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## SCOPE O2: THE ALL NEW SCOPE GRAVEL/CX WHEELS

They are made out of carbon, they're lightweight and they're fairly wide. All of these are standards for modern built XC mountain bike wheels that are built these days. Unfortunately, terms such as lightweight and carbon are often followed by high costs, therefore you won't easily find a pair of wheels with a ratio of 1 euro per gram. Scope tried to develop a wheelset which ticks all the requirements you may expect from a modern XC wheelset, including a sharp price.

Founded by two cyclists with a wealth of experience as ex-elite racers, both Nieck Busser and Rik Kusters know what to look for at Scope. After retiring from

racing at the elite peloton they came up with the plan to develop and produce their own wheels. Contrary to what the price may suggest these wheels are anything but just another "Chinese hoola hoop" with a sticker mounted, as the rims and hubs are both fully developed by Scope in The Netherlands.

The full carbon rim measures 25mm internal width, 31mm external width, and 23mm in depth. The rims are provided with Scope's "Local Reinforcement Technology" which is similar to an inverted Mavic Ksyrium rim system. The rims are laced onto Scope's own hubs using 28 Sapim straight pull spokes in the rear wheel and 24 in the front. The hubs are developed with their own free hub body system using SKF bearings as a standard. Conveniently, the hubs are fully dismountable without the use of any tools and can be used with all axle widths and diameters.

### TUBELESS

Scope positions it's O2 wheelset for use on a XC mountain bike, or on a luxurious gravel grinder. Hence, the rims aren't wider than 25mm. The use of inner tubes is in both disciplines not so common anymore, for that reason they paid extra attention developing their own tubeless tire bed. The "hookless" rims don't use the conventional edge behind which the tire can sit and, more importantly, the gutter in

the rim bed is optimized in order to fit tubeless tires more easily. That makes mounting tubeless tires a lot easier.

All the beautiful marketing promises made us curious, so we had to put them to test. And, truth been told, the Scope O2 kept their promises. Both the 2.3-inch-wide mountain bike tires from several brands as well as the narrower (44mm) gravel tires were easily installed, hassle free with the use of a standard track pump. We've seen that differently with wheels from other brands!

As requested, Scope sent us the non-boost version. We tested the O2 wheels with a Shimano cassette, (they also have a XD free hub body in their program). We've tested the wheels in two bikes in the Netherlands and abroad and are really impressed. And we haven't even mentioned the weight yet. The wheels weigh 1350g! And they cost "only" €1.398,00. A decent amount of money, although we wish you luck shopping for better offers at other wheel manufacturers in the 1.400g category. You'll find yourself looking at prices in the range of two thousand euros. Therefor we were particularly interested in the stiffness and durability of the wheels.

The rims remind us of the Roval Control SL rims with a similar shape, weight (but for those one has to

pay €2.000,00) and handling characteristics. Once mounted, the O2 easily reduce the total weight of your bike by around 500 grams, making the bike much lighter, playful and responsive, particularly in the front. The stiffness is good, although I have to say I've seen better and we haven't set them up in our test-set-up but they aren't weak either! We rode the Scope O2 wheels in sunny weather but also through mud, giving them a good run for their money. After several of these rides and cleaning sessions with a pressure washer at the gas station there is still plenty of grease in the hubs and the bearings are still running smoothly, just like new ones.

## CONCLUSION

In the field, Scope wheels aren't very well known yet. Due to their (for carbon) affordable price point they will often be ranked with the prebuilt wheels that come from the east. In terms of performance, Scope wheels are, however, on the same level as Enve, Roval and Alchemist, but for a way more competitive price. That's certainly a good thing. Also, the Scope O2 wheels have just been rewarded with a Bikemotion award. Apparently, we aren't the only ones who appreciate a good wheelset.

Scope O2 wheel set

€1398,-.

More info: [www.scopecycling.com](http://www.scopecycling.com)