

Richard Cunningham, the amazing wizard of mountain bikes, is the man behind the equally amazing Mantis X-Frame. Richard is committed to building ultimate quality bicycles by incorporating every conceivable theory known (and unknown) to man. His bikes have won numerous big races under the hands and legs of factory Mantis rider Mike Bell (and former rider Todd DeAngelis), so his theories definitely work! Richard's personal bike is the original prototype for the Mantis X-Frame, which is currently in production. The prototype is used as a test bed for various components, so it doesn't necessarily reflect the complete bikes now available. Richard's concept behind the X-Frame is to create a bike using the lightest possible steel, while achieving the strength of aluminum without the flex for which the light alloy is known. "This bike is designed to be ridden in the clips and out of the saddle," Cunningham says, alluding to the hard riding style of Mike Bell. If Mantis bicycles don't figure prominently in the winners' circle, they could just as easily be on display at a museum. □

INSIDE THE PROS' BIKES

Richard Cunningham's prototype Mantis X-Frame

RICHARD CUNNINGHAM'S PROTOTYPE MANTIS X-FRAME

Weight 27 lbs.
 Price \$1300 to \$1400*
 *Depending on component choice.
 Framesets alone are available for \$600.

