

Tested: The best electric single-speed bikes 2025

by Rebecca Bland Mar 17 2025

0 comments



Best electric single-speed bikes March 2025.jpg, by Oli Pendrey

Top single-speed e-bikes, as reviewed by us

The beauty of electric single-speed bikes is their simplicity. The single gear means the handlebars are less cluttered without gear shifters, and there's less to think about when you are riding. We're not suggesting you should daydream and let your mind wander completely when riding a single-speed, but for those who want to embrace simplicity with added electric power, they're certainly a good option. *And*, you don't necessarily need to live in a flat area to benefit as the motor often negates the need for gears.

The advantages of a single-speed drivetrain centre on the fact that there are fewer components, which in turn means there's generally less to worry about failing, or cleaning. You'll also find that this means single-speed e-bikes will often be lighter than their multi-geared counterparts.

The main downside to a single geared bike is that some hills will be more difficult to conquer (depending on the power of the motor). You'll also spin out more easily. (This is where your pedalling cadence goes higher than is comfortable - a bit like being stuck in the little ring on a descent.)

There are more folding and urban e-bikes that have adopted the single-speed philosophy and so that's what you'll see on our list. If you want to see a more rounded overview of the different types of e-bikes on offer, then head over to our overall guide to the [best electric bikes](#).

More good news for prospective single-speed e-bike owners is that they are generally on the cheaper end of the spectrum – you won't see any £10,000 e-bikes in this guide.

Volt London - £2,099



The Volt London is a pretty slick looking urban e-bike, complete with front pizza rack for all your 'za carrying needs. It's powered by a Spintech branded Bafang rear hub motor, which has a decent torque sensor to help get you going.

In the words of Richard, our reviewer, "it really does feel like you have bionic legs". For anyone looking for a responsive and easy to maintain ride, the Volt London is worthy of consideration.

For more detail, read our first ride review of the [Volt London](#).

FAQs

Are single-speed e-bikes any good?

They are indeed. The beauty of single-speed electric bikes is that they are simpler than their geared counterparts. There are fewer components on there for a start, so you've got much less to worry about in terms of maintenance and repairs.

Secondly, they are also generally lighter because of this. The lack of gears frees up a lot of weight, often by kilograms, so they make great options for commuting or for those who need to carry their bikes up stairs etc.

What should I look for in a single-speed e-bike?

Single-speed electric bikes are just like their geared counterparts in terms of electronic technology, so what you look for in a bike like that will also apply to these. Basically, look for something that fits your riding needs, first and foremost.

Then, have a look what you can get for your budget – luckily single-speed bikes tend to be cheaper than geared versions because there are fewer components. You can then consider whether you want a belt-driven or chain-driven drivetrain. Belt drives don't require lubrication like a chain does, and they keep your legs free from any oil-stains.

What are the benefits of a single-speed e-bike?

Single-speed electric bikes offer several benefits over geared bikes. Firstly, they are easier to maintain due to the reduction in moving parts. There is still the chain or belt drive, of course, but this requires less maintenance than a more complex drivetrain.

Secondly, they are often lighter because of the lack of components – even urban e-bikes are more easily carried because of the lack of weight.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, many single-speed e-bikes are cheaper to buy than geared options.

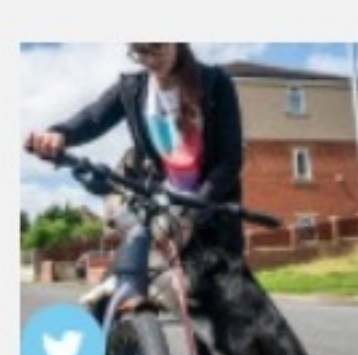
What are the downsides to a single-speed e-bike?

Single-speed e-bikes work well because the motor often negates the need for gears, as it's providing you with extra power. Having a choice of gears certainly makes things easier uphill, but it doesn't necessarily matter if you have a powerful enough motor.

The downside to single-speed e-bikes comes when you do reach a hill it can't conquer. This will depend on the motor, the actual gear that's on the bike, and your general fitness/tolerance of grinding up hills. However, for the most part, they can tackle steeper inclines than you might think.

Explore the complete archive of electric bike reviews on ebiketips.

Product type:
[Buyer's guide](#)



Rebecca Bland

Rebecca has been writing about e-bikes for four years, after a typically ill-timed career change pre-pandemic. She's been riding bikes since she can remember, and fell back in love with them after realising it was faster, cheaper, and more fun than getting the bus to work. Nowadays she enjoys all kinds of bikes, from road to eMTB and is training her border collie pup to become a trail dog.

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