



SPECIALIZED GLOBE WORK 3

Price: £600

Weight: 13.8kg (30.4lb) as tested

Sizes: XS-XL (L tested); XS-L step-through

Frame & fork: aluminium frame with fittings for mudguards, racks, 2 bottles, & kickstand. Aluminium fork, steel steerer

Wheels: 38-622 Specialized Infinity tyres, SVX200 rims, 32x3 spokes, unbranded front hub, Shimano Nexus Inter-7 rear.

Transmission: flat pedals, 42T chainset, square taper BB, 18T sprocket. Inter-7 twist shifter & hub. 7-speed, 42-103in.

Braking: V-brakes

Steering & seating: Globe Kraton grips, Globe Work 25.4mm bar, 20° stem, 27.2mm seatpost, Globe Work saddle

Equipment: mudguards, chainguard

Contact: specialized.com

Specialized's 38mm Infinity tyres have puncture-resistant belts and reflective sidewalls. If only it came with a luggage carrier and integral hub-dynamo lighting, the Globe Work 3 would be very well suited to its utilitarian role.

TOWN BIKE, £600

Specialized Globe Work 3

Practical hybrids aren't the rarity that they once were. Journalist **Mike Davis** reviews one from the US

» **THE GLOBE** Work 3 is designed for urban commuting and errand running, offering a more user-friendly riding position than the many sports-oriented hybrids and flat-bar road bikes. It's built around a lightweight aluminium frame (also available as a step-through design) and fork that carries all the necessary mounts and bosses for mudguards, racks (front and rear) and a kickstand, although only the 'guards are supplied.

Sensibly for a bike likely to be left unattended, the seatpost, stem and bars are all attached using security bolts that require a specific, slightly unusual tool, to undo – they're Torx heads with a central spigot, so you need a hollow Torx bit. That won't deter the determined thief, but it's not the sort of thing that the opportunist bike thief is likely to carry. The necessary tool comes with the bike. The rear wheel has a nutted axle, while the quick-release front has a skewer with a removable lever, drilled to fit on a key ring.

With a long head tube, short, high

stem and 16° swept-back bars – not quite as swept as a traditional 'north road' bar but considerably more swept than a conventional MTB-style bar – the Globe has a deliberately upright riding position. This works very well on busy streets, making it easy to look ahead and behind without undue contortions. It's not that well-suited to vigorous sprints from the lights, but if that's what you want to do there are many other bikes to choose from. The Globe is all about a more sedate pace.

Top gear

The Shimano Nexus 7-speed internal gear hub is tried and tested, with a useful range of ratios. I would prefer a smaller chainring/sprocket ratio than the 42/18 that's fitted. With the 18T sprocket, the Nexus is roughly equivalent to a 7-speed 11-28 derailleur setup. The 42T chainring gives an overall range of 42-103 inches, and on a bike like this there doesn't seem much call for a 103-inch gear. The easy shifting and low maintenance demands of a hub gear make perfect sense for a town bike.



- 1 Even a partial chainguard lets you forgo cycle clips
- 2 The 7-speed hub has a 244% range, but could use a bigger sprocket

Also consider



1) Cube Hyde Pro £599

The Hyde Pro has a sportier riding position than the Globe and benefits from an extra gear, but is missing essential equipment that will be costly to add. cube.eu

2) Kona Africabike Three £450

More fully equipped than most bikes on the UK market, but only 3-speed and still lacks integral lighting. Buying one funds bikes-to-Africa charities. konaworld.com