



Blitzencracker HiFi Wheel Review for ridehifi.com

Disclaimer – I'm not a hub guy or wheel builder, I'm just gonna talk about feel and performance – look to HiFi's website for more stats or email me and I can track down answers – or better yet – email Info@ridehifi.com to get it directly from the mouth of the horse

Mountain Bike Wheels

Hootenany Wide – These 30 mm wide bad boys provide a bigger tire volume, more forgiving feel, and rounder bulbous tire profile than your average MTB wheel. This in turn provides greater traction and more tire to dirt contact for confident cornering. Furthermore, they're light for alum wheels weighing in at 1575 grams for my custom pair (Rear: 28h, Front: 24h). Race ready!

Session carbon – At a glance these look a lot like the Hootenany's though they're not as wide and they're sporting some beautiful red anodized hubs. These hoops are STIFF. They spring out of corners like rocket boosters and go right where you point them with pinpoint accuracy. Get your tire pressure dialed in and you'll have a mean race wheelset that you can spin up quick in all their lightness.



Sessions on the Bottom row and Hootenany's above

Cross and Road Wheels

Extended Play EP 39mm carbon tubulars— I've raced these for cross and I've raced 'em on the road (and crits too). They're light, stiff, reliable, and durable: trust me on the durable – I smashed them around 'cross courses throughout the country - over New Mexican rocks, Rhode Island roots, and Iowa City (Jingle Cross) ice. Frequently at sub 20 psi. They are the ultimate cross tubular.



Photos by Marlene Squillaci

Furthermore, they're an excellent all-rounder and climbing wheel for the road. I tore off my Clements and glued up some Schwalbe road tires and these were ready to race for the road season. They're low profile enough to be stable in cross winds, but aero enough to give you that edge when you're going fast. Lastly, they're light enough to go up hills faster than a deeper dish aero wheel. Really, these are finely balanced, perfect, do-it-all wheels for year round racing.

Cross and Road (Continued)

MixMaster alum tubular – cross – training and racing – light and reliable and no stress of alum. If you need to get set up for cross and have multiple bikes or tire combos to accommodate, these will get you in the game at an affordable price and are competitive with any carbon setup. And they come in red, blue, and black!



Mix Tape alum clincher – light, reliable, trainers that don't shy away from being raced – I've won crits and sprints on these when setup as tubeless conversions and I train on them nearly every day of the week. They're 28mm deep, 23mm wide. I've also picked up a pair of **Mix Tape Discs** set up with disc hubs and a 28mm deep, 25mm wide disc-specific rim (not just a regular rim brake rim without the brake track being machined). I'll take the 'cross bike out on dirt and training rides with these and they might even get set up with tubeless 'cross tires for some gravel grinders!



Cross and Road (Continued)

Mix Tape Tubeless alum wide – these are so new they're not even on the website yet. They sport a deeper profile aluminum rim, and man they really roll when you spin them up to speed. Underneath you they provide a confidence inspiring stiffness – and take my word (or check my strava account) – they're an excellent dirt road KOM grabbers. The bigger tire volume due to the increased rim width makes for a beautiful feel when set up with supple tubeless tires – you can strike that magical balance of stiff wheels with high tpi tires that make for the perfect wheel-tire combo. These are 30mm deep and 24mm wide. Weight is about the same compared to the regular Mix Tapes, despite the extra depth.

Mix Tape Bomber clincher – This is the workhorse, super reliable, bomb-proof wheelset for riders who lack a little 'finesse' or happen to be 'clydesdale' size – and they're so affordable! Can set them up tubeless conversion too – with ease.

Yet to try: Hit Single 50mm Carbon Clinchers – Robbie keeps hogging these cause they're purportedly that good!

Kit

Voler HiFi Kit – Dudes and dudettes – you can order just 1 kit at a time! Or better yet, get one for each day of the week! The jersey and bibs alike are light, breathable, comfy and sport bad-ass graphics. I get a lot of compliments on this kit.

