

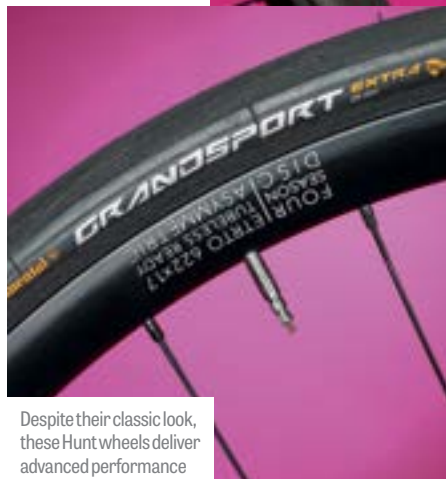
## MASON RESOLUTION

Tradition meets future tech in this forward-thinking British steel roadie

PRICE: from: £2,595 (frame and fork £1,459, Ultegra Di2 model pictured £4,195) CONTACT: masoncycles.cc



Internal cable routing and a sleek black frame offer aesthetic appeal



Despite their classic look, these Hunt wheels deliver advanced performance



This model is fitted with the reliable Shimano Ultegra 6800 groupset



Rack eyelets are just one of the Resolution's practical design features

It's hard to talk about Mason bikes without first mentioning Kinesis. Here's the background: Kinesis has been a popular bike brand in the UK for over a decade now, which is surprising given that, on the face of it, it's just another big Asian bike company producing good-value aluminium frames. So what makes Kinesis so special?

The secret is that Kinesis has a designer in the UK creating bikes specially for the British market. That means lots of practical things like mudguard clearance on road bikes, lots of cyclocross bikes and road bikes such as the Aithein, which is a well-priced competitive racer, perfect for unsponsored riders who have to pay their own way through the sport.

The man behind the first decade of Kinesis is a chap called Dominic Mason. Having spent so long working for one brand and dealing with the limitations that go hand in hand with being part of a bigger company, he's now gone off on his own to launch Mason.

To start with, Mason is producing two frames, the aluminium Definition and the steel Resolution. Both frames are made in Italy in small factories near Venice (a bike-building hotspot where lots of high-end frames are built – in aluminium, steel and carbon) and, at the time of writing, British racer Josh Ibbett has just piloted his Definition to victory in the Transcontinental, an unsupported 4,000km romp across Europe from Flanders to Istanbul. He averaged 400km a day to finish in just shy of 10 days. There are easier ways of

proving your bike's speed and reliability, but that's surely the most heroic.

The Resolution we have here is made of Columbus steel, Columbus being an Italian company that produces high-end tubing for bikes, much like Reynolds or fellow Italian brand Dedacciai. 'I became really interested in developing a performance steel frame when Columbus introduced its beautiful Spirit and Life tubesets,' says Mason. By combining these two types of tube with modern components and forward-thinking

**Mason believes he has created something special, with modern components and progressive geometry**

geometry, Mason believes he has produced something really special. The down tube is hugely oversized for stiffness, while the wide, flattened profile of the top tube is reminiscent of that on the Condor Super Acciaio, designed for lateral rigidity while allowing some comfort in the vertical plane. The head tube is tapered (a rare sight on steel bikes, which often go for the versatile 44mm standard), while the seat tube uses a standard 27.2mm post to help absorb road buzz.

With a long wheelbase across all sizes and a low bottom bracket, the Resolution is designed for carving turns rather than fast (read: nervous) handling, which is just what we want from a modern road bike – especially one that comes with big tyres and disc brakes.



An oversized down tube and flattened top tube make for a rigid ride

Mason bikes are disc only, which we believe is the way to go if you're not racing, or you don't have a huge stockpile of rim brake wheels.

The wheels on Mason bikes are supplied by Hunt, a Sussex-based company that specialises in road disc wheelsets. We featured these exact wheels in issue 11 of *BikesEtc*; they're very good indeed, and tubeless-ready – another bonus.

The Resolution is a versatile bike and comes with hidden eyelets for racks and mudguards – all part of Mason's Four Seasons concept, where you ride the

same bike all year round rather than having one for best, and one mudguard-equipped tank for winter. On a similar theme, the cable routing is all internal and easy to adapt for different set-ups, including Di2 and potentially wireless in the future.

Being steel, the Resolution isn't super light (weighing in at 9.27kg for our size 56), and the weight is noticeable compared with a carbon bike. But can that carbon bike run mudguards or 28mm tyres? That's where the Resolution's heart lies: with fat tyres, on the longest days in the saddle, come rain or shine. 🚲

**With a long wheelbase, it's designed for carving turns rather than fast (read: nervous) handling**

### BikesEtc Rating

#### PROS

Versatile, all-weather workhorse

#### CONS

It's steel, so it's naturally on the heavy side

OVERALL  
8/10