

Watt are you on?

An electric mountain bike? Surely that's cheating? But there's no denying the Lapierre Overvolt's benefits – like overtaking angry people on climbs

■ Lapierre's full-suspension electric mountain bike has proper mountain bike components and the latest Bosch Performance electric kit, providing up to 275% assistance to your pedalling and 60Nm of torque. The four modes of assistance and the 400Wh battery pack let you choose between a range of 30–110 miles, but only if you're pedalling as well.

■ The Overvolt, especially in Sport mode, fires up hills so on tricky, technical climbs you can sit in the saddle and power-pedal your way to the top – with the suspension absorbing rocks and roots and the Bosch serving out torque to keep you rolling.

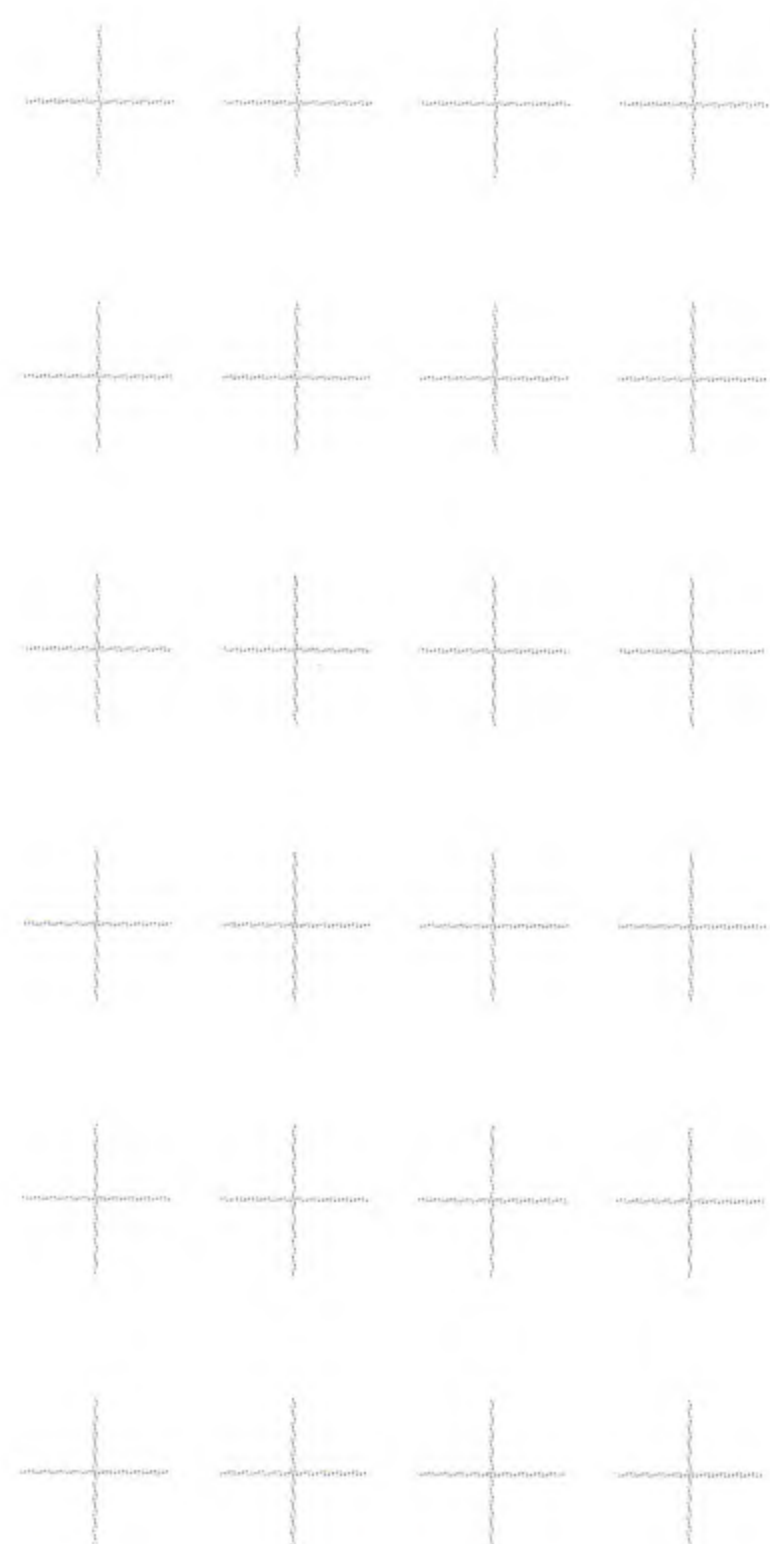
■ Even in its lowest, longest-lasting 'Eco' mode it's still giving you 50% assistance, a less obvious advantage until you look behind you and see the hateful looks your biopowered mates are giving you...

■ Unfortunately, it's still EU-regulated to a 15mph maximum speed so the motor assistance will cut out once you hit that speed and only leg power will convince it to go quicker... at which point, physics will reveal how hard it is to pedal a 50lb bike.

■ The market for this isn't huge but older riders or those with an injury might find the assistance lets them rip up the hills rather than give it all up. Or you might just be a bit lazy, and that's OK.

Tech specs

Gears Shimano XT Shadow Plus 10-speed **Battery** Lithium ion 400Wh **Brakes** Formula The One hydraulic disk **Range** 30–110 miles claimed **Motor** Bosch Performance 250W **Weight** 20.2kg **Price** £3800



Heavy handling

You may just be overtaken as you manhandle your Overvolt around corners. That said, the Bosch motor's placement down at the bottom bracket does keep the handling manageable and centred.



Leave them in the cafe

But later, when the rest of the group are exhausted, you'll get in another trail before home time. Then, riding on your own and with falling energy levels, is when the bike's assistance makes real sense.

STUFF SAYS For those who need an extra push, the price is nearly justified ★★★★★

Get off the off-road

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All across the British Isles are purpose-built bike centres where bazillions of bikers get their fix on world-class trails. But in-between are more organic trails where the rights of way have, in some cases, been fought tooth and nail between walkers, horses, bikers and landowners. The emergence of electric mountain bikes might raise some hackles, even if they're not actually powerful enough to do any damage. Ride light, bike geeks.