



## ROAD BIKE

# Pinnacle Dolomite Four

Pinnacle's entry-level road bike is adaptable as well as good value, as cycling journalist **Mat Brett** discovers

► **VERSATILITY IS** a key asset for an entry-level road bike, because it's likely to be either your only road bike or a second-best bike for winter training or commuting. The £750 Dolomite Four, which has the same spec as the previous year's Dolomite Three but with cosmetic differences, is just such an all-rounder.

Out on the road, it loses nothing to closer-clearance, higher-g geared rivals at the same price. Built around a 6061 alloy frame and carbon-bladed fork, it's a reasonable weight; the extra large model hit the scales at 9.58kg. That's



**1** 57mm-drop brakes and 629mm front centres leave plenty of clearance for mudguards between tyres, frame and toes

**2** Derailleurs and shifters are Shimano Tiagra rather than the Sora you might expect

not going to rival a high-end carbon race machine but it's light enough that accelerations are swift and the bike feels lively.

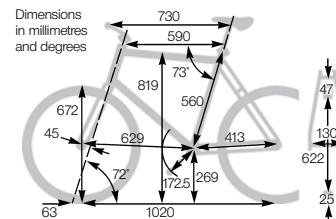
Hills aren't the slog that they can be on bikes that are a few pounds heavier or that are equipped with higher gears. The Dolomite Four's compact FSA Omega chainset (50-34) is matched to a 12-28 cassette, giving you a usefully lower gear than bikes whose biggest sprocket is a 25. Gear shifts are very good for a bike at this price, as it's equipped with Shimano Tiagra.

The geometry is performance-minded, although your ride position isn't so low and stretched that you feel you have to race everywhere. A shallow-drop handlebar gives an efficient setup for eating up the distance on a long sportive ride, while a well-padded saddle and dual-density bar tape add contact-point comfort.

## Wet road ready

If you want to fit full-length mudguards, that's easily done thanks to eyelets on the frame and fork and plenty of room underneath the 57mm-drop brakes.

There's enough space for wider than normal road tyres too. The Alex



## PINNACLE DOLOMITE FOUR

**Price:** £750

**Weight:** 9.58kg (21.1lb)

**Sizes:** S, M, L, XL (tested)

**Frame & fork:** Pinnacle 6061-T6 Heat-treated aluminium alloy frame with mudguard and rack eyelets, two bottle mounts. Fork with carbon blades, alloy steerer and mudguard eyelets

**Wheels:** Kenda Deuterium 25mm tyres; Alex DA-22 32-hole rims; stainless plain gauge spokes; Joytech hubs

**Transmission:** FSA Omega 34-50T chainset; Shimano CS-4600 12-28T 10-speed cassette; FSA external bottom bracket; KMC chain; Shimano Tiagra shifters and mechs. 20-speed, 32-110 inches.

**Braking:** Tektro R539 57mm deep-drop callipers, Shimano Tiagra levers

**Steering & seating:** Pinnacle double-butted aluminium shallow-drop bar, 125mm drop, 70mm reach, 440mm width; Pinnacle SL Road Ahead stem, 120mm; Pinnacle micro-adjust aluminium seatpost with single-bolt clamp; FWE Race men's saddle

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

DA-22 rims come fitted with 25mm Kenda Kriteriums, which offer a little more grip and comfort than standard 23s, and you could fit 28mm tyres.

If you'd like to press the Dolomite Four into service as a commuting bike, you get eyelets for fitting a rear rack securely to the frame. Clipping on panniers or a rack-bag makes life easier and less sweaty than carrying your everyday gubbins to and from work on your back.

All-in-all, this is a highly capable all-round road bike that comes at a very attractive price.

## Also consider



### 1) Trek 1.2 £700

Trek's next-to-entry-level road bike has a mudguard-compatible aluminium frame and carbon fork, and is equipped with Sora 9-speed. [trekbikes.com](http://trekbikes.com)

### 2) Giant Defy 4 £599.00

With a carbon fork and 8-speed groupset, this is a great value fitness bike that has all the fittings for guards – but none of the clearance! [giant-bicycles.com](http://giant-bicycles.com)