

merlin newsboy

Classic style in a modern package: The Merlin Newsboy is a pure race bike ready to mix it up with the rabble on the muddiest singletrack. And look great doing it.

Can the voluptuous style of the classic American cantilever frame coexist with the gritty demands of modern off-road racing? It can and does in the Merlin Newsboy.

Lovingly crafted from Merlin's MTS325 seamless titanium tubing, the Newsboy's flowing curves are anchored by a 1½-inch downtube that creates a rigid power path from the 1⅛-inch head tube to the 6-4 titanium vertical dropouts. Combined with the oversize 1⅜-inch seat tube, this stout construction creates a flex-free platform for climbs, sprints and descents.

"On the trail," notes Mike Ferrentino in a *Winning* magazine review, "the Newsboy feels anything but cruiserlike, begging to be hammered like any good 22-pound titanium race bike should. It is a quick handling, agile bike that floats up hills and accelerates with ethereal ease. The Newsboy seems built for those sections of hard, middle-ring single trail where the rider has to get down and dirty and muscle the bike where it's supposed to go. In this type of terrain, the Merlin can be flicked around and pointed where needed with almost arrogant impunity. Power along the straights, weight the outside pedal, and *jam* the bike into turns. [T]he bike snaps around like it's on rails."

Much of the credit for this performance is due to the Newsboy's ⅞-inch S-Bend chainstays, which are borrowed intact from the Merlin Mountain frame. These large-diameter stays are 50 percent stiffer than the ¾-inch stays used by



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Merlin Metalworks
40 Smith Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 661 6688

Merlin MTS325 seamless titanium tubing

Three sizes: 15, 17, 19 inches

Frame weight: 3.72-4.22 lbs. (1.69-1.91 kg)

Merlin 7/8-inch S-Bend chainstays

Internal cable routing

WTB SpeedMaster Compact Roller-Cam brake

Merlin 6-4 titanium vertical dropouts

Optional fork: Suspension-adjusted Ritchey Logic

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other builders, for greater lateral rigidity and improved cornering and climbing power. Their asymmetric S-Bends will swallow a 2.5-inch knobby with room to spare, yet they also accommodate any low-profile crankset.

The Newsboy's internal cable routing leads to a WTB SpeedMaster Roller-Cam brake, a lightweight design of terrific braking power and sensitivity. Other standard features include suspension-adjusted geometry, threaded dropouts, and a lightweight aluminum seat cluster design that accepts a standard 27.2-mm post.

But of course the Newsboy's most prominent feature is its unfettered, sweeping style. In a world of look-alike race bikes, the Newsboy eloquently refutes the contention that form must bow to function. Instead, form and function are combined as in no other bike in the world. And the result, quite simply, is sublime.



Merlin Newsboy			
Frame size *(in., ctr-ctr)*	15.0	17.0	19.0
Head angle *(degrees)**	71.0	71.0	72.0
Seat angle *(degrees)**	73.5	73.0	72.5
Nominal top tube *(in.)*	22.00	23.00	24.00
Chainstay *(in.)*	16.75	16.75	16.75
Wheelbase *(in.)**	40.9	41.9	42.2
Standover height *(in.)**	30.0	31.4	33.4
Bottom bracket height *(in.)**	11.6	11.8	11.9
Head tube length *(in.)*	3.75	4.25	6.0
Steerer length *(in.)*	5.5	6.0	7.5
Frame weight *(pounds)*	3.72	3.95	4.22

** With RockShox Judy SL or Manitou 4 and rider weight aboard*