

# HOT STUFF

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THIS MONTH

MOST  
WANTED

## RENTHAL 1XR CHAINRING £49.90

We shouldn't be telling you this, but when the 1x thing kicked off a couple of years ago Renthal made some prototype narrow/wide chainrings too. It didn't release them, though, because the chain came off once or twice during testing. Most of us would be more than happy with that but Renthal wasn't, so it went back to the drawing board — and this is the result.

The new 1XR chainring is made from the same hardwearing 7075 T6 series aluminium as all Renthal rings and sprockets, and also gets the familiar hard-anodised surface treatment. The teeth on the 1XR alternate in thickness to interlock with the links in the chain, but there's a key difference from most other designs. The frontal profile of the thicker teeth on the 1XR, where they contact the inner link plates, has been reduced. This increases mud clearance and also reduces wear on the teeth, and it's wear that usually diminishes chain retention, something we've experienced on both SRAM and Race Face rings. Renthal also machines mud grooves into the bottom of the teeth, which again helps to channel grime away from this area.

Surprisingly the technology is not new — Renthal has used similar evacuation grooves on its front and rear motorcycle sprockets for a while, so it is proven.

Renthal is producing the 1XR rings in 32, 34, 36 and 38t sizes in a standard 104mm BCD. There'll be a 30t due in July, which will probably be an offset design, followed by an XTR M9000, SRAM 94mm and direct-mount for both SRAM and Race Face cranks later in the year.

It took a while but the 1XR is superb quality and great value. If it lasts as long as the non-narrow/wide Renthal SR4 ring, it could easily be the number one choice for UK conditions. [ison-distribution.com](http://ison-distribution.com)

