

SCOPE R5C REVIEWED



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THE SCOPE R5C REVIEWED

The saying “the thicker the better” applies not only to cars, but also to bicycles. At least, that’s the conclusion of our test rider Bas van der Wurf after he tested a pair Scope R5c’s on his Bianchi. You have to keep your feet on the ground and see the new look of your bike from all angles.

Scope is a Dutch wheel brand, who are in competition with the big names. All the wheelsets they offer – they have three - have one and the same competitive price, 1,398 euro! I was allowed to test a set R5c’s, with a rim height of 55mm, their highest model. The R5c is also wide, with a rim width of 24mm. This provides a lower air resistance

in combination with the slightly flattened cross-sectional profile. Plus, it has the added advantage that the tire is bigger.

The braking surface is made out of a special material. Combined with the included Scope brake pads it provides a superior braking performance.

The hubs are also a unique Scope product, with an extra wide distance between both flanges in order to maximize the stiffness. The weight is delicate. Scope claims 1,555g, 1,589g were measured. Still not bad for a wheelset with such high rims!

So, let’s start our ride. Wind is a real thing, and the R5c’s definitely are more efficient than the Ultegra’s that I usually run on my Bianchi. When you try to make a turn in windy conditions, you will be slightly pushed to the side. Nevertheless, the blunt rim profile seems to do its job. With many other aero wheels, the handling is much more difficult.

After a few headwind sections I take a turn to enjoy some tailwind. And I’m amazed of what happens. The Scope R5c wheels start buzzing at around 30 km/h. What a delight! Straight on the road, without any lateral movement. I continue enjoying this fantastic carbon wheelset! I kick hard, and get out of the saddle to sprint as hard as I can. The wheels remain

stable. It is a lovely feeling.

I’m passing through a few villages with cobbled roads on my ride. I expected more vibrations because of the stiffness, but that’s not the case. I feel the cobbles, but smooth and highly muted, not tiring.

The braking feels measurable and direct, at any speed. Scope’s brake pads, that are included in the wheelset, provide the desired delay, and give me a secure feeling. It is possible to block the wheels, however.

In total I rode the Scope R5c for 500km. During that period they didn’t wear down. I returned the wheels, a little reluctantly. The Scope wheels are reactive, stiff and handle great, if there’s not too much crosswind. For a rider who likes to go fast this is the perfect choice, with great character and the psychological effect of riding on really good and beautiful laced wheels.

TESTED: 500km

- + Stiffness
 - + Getting up to speed
 - + Handling
 - + Brake performance
 - Unique Scope brake pads required
- www.scopecycling.com