance at the Enigma Echelon tells you that this is a bike with a lot of traditional features. From the geometry to the straight tubing, the very smart external gear cable routing to the rim brake callipers and mechanical gears, it has the look of a classic road bike.

The Echelon is the newest addition to Enigma's range and part of its Signature series, which means it is not only designed in Britain, but also cut, mitred and double-pass welded in Enigma's own workshop in Hailsham, East Sussex. The welding is beautiful with neat, equal fish-scale welds that show the quality.

Compared to the others on test the Echelon is more of a racer with a lower, more aggressive position possible and tighter head angle giving faster steering. The 44mm head tube is something more common on mountain bikes, but ensures all fork steerer tube sizes can be catered for as well as increasing front end stiffness.

Component choice is in keeping with the style of the bike. Finishing kit is mostly own-brand Enigma components that are perfectly functional with fairly wide bars that add comfort and a comfortable saddle. The Mavic Ksyrium Elite wheels feel light and despite the 25mm Mavic Yksion tyres looking narrower than the claimed width, the ride quality is very special indeed, consistently providing a smooth, comfortable experience.

While it can't match the others for ultimate comfort, it beats them on the stiffness, weight and speed stakes, and compared to almost all other bikes on the market could genuinely be classed as a 'magic-carpet ride'.

The Ultegra 6800 mechanical groupset is flawless and although the external cable routing is neat, it will mean an upgrade to an electronic groupset wouldn't be as aesthetically pleasing with no internal cable option.

The Echelon is a joy to ride both uphill and down. Its relatively low weight and responsive ride helping on the inclines and the smooth, fast and direct steering making it a blast to descend on. As a bike for those who love the traditional style, the Echelon is hard to beat.



Despite the racy nature of the Echelon, a magic-carpet ride is guaranteed



GOOD

- **Comfort** Excellent feel of the road while remaining consistently comfortable.
- **Speed** The responsive, stiff frame rockets up the climbs.
- **Finish** Highly polished decals are subtle but impressive.



NOT SO GOOD

- **Versatility** Lacks any mudguard or rack mounts.
- **No internal cable option** Fine for mechanical, but less so for electronic groupsets.
- **Tyres** A slightly wider tyre would improve comfort.



CONCLUSION

From the very first pedal stroke the Enigma Echelon delivers a smooth, comfortable ride but maintains the feeling of speed. Excellent stiffness and relatively light weight make it a superb climber. The clean, traditional look will win it many fans. All round, this is a superb advert for titanium. 🚴

PRICE: £2,150 frameset (£4,199 as built)
WEIGHT: 7.9kg (size 54cm)
FRAME: 3AL 2.5V double butted titanium
FORK: Full-carbon disc
GROUPSET/BRAKES: Shimano Ultegra 6800
CHAINSET: Shimano Ultegra 6800, 50/34
CASSETTE: Shimano Ultegra, 11-28, 11 speed
SADDLE/BARS/STEM: Enigma
SEATPOST: Enigma Carbon
WHEELS: Mavic Ksyrium Elite
TYRES: Mavic Yksion Pro Griplink
CONTACT: enigmabikes.com

Rating

FRAME
 COMPONENTS
 WHEELS
 THE RIDE

OVERALL
 9.3
 10