

INTERBIKE 2004

After a long drive home, I had a few minutes to write up my impressions of the show.

By John Schubert

First, the annual disclaimer: With three weeks of lead time, the Interbike trade show has now reached its peak in three days. Most vendors will see a lot, but most will see a lot less. Second, the two most interesting things I saw at the show were not products. Third, as always, I saw a lot of interesting things, but not many of them were products. The most interesting thing I saw...

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Speaking of pedals, the invention of the year was a work in progress called the Side Mount Pedal (SMp). Inventor Steve Lubanski envisions doing away with pedals as we know them. At the end of the crank arm, there would simply be a donut-shaped steel fitting, which spins freely on its ball bearings. Your shoe would have a slot on the side, to slip over this fitting, plus an appropriate internal structure to carry the pedaling force from the ball of your foot to this fitting. It's a work in progress because not all the parts exist yet. But the abbreviated pedal exists, as do drawings of the imagined shoe. As an interim step, Lubanski has a titanium piece that attaches to his abbreviated pedal and bolts onto the fittings on the bottom of your shoe.

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