

Obtainable Element



5th Element shocks now have an official Australian distributor. Santa Cruz Australia will sell 5th Element shocks as well as handling any warranties and repairs. 5th Element is well known for their 'Adjustable Platform Damping'. This system allows the user to custom tune the amount of effort required to make a shock move, independently from the spring rate, rebound or compression damping.

Weighing under 200g, the 5th Element air shock pictured is claimed to be the lightest on the market. This shock uses relatively low air pressures for improved suspension action and better durability. 5th Element's air shocks will start at around \$800. 5th Element shocks with steel springs will range from \$950 to \$1,100 and more for the titanium versions.

Neezy Pty Ltd 0418 771 583

Branching Out



DT Swiss has been making high quality stainless steel spokes for longer than most of us will remember. More recently they branched out into making hubs and now DT Swiss has taken the next big step—rims. DT has introduced two models of cross country rims. The XR4.1 is for rim brakes and the XR4.1d is disc brake specific. Both rims come in 32 and 36 spoke versions with the XR4.1 also coming in a 28 spoke option. These eyeleted rims weigh 425g each and feature a special welded joint for better strength. Both versions of the DT Swiss rim will sell for \$150 each.

Dirt Works (02) 9679 8400

Carbon Mix



The Aricle Carbon handlebar is made using an aluminium inner skeleton, reinforced with a '6k Carbon' outer weave. It comes in a one inch rise and has a natural carbon finish. The 6061 alloy inner sleeve helps prevent failure due to the stresses applied at the clamp while the carbon adds resilience and vibration damping. These carbon bars have reinforced alloy ends, which allow the use of externally clamping bar ends. The Aricle Carbon bars are sensibly light at 186g and they retail for around \$110.

Unlimited Bicycles (02) 9521 1725