

## Calfee Bamboo Solo Bike Maiden Voyage

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Provide the master craftsman a Clear & Simple instruction, be patient, and your wildest expectations will be fulfilled.

Imagine a bike that is lively, responsive, spunky, and comfortable. You described a purpose built Calfee Design Bamboo solo bike. This bike performs like the finest handmade Swiss watch. Put the power down and it leaps forward like a thoroughbred released from the starting gate.

I went to Craig Calfee a few months ago for a personal fitting and discussion about a bike built to carry me quickly and comfortably through the toughest climbing Double Century events and ultra distance brevets including Paris Brest Paris. These two riding disciplines are fundamentally different especially considering frame geometry or material choices. Craig smiled and told me with confidence that one bike, made with select bamboo would meet all my needs. His response was immediate and confident.

We spent 45 minutes on Calfee's new Michelson Sizer Cycle, which allows geometry changes while the rider is actually pedaling. This gives the rider a unique opportunity to feel the effects of frame geometry changes as the Sizer Cycle is manipulated. Craig has an outstanding wealth of experience from decades working with some of the world's top professionals and everyday enthusiasts. He does an excellent job interpreting rider feedback during a fitting. He visualizes personalized, finished frames at the outset and directs his craftsmen toward the individual's goals on a daily basis.

The maiden voyage of my special Calfee Bamboo bike took place today. It was a 40 mile climbing ride. The bike was immediately more than I expected. This frame material and the craftsmanship are remarkable. The bike is strong, responsive, and light. You get the feeling your on a high strung thoroughbred that is going to leap forward the minute you snap the reins.

The 61 cm frame features specially cured structural bamboo. Calfee has been building and analyzing bamboo frames for ten years now. Craig understands that bamboo is a nearly perfect tube construction with thin, strong inner and out walls sandwiching a dense shock absorbing

intermediate layer. Periodic diaphragms further strengthen the tube. Each tube set is hand selected by Craig to meet the rider's specification. Main triangle tubes all use a 35 mm seat tube with top and down tube diameters selected to match the rider's weight and desired riding performance characteristics. Seat and chain stays are selected by diameter. Each frame uses two piece hollowed Titanium rear drop outs, hand wrapped, hand profiled resin impregnated fiber thread lug work, a special drive side carbon fiber chain stay reinforcement, lovely built in cable routing and unique finishing features the shop craftsmen love developing as each frame takes shape.

Customers have a choice of hand wrapped carbon fiber, hemp fiber, or bamboo fiber lug work. Carbon fiber is black. Hemp fiber has shades of tan and brown with flecks of green. Bamboo fiber is nearly white.

This frame is finished with a Calfee spec Alpha-Q carbon fiber fork, Chris King head set, and Calfee spec anatomic aero carbon fiber handlebars padded & wrapped in Selle An-Atomica Second Skin Watershed leather bar tape. An all carbon fiber & Titanium Campagnolo Record group set, handmade Titanium 11-28 cassette Campagnolo 10 speed compatible for Shimano splined hub, FSA RD-600 wheels (pictured at the end of the document) with Continental 700 x 25 handmade Ultra Gator Skins, and Speedplay Frogs, the ultimate long distance pedal. Selle An-Atomica Titanico LD Limited Edition Ostrich hide on Watershed leather (chocolate brown on Golden) saddle complete the package.

Special brevet wheels are pictured featuring Chris King Gold hubs with black Mavic rims and black DT Swiss db spokes using bright blue nipples to pick up the blue highlights in the Calfee decals. These wheels will use



Vredestein Fortezza tires with Michelin Airstop Butyl tubes. The frame is built to use 700 x 23, 25, & 28 tires depending on the event type and road surface.

Other special features on the unique bike are;

- Full Wood fenders with inlaid combination of black walnut, curly maple, and purpleheart.

- Specially machined rear drop out screws with internal threads for rear rack mounting.

- Seat stay / seat tube area stud for tire pump mount.

- Third water bottle cage studs under the down tube.

- Carbon fiber, rosewood veneer covered water bottle cages.

This 61 cm slopping tube dream machine weighed in at 20+ lbs ready for the road. My preferred climbing bike is a Seven Cycles Odonata, which weighs 18+ lbs. Preferred long distance brevet bike is a Serotta Legend Ti, which weighs 22+ lbs.

The Calfee Bamboo frame climbs like a much lighter bike. It gives great confidence on ultra fast technical downhill when you're nose to tail with the local course specialists. It gives the feeling that it is ready to pounce given free rein. It eats up the road and absorbs road noise quite remarkably. This bike begs to be ridden to the limit.

I only encountered one bike during this maiden voyage on the longest climb of the afternoon. The rider called out "hey, that's a Calfee Bamboo bike." Dan was riding his beloved Carbonframes bike. He said, "best bike I've owned. Raced and trained on it for the past 15 years, have yet to ride a better bike. I can only imagine a new Calfee Design bike would be an improvement over this lovely ride." Carbonframes is the first Calfee built carbon fiber frame. Greg Lemond & Team Z rode Carbonframes licensed the technology to build frames under Lemond brand name.

If you are serious about your riding and need comfort and performance on the most challenging courses, see Calfee Design for a bamboo frame fitting at their oceanside facilities on the Monterey Bay.

