



Tech Briefs

Geax Sells Affordable Mountain Bike Tubulars

OKLAHOMA, OK—Current mountain bike tubular wheels target elite racers with costly but super light carbon rims. This high cost of admission keeps amateur racers and riders off tubulars. "We think the same properties that keep elite racers using the tires—low rolling resistance and increased traction—also appeal to general riders, but wheel cost has kept them out of the market," said Ryan DeLong, Vittoria/Geax's marketing manager. To remedy the situation, Vittoria is releasing its first MTB tubular rim priced at \$85. The Geax alloy tubular is available as a 26-inch or 29-inch rim and is \$500 cheaper than carbon rims and on par with alloy clincher rims. Geax's tubular rims are 25-millimeters wide with a 22-millimeter wide gluing surface. The 26-inch rims weigh 430 grams; the 29-inch rims are around 480 grams. Rims are currently drilled for 24, 28 and 32 spokes. High-end race clinchers are in the \$80 to \$90 range. For \$10 to \$20 more, Geax offers its Saguaro and the new Baro Race tubulars, so there is no longer a price barrier between the two tire types.

