

Test-Riding The Volt Alpine Electric Mountain Bike

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The Volt Alpine electric mountain bike has a slim frame disguising the battery VOLT BIKES

For the uninitiated the idea of an electric mountain bike might seem like, as it did to me, a cheat code. Isn't the whole idea of mountain biking to exercise and push yourself to the limits off-road? Perhaps my view was tainted by an old-fashioned idea that electric bikes do all the work for you. To my surprise, the **Volt Alpine** instantly made me feel like an accomplished mountain biker and dialled up the fun immeasurably.

What Is The Volt Alpine Electric Mountain Bike Like To Ride?



Out in the wild with the Volt Alpine VOLT BIKES

Since the bike is designed for riders over 5' 7", I was a little short for the frame but that didn't stop me from having a good time. The Alpine feels solidly built and has adaptable suspension so you can unlock the front fork to provide better cushioning over challenging terrain. This means it's impressively comfortable over lumps and bumps and helps you throw your weight into the bike if you stand up.

Depending on how much electric support you need in any given scenario, the screen displays the level of assistance which can be changed with up and down buttons. With gloves on, the buttons are a little harder to operate, so you have to firmly press down. The ability to ask for some more electric power as required makes for an extremely quick and enjoyable ride. Plus, going up hill is a breeze. Since you can tailor its input you still feel like you've done a good workout afterwards.

The motor in the rear wheel hub can provide assistance up to 15.5mph and on average the 504Wh battery should give you around 60 miles of electric fun. Since the bike is chain driven there's manual gears to flick between too, so you can really dial in how the bike feels. It's a hugely enjoyable ride that evokes child-like playfulness and adventure.

What Tech Does The Volt Alpine Electric Mountain Bike Have?



To keep the bike secure it has its own keycard system REECE CHAPMAN / VOLT BIKES

The startup process is fairly simple: turn the battery on and turn the screen on. Alpine comes with a card that acts like a key. The screen turns on and prompts you to touch the card on top to essentially unlock the bike. On purchase, customers can also add a GPS tracking device for an additional £199.90 (\$250) for an extra bit of security and peace of mind.

There's four power modes to choose from including low, normal, high and power. Each setting feels noticeably different, giving you the confidence to switch between them to find the right level of power. The battery has a lifetime of 1000 charge-discharge cycles and it takes between three to four hours to charge.

How Much Does The Volt Alpine Electric Mountain Bike Cost?



Although it's a mountain bike, the Volt Alpine is designed to be just as capable on-road. VOLT BIKES

Alpine sits roughly in the middle of Volt's range of electric bikes, coming in at £2,299 (\$2,800). There's few rivals at this price point able to offer such a well integrated battery solution and attractive design. If an off-road focused bike doesn't quite suit your needs, Volt offers the hybrid e-bike [Connect](#) which is designed to strike a balance between a mountain bike and an urban-focused bike.

Currently, the Alpine is only available in blue with a single frame size suited to riders 5' 7" and over. If you're on the border of being the right height, it's a good idea to find a local bike shop that offers test rides so you can make sure you're comfortable. Volt has a handy [dealer locator](#) for its outlets across the UK. As long as you register your electric mountain bike, it comes with a two-year warranty as standard.

Technical specification Volt Alpine Electric Mountain Bike

- Price as tested:** £2,299 (\$2,800)
- Drivetrain:** Chain with 250 Watt Super High Torque SpinTech Motor
- Battery:** Removable Panasonic lithium ion 504Wh
- Charge time:** 3 to 4 hours
- Range:** Up to 60 miles / 95km
- Weight:** 22.1kg with battery