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OUR FAVORITE TRAINERS

TACX NEO 2

To be honest, we haven't gotten the new version 2 in the office yet. As of this writing, it has only been out for a few days, and we only got a sneak peek of it at the Interbike show. But, the original Neo has been one of the top trainers on the market. The Neo 2 further improves on what the original model provided, as well as refines some of the technology. Most of the upgrades come in the form of pedal analysis and left/ right balance. One feature that we like and set it apart, is the ability for it to power itself with the energy you put into it. It also offers one of the highest resistances for those working on sprints or intervals with 2200 watts of resistance. Just as the original model, the Neo 2 has built-in speed, cadence and power sensors.

There is a feature called Road Feel that some software programs offer, and this is one of the very few trainers capable of taking advantage of the technology. It allows the trainer to feel more realistic if your avatar is riding over cobbles or, dare we say, gravel. At \$1400, this is an expensive investment, but it offers a premium experience and the latest in trainer technology.

Price: \$1400
www.tacx.com



CYCLEOPS H2

The H2 is the most recent version of the original Hammer direct-drive trainer. It has been refined and improved, with the most recent innovations being a more accurate power meter. It now delivers speed and cadence data on top of the power data, so there's no need for anything other than a heart rate sensor. They have also included a mode that needs no computer or controller—just plug it in and start riding. This mode mimics outdoor resistance, so the faster you go, the harder it gets. All of this is in addition to the already stable and powerful 2000-watt resistance that was carried over from the Hammer.

The H2 has been an office favorite and one of the quietest too. The design is simple, with legs that are wide and stable which can fold in for easy storage. The H2 might not have the highest resistance, but it is more than enough for our testers, and one of the smoothest and most accurate to respond to grade changes in all the simulation programs we use.

Price: \$1200
www.cycleops.com



CROWN ROLLERS CR-1

If a trainer isn't your thing, then there are always rollers. The team at Crown has reimagined the traditional roller and created a more stable and user-friendly design. There are two aluminum rollers that have a tapered design, while the rear roller maintains the same cylindrical shape. The tapered rollers are largest in the middle, offering the least amount of resistance in the center, which naturally holds the rider in the center. They have adjustments to fit a wide range of bike sizes and retract down for compact and easy storage.

Price: \$650
www.crownroller.com



FEEDBACK SPORTS OMNIUM OVER-DRIVE PORTABLE

The Omnium is a mix between rollers and a stationary trainer. It is also a favorite among racers because of its extremely compact design and quick setup. Remove the front wheel and mount the bike's fork, then you're ready. There is internal resistance that is progressive, so the faster you go, the more resistance you get. This is the perfect choice for race warm-ups or the athlete who is always on the move. Feedback also offers a version with no resistance similar to a traditional set of rollers.

Price: \$430

www.feedbacksports.com



ELITE DRIVO II

As the name implies, the Drivo II is the most updated version of Elite's flagship smart trainer. We did a full review of the original in the January 2018 issue, but the big changes are the wider platform for added stability, more accurate power meter and a more responsive drive motor for an even more realistic response. The color has been changed to black, but the same 2300 watts of resistance means that it will be nearly impossible to overpower. If there's one thing that we have a like/dislike relationship with, it's how easy it is to swap out the different axle spacers. Quick and easy—so easy that if you aren't careful, you might have one of the adapters fall out when you are storing it. Overall, this is another flagship trainer that offers great ride quality.

Price: \$1200

www.elite-it.com



WAHOO KICKR

The Kickr is Wahoo's top-of-the-line smart trainer and a popular choice, since Wahoo offers a full ecosystem for indoor workouts. The Kickr offers 1400 watts of resistance and fits all the current standards for mounting your bike. It also has a power meter, ANT+/Bluetooth connectivity and a compact design. Another great feature is that Wahoo ships it with a cassette installed, so there's no need to buy additional components. Their design is one of the most compact and has a very well-placed handle for moving or transport. It has easy-to-adjust leg support for bikes of all types.

Price: \$1200

www.wahoofitness.com

