



Reviewed by: Cycling Plus
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SCOPE R5C: CARBON CLINCHERS WITH AERO ADVANTAGE

After over two years of development on the rim design and construction, new Dutch brand Scope's R5c is competitive for weight and price. The rim is built using mainly unidirectional fibres to offer the best balance between low weight and strength. A 3K woven carbon fibre has been used to reinforce key areas in the tyre bed and spoke holes, while a proprietary fibre/resin blend in the brake track combats overheating and provides consistent braking.

The rim design is modern, with a 24mm profile outside and 16mm internally. The blunted aero shape

is on trend too, and at 55mm deep you'll see an aero benefit (Scope also has 45 and 30mm versions).

Scope even has its own hub design. The wide set flanges are designed to equalize tension between drive and non-driveside. The freehub has 120 points of engagement so pick-up from pedaling is instant. We like that Scope's used off the peg Sapim CX-Ray spokes, which makes it easier to source spares. We're not sure about the aluminum spoke nipples. We prefer brass for its hardness and resistance to corrosion.

The stiffness of the rim and exemplary build quality make for a wheel with no detectable lateral flex. It does mean a fairly firm ride but with smooth hubs and a quick-to-pick-up freehub it's a positive sensation. We've ridden these wheels in hot weather, rain and stiff winds. The older Zipp-like Toroidal rim shape stays balanced when you get gusted from the side braking is positive. You get a little tell-tale carbon squeal when braking hard for prolonged periods, but we've heard worse. Using softer SwissStop carbon specific pads improved sound levels.

The 695g front and 867g rear wheel weights are impressive for a 55mm deep wheelset (58mm-deep Zipp 404's are 1526g a pair, but £800-plus more). On the downside the vinyl graphics on the rims are

easily marked and scratched, and the chromed steel axle quick releases included are bulky, but still work well. We like that Scope backs up its wheel with a reassuring two-year warranty too.

WE SAY

We couldn't find many minuses on what is a very good pair of carbon clinchers.

HIGHS

Stiff, wind resilient ride, well made and fast

LOWS

Fragile stickers and bulky quick releases