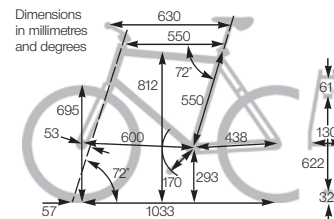




FW EVANS 90TH ANNIVERSARY CLUBMAN



### FW EVANS 90TH ANNIVERSARY CLUBMAN

**Price:** £1645

**Weight:** 12.33kg

**Sizes:** 20in, 21.5in (tested), 23in, 24.5in

**Frame and fork:** Reynolds 531 steel, cast lugs, mudguard and rear rack eyes, 3 pairs of bottle bosses, pump peg

**Wheels:** Unbranded large-flange hubs, Sapim d/b spokes, Rigida Sputnik rims, Panaracer Pasela 700×32C tyres

**Transmission:** Stronglight Impact 52-42-30 170mm, Shimano Deore XT rear derailleur, Shimano 105 front derailleur, Wipperman ConneX chain, Sturmey Archer bar-end shifters, VP platform pedals with toe clips and straps, Sram 11-32 cassette. 27-speed, 25-127 inches

**Braking:** Dia-Compe centre-pull brakes, Dia-Compe Gran Compe 202 levers.

**Steering and seating:** 42cm drop bar and 8cm stem, Brooks leather tape, 1in Tange Levin CrMo headset, 27.0mm seat post, Brooks Swift titanium saddle

**Accessories:** Stainless steel mudguards, 2 × bottle cages, bell, frame number plate

**Contact:** [evanscycles.com](http://evanscycles.com)

#### TOURING BIKE

# FW Evans 90th Anniversary Clubman

Cycling journalist **Ben Searle** reviews a limited edition reincarnation of a classic touring bike

▶ **PASHLEY CYCLES** have made only ninety FW Evans 90th Anniversary Clubman machines for Evans Cycles, who call the specification 'typical of the 1950s and '60s'. It's a tough call to 'blend classic styling with modern engineering' at a price comparable to other quality tourers, and it's more reminiscent of the Evans tourer from the cover of Richard's Bicycle Book. So is this nostalgia trip worth it?

The frame is Reynolds 531 throughout. This manganese-molybdenum steel, now no longer generally available, is the classic choice. Standard diameter tubes and a quill stem look understated compared to contemporary oversized frames, but the dropouts are a modern 'plug-in' style. The build quality is good, with details tourists like such as indented chain-stays for greater tyre clearance. The fork blades are gracefully raked but don't really have the advertised 'small radius bend', and so lose out on a little shock absorbency and retro

style. Investment cast cut-away lugs fit the period theme but are somewhat hidden under the tough but thick 'FW Evans green' powder coat.

Style-wise there's little to fault with the components. But while the Brooks Swift titanium saddle rides as good as it looks, some other bits could be improved. The Sturmey Archer bar-end shifting is a little imprecise and plasticky compared to a full Shimano set-up. Dia-Compe centre-pull brakes offer reduced bite and stopping power compared to a wide-profile cantilever, and the gum rubber brake lever hoods are narrow and don't support larger hands well. The brakes' exposed cables look the part, though a quick-release for the rear brake is omitted – an annoyance not easily remedied.

On the other hand, the wheels are well built with top quality Sapim spokes. There's no rear carrier.

### Club riding not camping

Most importantly, for touring cyclists, the Clubman provides an efficient yet



The Brooks leather saddle, 'wrap-around' seat stays and 531 tubing provide a period feel.

comfortable ride. With small to medium loads, it strikes the right balance between stability and responsive handling. Bigger camping loads aren't really an option: there are no low-rider carrier mounts (which aren't 'period'), the gearing is high, and the braking isn't powerful enough.

But if you yearn for the past, don't mind a few niggles, and the spec suits you, it's a fair deal.

### Also consider



#### 1) Thorn Club Tour £1399+

From camping to fast day rides, a versatile option with a Reynolds 725 frame in a wide range of sizes and build choices. [thorncycles.co.uk](http://thorncycles.co.uk)



#### 2) Mercian King of Mercia £2200+

A classic, custom frame built in Reynolds 725. Spec to suit, Shimano or Campag. [merciancycles.co.uk](http://merciancycles.co.uk)