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## THE SCOPE R5C REVIEWED

The great thing about Scope Cycling is the huge chunk of no-nonsense involved. Young founders, a simple line-up (3 models), easy to understand names (R3c, R4c and R5c), one type of material (carbon), and one uniform price (€ 1398). Just plug and play, that's what we love about it. Also the story behind Scope is straight forward. A straight forward Dutch story, since Scope is from Holland. The founders are cyclists themselves and they state: "After more than 350 races and 200.000 of kilometres on the bike we from Scope Cycling know how important quality and durability are". Scope develops their wheels completely themselves, where the rims are developed towards the hubs, and vice versa. The rims are 24mm wide for

all models, the hub bearings are widely spaced for an optimal power distribution, and the internals of the freewheel contain six individually switched pawls which get on quickly, but also work redundantly (in case one pawl may fail, the other five pawls are still there to do the job).

Scope commented that one of their sponsored teams, the Baby Dump UCI continental team has been using these wheels for 3 years and no broken spoke, or damaged hub has been noticed so far. The subdivision of the three models is adapted to their use. The R3c is with 615 and 765 grams (front/rear) the lightweight climb set, the R4c with 45mm high rims (weight: 653/812 grams) is the all-rounder, and the R5c wheels that we tested are the aeromodels, with rims of 55mm in height and a weight of 693g and 862g. All these numbers come from the catalogue, where our own measurement of the R5c gave the front wheel a weight of 775 grams, where the rear wheel was measured at 933 grams on our scale. Scope Cycling commented on these findings as follows: "The weight of carbon wheels will always slightly vary because the rims are manually produced". In several reviews the weight fluctuates quite a bit (Bike & trekking: 1589 gr, Cycling plus: 1668 g), which in besides the minimum deviation per wheel probably caused by the different way of measuring (with or without rim tape and/or quick release), and the deviation of

measuring devices used." The R5c wheels are real eye-catchers. They pimp your bike with 50% (arbitrary number, can also be 40% or 60 or 70%, depending on your taste). And off course they give you a moral boost! The wheels make a nice whizzing noise on the asphalt, exactly what you expect, and the wide rim in combination with a 25mm tire also gives you a noticeable higher comfort in comparison to the old standard C15 rim combined with a 23 mm tire. How is it possible that we all have been riding for decades just on that 700x23c?

The comfort of these Scope wheels is more than ok. Also on my usual cobblestone sections the Scope wheels perform excellent. These wheels provide enough comfort to handle the cobbles, so this could be my choice for Paris-Roubaix. When the wind kicks-in, the high profile rims really show their added value. Scope provides an aero U-shape profile which is compared to the Zipp 404 benchmark a bit harder to handle, however they outperform many of the other aero wheels we tested before. Full carbon rims need to be handled with special brake pads, which where also included with the R5c. In the rear we mounted the special Scope brake pads, and in the front we remained with the original Ultegra brake pads. As quite a surprise, the rear brake performs as good as the front brake, which shows that the Scope brake pads really do make

a difference. Also take into account that normally the rear brake has a longer cable than the front brake, which should normally reduce the braking performance. In wet conditions you can't expect a miracle, the combination of carbon, rain, and braking still provides a worse braking performance compared to dry conditions. However, since Scope invested a lot in the development of this key feature, they claim that their brake performance in wet conditions is way better compared to the brake performance of its competitors.

An untouched part of development is a more silence freehub body. The current 6-pawl model makes a lot of noise. Nice for a person who is looking for some audio-feedback, however it doesn't give you the silence to enjoy your ride. This is what I can tell you about the Scope R5c's. Good wheels, of good quality, with nice aesthetics, and an acceptable weight of 1708 gram for this height. And looking to the market of carbon wheels, these Scope wheels are competitive priced.