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WORLD'S LEADING BIKE MAGAZINE

GHOSTS OF VIETNAM
Mark Jenkins pedals the rugged Ho Chi Minh Trail

IN THE FOLD

SPACE-SAVING BIKES TO GET YOU AROUND TOWN

by BICYCLING MAGAZINE TEST STAFF
photograph by MITCH MANDEL

There's something beautifully simple about riding through the city, zipping between stores and exploring new parts of town under your own power.

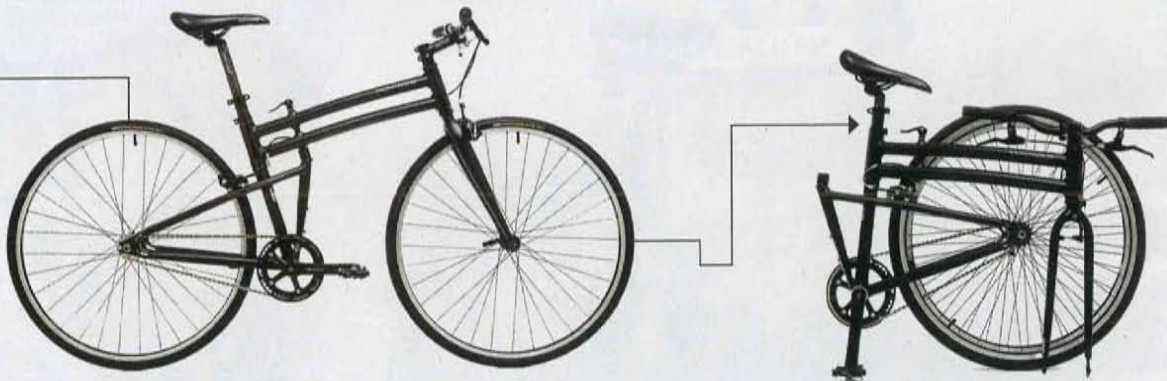
But city life brings challenges—and for cyclists one of the most pressing can be finding space to store your bike.

When these four models are done carrying you around town, they can be folded into compact packages that fit easily into your office or abode.

THE BROMPTON M6L FOLDS INTO A SMALL PACKAGE, MAKING IT COMMUTE-FRIENDLY.

1

A FULL-SIZE
RIDE



2

FAST AND FUN



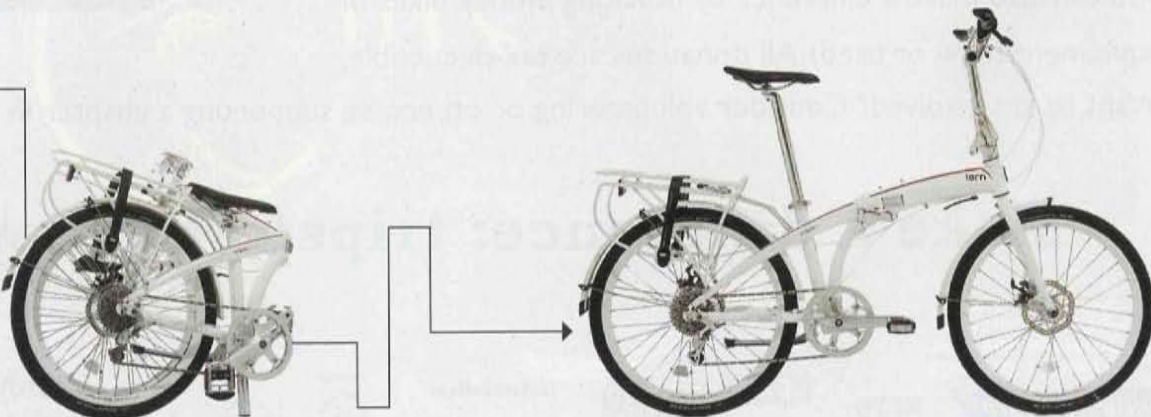
3

AN ELEGANT
URBAN
SOLUTION



4

QUICK CRUISER



1 Montague Boston

The frame configuration is unusual—there are two parallel top tubes—but we forgot about appearances as we pedaled the streets of New York City. The bike kept up with taxis and felt comfortable on multihour rides. Thanks to 700c wheels, the Boston rode like a conventional flat-bar road bike, and its wide tires provided ample traction and some comfort over cracked streets. The bike is agile, but stable. **THE FOLD** To collapse the Boston, remove the front wheel, open a quick-release on the frame, and swing the two halves together, securing them with a hook-and-loop strap. Despite its standard wheels, the model is lighter than the others we tested. Removing the front wheel is easy, but carrying it—along with the bike—onto a bus or train is not, making this model best for commuters with a straight shot to their office or for cyclists who want a full-size ride that economizes space. **ONE GEAR** The singlespeed drivetrain demands little upkeep, but can make climbing a challenge. **PRICE:** \$700 **WEIGHT:** 23.0 lb. **INFO:** montaguebikes.com

3 Brompton M6L

Each Brompton is handmade in England and the fine craftsmanship shows in the beautifully executed brazing. The company offers many options—handlebar, lights, drivetrain, and saddle, to name a few. This folder is relatively light, a trait that, combined with 16-inch wheels, let us shoot away from stoplights. The small wheels sit almost below you (instead of in front and behind), making it easier to navigate crowded intersections. Our test bike had a three-speed hub and two cogs for a gear range broad enough for most hills. **THE FOLD** The rear wheel and drivetrain fold under the main frame instead of to the side, keeping grease off you. Collapsing the bike takes only seconds—just undo two couplings, one quick-release, and a spring-loaded catch. The M6L folds into a small package, making it the only one we'd tote onto a bus. **BONUS PORTABILITY** Two small wheels integrated into the rear triangle let you trail the folded bike behind you. **PRICE:** \$1,944, as tested; \$2,010, 2013 price with updated components **WEIGHT:** 26.4 lb. **INFO:** brompton.co.uk

2 Dahon MU N360

Loaded with commuter-friendly features, including a pump integrated into the seatpost and rack mounts, the sporty MU has a responsive ride that made cruising bike paths enjoyable. The 20-inch wheels and a steering axis positioned directly over the front wheel create quick handling, which initially left some testers hesitant to maneuver through traffic. We came to appreciate the nimble ride, which let us slip easily through crowded streets. **THE FOLD** Opening each of the four quick-releases requires just a flick of the wrist, but it took several days of practice before we were able to fold the bike without interference from the brake levers, which have to be rotated out of the way. Magnets keep the bike from opening midcarry, but you need to make sure that they are aligned properly. The pedals fold down to prevent them from scraping your ankles. **HIGH-TECH** The NuVinci 360 rear hub gives you an infinite range of gears between its high and low settings. **PRICE:** \$1,600 **WEIGHT:** 29.1 lb. **INFO:** dahonbikes.com

4 Tern Eclipse P9

Thanks to its 24-inch wheels, the Tern rolled smoothly and stayed on course. While some of the folders in this test left our bigger testers feeling like circus bears, this nearly full-size model let them pedal comfortably with their dignity intact. The Eclipse was also the only bike in this test with a traditional rear derailleur. Its nine gears made it easy to pedal uphill, even with a heavy load strapped to the rack. When it was time to roll downhill or stop abruptly, the bike's disc brakes provided reliable power. **THE FOLD** The Tern is the easiest of the bikes to break down—just open one quick-release and two smooth-operating hinges—but it's also the least compact. The company says it designed the Eclipse for riders who also use public transportation as part of their commute, but we found it difficult to lift and carry the bulky, 32-pound package onto a crowded bus or train. **FLEXIBLE** A cleverly designed stem lets you adjust the handlebar's angle, setting your ideal height and reach. **PRICE:** \$1,150 **WEIGHT:** 32.0 lb. **INFO:** ternbicycles.com

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