



Carbon footprint

RIDER: Steff Woodhouse
BIKE: R1
PRICE: £12,999



As accessories go they don't get much more expensive than a set of carbon fibre wheels, but come on, if you could, you would, wouldn't you? Well I have. Or at least my R1 has. It's now fitted with a pair of BlackStone Tek (more commonly known as BST, Black Diamond 5 Swept Spoke Carbon wheels) – 17 x 3.5 for the front and 17 x 6 for the rear wrapped in Continentals ContiSport Attack 2 tyres.



In my opinion, every year manufacturers bring out new models stating that they've shaved a certain number of kg off the previous model and therefore it has better handling and a better power-to-weight ratio. But seldom do manufacturers opt for lighter wheels, saving essential unsprung weight – most probably because of the costs involved. These particular examples cost £2805 with the necessary Probolt kit and Talon rear sprocket. But in my opinion they're worth it. At just 6.9kg, they weigh around half the weight of the standard wheels.

Switching the wheels over was a very quick and easy procedure. I've had some harsh experiences in

the past when fitting aftermarket products, but the wheels slotted straight in without the need of a big hammer. And the ProBolt and Talon sprockets caused me no bother either. Happy days! Best still, standing back to admire my work, I got a real buzz from the bike's new look. Wheels are quite a natural focal point on a bike. It's funny how often you look at a bike's wheels before examining the rest of it. Before I'd even gone for a spin on the new rims, I felt my bike had just got a whole lot better.

Come the time I'd got out for a quick test ride, I knew I'd made the right decision. It's hard to describe just how beneficial the new rims are to the bike's handling performance. I'd heard people say about the difference lighter wheels make to the way a bike rides, but now I know first hand that those people's words are not just hype. I'm not the fastest rider out there, but even I can tell how much quicker the R1's nose wants to jump into corners. You feel the benefit even more on longer drags, when you have an abundance of corners to tackle. The whole bike's just so much more agile. It's awesome. A big thanks to HPS for getting me these rims – if you fancy fitting your bike out, contact HPS on 01773 831122 or check out its website – www.bikehps.com

