

Test-Riding The Volt Lite Folding E-Bike

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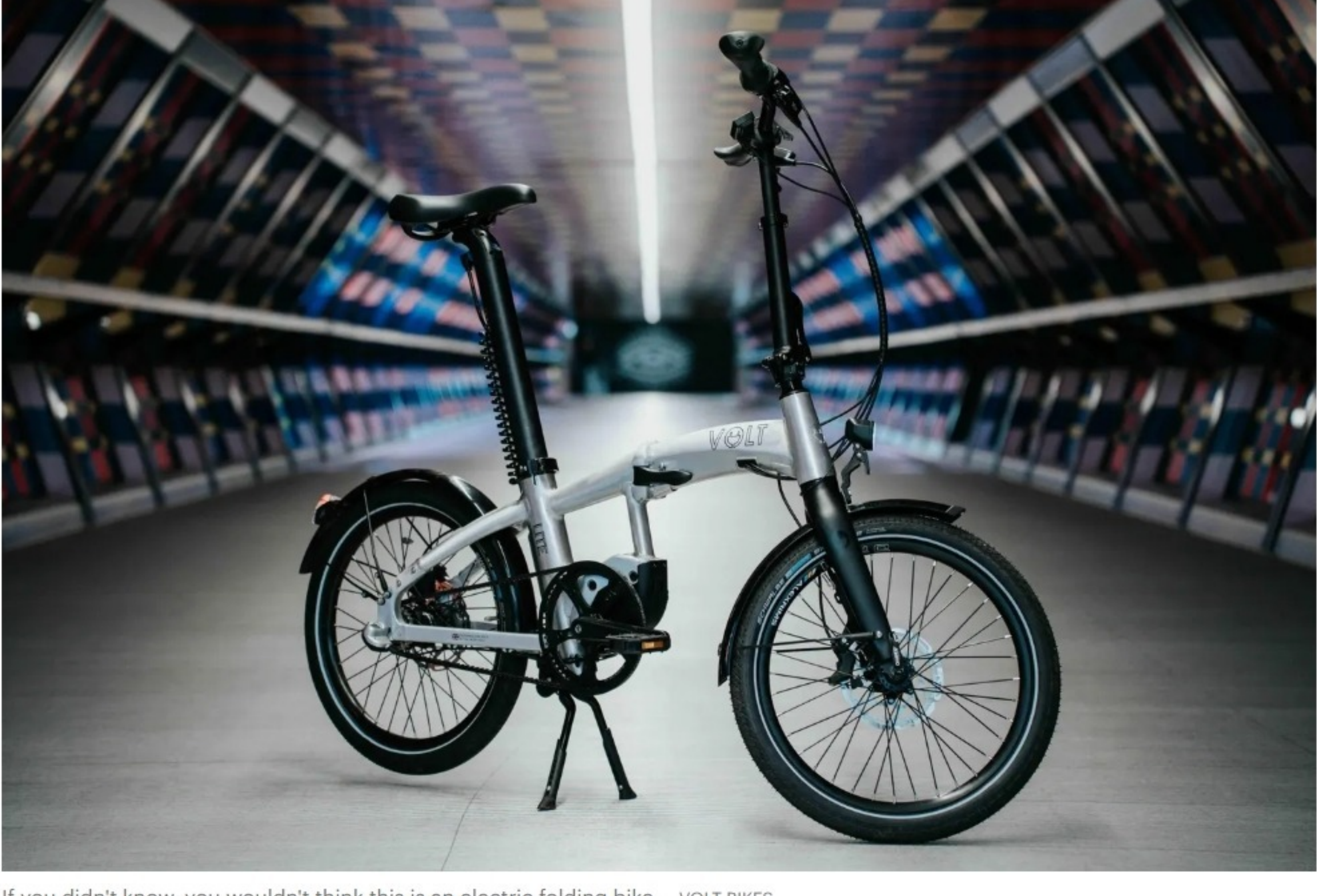


The Volt Lite is designed to be a great addition to a city commute VOLT BIKES

In the Venn diagram of folding bikes and electric bikes, Volt’s Lite folding e-bike was not what I was expecting. For starters, there’s nothing apart from a curly cable winding up to the rear of the seat to indicate any kind of electric wizardry. But before we get into the details on this gorgeous masterpiece of engineering, let’s hear a little bit about Volt.

The UK-based company was founded in 2010 by two brothers on a mission to vastly improve their experiences of e-bikes by creating their own products. A decade and a half later, the company now has 13 different e-bike models covering folding, hybrid, urban and mountain bikes. The business has expanded across the UK and operates out of its HQ in London and factory in Milton Keynes.

What Is The Volt Lite Folding E-Bike Like To Ride?



If you didn't know, you wouldn't think this is an electric folding bike. VOLT BIKES

Surprisingly, the Volt Lite feels like a much bigger bike on the road. The ride height makes you feel visible to other traffic or pedestrians and it’s impressively sprightly considering its compact packaging. Including the battery, which is packaged into the seat post, the bike weighs 18kg (40 lbs). This makes it fairly manageable to fold away and carry and the folding mechanism is simple to work out. The idea behind the Lite model is to be a city commuter e-bike.

On a full charge, Lite has a 50 mile range which should be more than enough for the daily ride into work. For some, it might even have a week’s worth of electric assistance in it before it needs recharging. Volt is also developing a smaller battery option to reduce weight even further. The belt drive system minimizes any exposure to dirty components which is especially important if you need to fold or unfold it wearing work clothes.

The Bafang motor can offer assistance up to 15.5 mph and the level of assistance can be controlled using buttons on the left side. On the right handlebar there’s a manual gear shift with a choice of three gears. When it’s time to stop, the brakes give a reassuring amount of feedback and firmly slow the bike down.

What Tech Does The Volt Lite Folding E-Bike Have?



The Volt Lite folds together easily and stays put with cleverly-placed magnets VOLT BIKES

Arguably, the Volt Lite’s most impressive bit of technology is its battery packaging. Disguised in the seat post, its on/off button is positioned just under the seat for easy access. With the bike on, all the important electric information is displayed through its LCD screen. Simple graphics mean it’s easy to quickly look at how fast you’re travelling or remaining charge. Front and rear LED lights come as standard and the bike typically takes around two to three hours to recharge.

How Much Does The Volt Lite Folding E-Bike Cost?



When it's folded the Lite is easy to carry or store VOLT BIKES

Amongst Volt’s folding e-bike range, Lite is the most expensive option at £2,899 (\$3,500). Much of this cost is down to its clever battery integration. Volt’s other folding bikes feature batteries attached behind the seat post. While the Lite’s seat post is chunkier than the others, its seamless design makes it an attractive choice. Volt also offers the Metro LS which has a low step frame or the standard Metro model, both of which are priced at £1,949 (\$2,400).

Both Metro folding e-bikes are available in black, the low step can be had in a cream colour and the crossbar version also comes in white. As standard the Lite comes with a metal finish, showing off its aluminium frame. Other features like the handlebars and mudguards are finished in black.

Technical specification

Price as tested: £2,899 (\$3,500)


Drivetrain: Belt with Bafang M820 motor

Battery: Removable Panasonic lithium ion 360Wh

Charge time: 2 to 3 hours

Range: Up to 50 miles / 80km

Weight: 18kg with battery

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