

GT ZUM 4.0 \$500 *Where mountain meets the city*

GT's ZuM 4.0 (Zaskar Urban Machine) is a mountain animal tamed for city duty. It's based on GT's race-winning Zaskar hardtail mountain bikes, right down to the butted 6061 aluminum frameset, disc brake tab and classic cross-country geometry. And with a riser bar and suspension fork, the ZuM is built to take on potholes and curbs, something that many gossamer city machines aren't capable of.

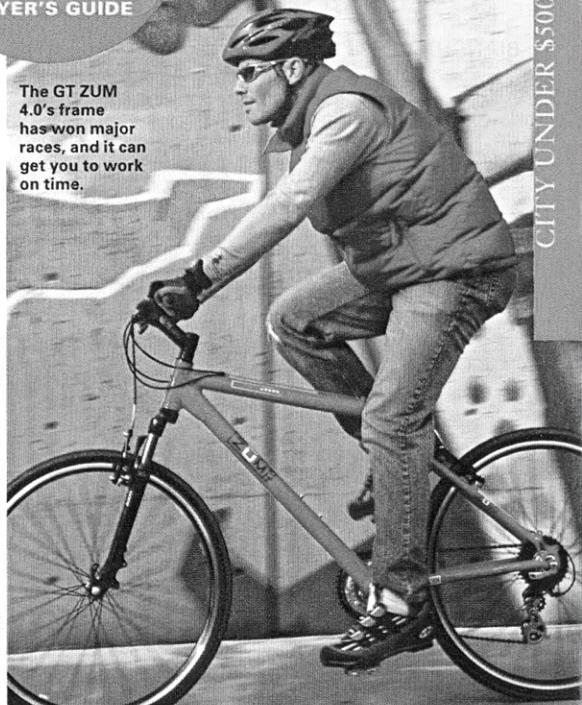
On the road, the ZuM is less porky than its dirt heritage and weight (27 pounds) might lead you to assume. The hardtail accelerated with such snap that, if you hang some top parts on it, you could easily race your local XC series. And the Alex DA-22 rims and Tioga City Slicker tires rolled remarkably well (due in part to the lighter, foldable-bead tires, a rarity on lower-end bikes).

The Shimano Acera-based drivetrain is a bit of a disappointment, given that other companies kit bikes at this price with Shimano's better Deore line. Shifts simply weren't as crisp as we'd like, nor did we dig the trigger shifter paddles, which on Shimano's EZ-Fire shifters are mounted above the bar. The biggest bummer, though, is the coil-sprung SR fork, which suffered from overly exuberant rebound and lacked adjustment or even lockout to end the problem.

With the ZuM 4.0's dirt origin, some city aspects seem to be afterthoughts. GT adds rack eyelets on the seatstays (and the SR fork has them, too), but there are no dropout eyelets so you'll need a bracket kit to mount a rear rack. Adding a rear fender requires jury-rigging, too. But the ZuM has promise, and it's so well-built that it will likely outlast the job to which you're commuting.—*Joe Lindsey*

BUY IT IF: You want mountain bike handling and durability **FORGET IT IF:** You'll never, ever hit the dirt **FRAME:** TIG-welded 6061 butted aluminum, disc mount **FORK:** SR NRX-6000, 50mm travel **WEIGHT:** 27 lb., 3 oz. (M, w/ pedals) **SIZES:** XS, S, M (tested), L, XL **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** 24-speed Shimano drivetrain, Alivio hubs; Tektro linear-pull brakes **CONTACT:** 800/RIDE-A-GT; gt bicycles.com

The GT ZUM 4.0's frame has won major races, and it can get you to work on time.



CITY UNDER \$500



GIANT TCX CYCLOCROSS

\$750 (frame and fork) *A racer that's as agile as a mountain bike*

LOVE THAT GEOMETRY: We used this bike in races, where our full Ultegra 10 TCX proved to us that compact, mountain bike-like geometry is just naturally more secure on slippery, technical terrain. And, no, we didn't have any trouble shouldering this baby. **HATE THAT GEOMETRY:** The TCX is made for dirt; it's serviceable on asphalt, but it's not a roadie's 'cross bike. **SHARP NOSE:** The FormulaOne carbon fork provides sharp steering and dampens painful high-end reverber, so you can concentrate on trying not to blow a lung. **SIZES:** S, M, L, XL **FRAME:** Aluxx SL6000 aluminum alloy **FORK:** FormulaOne carbon fiber, aluminum steerer **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** (as shown) Shimano R-550 wheels; Tufo Elite Cyclocross LPS tubular clincher tires; Force handlebar, OS-115 ATB/Road stem; FSA SLK carbon seatpost. **CONTACT:** giantbicycle.com—*Michael Frank*



NOVARA RIVET \$1,299

Nice value on a quality frame and parts kit

A HAPPY MARRIAGE: We dig the mix of carbon stays, a carbon fork and an AN6 aluminum main triangle. It yields a light, compliant bike for both racing and rolling on pavement. **NICE!** The Ultegra rear derailleur is nice, but it's an unexpected treat to see Crank Brothers Candy C pedals and a Fi'zi:k Aliante Sport saddle on a bike this price. **HMM:** The Shimano 105 rear cassette (12/25) and Ritchey Cross V front cranks (38/48) are quality, but the gearing itself may be a tad tall for off-road escapades: even fast guys won't see much time in the big ring. **SIZES:** 50, 52, 54, 56, 58cm **FRAME:** AN6 aluminum **FORK:** Carbon-fiber Cross, aluminum steerer **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano Tiagra front and Ultegra rear derailleurs, 105 shifters/levers; Ritchey Cross V cranks (38/48), Logic Pro Road aluminum handlebar and Logic Pro stem; Aero DS Comp rims w/ Comp 20H hubs; Avid Shorty 6 cantilever brakes **CONTACT:** 800/426-4840; novarabike.com—*M.F.*

SCOTT USA: Popular in Europe, but recently re-introduced in the U.S. Will it catch on? Time will tell.

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