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SCOPE O2 OFF-ROAD WHEELSET TESTED

Scope has built its name with carbon wheels for road racing. So, ever since they launched their O2 off-road wheelset we wanted to put them to test.

The wheels come shipped in a very clean looking box with attention to detail, protecting the wheels carefully and both valves neatly pointed upwards. Our 29" wheels were equipped with a boost hub in front and a non-boost in the rear complete with SRAM XD body. Upon arrival we've immediately put the wheels on the scale, the front wheel weighed 633g and the rear wheel 780g. Weighing 1.413g in total, including tubeless valves and rim tape. So, it's fair to say that

the claimed weight of 1.380g (excluding rim-tape and tubeless valves) is very accurate.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE WHEEL

The O2 rims are made out of carbon and measure 23mm in height. However, more important is the 31mm outer width of the rim and inner width of 25mm! A wider rim contributes to a stiffer wheel and as well to the air volume inside the tire. Also, the spoke holes in the rim are positioned asymmetrical to provide as much equal spoke tension as possible. The hubs are, just as the rims, fully developed by Scope in the Netherlands and are standardly equipped with top of the line custom developed SKF bearings. Scope does offer an optional upgrade with CeramicSpeed bearings, but considering the high quality standard of the SKF bearings we don't see that as a must. The rim tape is applied very clean and is ridged.

CONCLUSION

Scope did their research before launching the O2 wheelset. By testing the wheels of competitors at Scope's own testing facility, they combined the best results in to the O2 wheelset. As a result, we haven't found any weaknesses. We are used to ride with high quality wheels, however putting these wheels in our bike did take things up a notch. The acceleration at the first pedal stroke is just phenomenal and when keeping the wheel spinning in the air freely, it almost

seems it never wants to stop. Even after several muddy rides we couldn't trace any signs of wear on the bearings. The rims however did show some superficial scratches but no cracks at all due to the impact of some loose rocks which is inevitable and completely normal.

The disc rotors are installed, using a centerlock mount for only one reason: centerlock is much lighter than the more conventional 6 bolt mount. In order to simplify the process of installing tubeless tires Scope has optimized it's rim-profile in collaboration with the engineers of Schwalbe. And with success! We've installed several different tires from different manufacturers and we haven't experienced the slightest struggle. If we do have to mention one downside it would be that the tire may slide into the gutter of the rim and therefor loses tire pressure, as a



result of the easy installation of the tubeless system. After two months of testing during competitive races and training rides at rough terrain across Europe, the wheels remained straight and haven't lost spoke tension.

Visit the Scope website for more information about the O2 wheelset.

www.scopecycling.com

We can conclude that compared to other light wheelsets the Scope O2 wheels are very durable. Although Scope prioritized durability above weight they still have managed to keep the weight low. When you combine durability, light weight, and stiffness in one wheelset you know it's a high-quality product. All for a very reasonable recommended retail price of 1.398 euro. The decal design is very low-key, perfect for those who are looking for stealth quality.

The Scope O2 wheels are only available in 29" and can be used for MTB and gravel bikes. We have tested the O2 wheels with a 15mm trough axle in the front wheel and a 12mm axle in the rear. Both front and rear wheels are available in boost and non-boost versions, as well for Predictive Steering (SRAM) and quick-release. The wheels are compatible with all modern standards including lefty.

Scope's motto "No Excuse" does very much apply to these wheels, once you're out riding on the O2 you won't have any excuses.