NEW BIKES

JAMIS DAKAR A2
£1,000 / 27.5in / evanscycles.com

**NEED TO KNOW**
- 120mm-travel trail bike available to buy on the Cycle to Work scheme
- Alloy frame with RockShox suspension
- Four frame sizes suit a wide range of rider heights
- Single-ring drivetrain for simplicity and chain security

**SPECIFICATION**

Frame: Triple-butted 6061 alloy, 120mm front / Monarch R fork
Shock: RockShox
Wheels: Formula hubs, WTB ST23 rims, Vittoria Goma 2.1x2.25in tyres
Drakes: Shimano M315, 11/36t
Brakes: Formula
Drivetrain: Triple 3x10
Front: Shimano Zeron crank, Shimano Deore 10-speed shifter and rear

**GEOMETRY**

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**DOES JAMIS’S ENTRY-LEVEL FULL-SUSSER BOAST THE FIREPOWER TO OUTGUN THE BENCHMARK BOSSNUT?**

Calibre broke new ground with its entry-level full-suspension bike, the Bossnut. By bringing high performance to an impressively low price point, it effectively democratised the benefits of suspension and delivered a package that could keep much more expensive metal on its toes.

But we knew that its monopoly on the budget suspension bike market wouldn’t last forever. That someone would come along, find a way to iron out the few creases in the Bossnut’s package, and issue a challenge for the budget suspension bike market.

“Does Jamis’s entry-level full-susser boast the firepower to outgun the benchmark Bossnut?”

**It’s confidence-inspiring and a lot of fun to ride**

So what do you get for your money? Firstly, the frame is sculpted from triple-butted 6061 alloy into a pleasing, fluid shape that doesn’t look too dissimilar to a Santa Cruz. The clean lines are accentuated by internal cable routing, and there’s room inside the main triangle for a bottle cage. So far, advantage Jamis.

Four sizes are available, from small all the way to XL, which is one more than the Bossnut, and the fit is actually more generous, too. Jamis loses out a touch on travel, with 120mm out back compared to the Bossnut’s 130mm, but on the trail, the performance swings back in favour of the Jamis. Why? Well, the Calibre’s damping can feel a bit heavy-handed and recalitrant, particularly if you’re at the lighter end of the weight spectrum. No such worries on the similarly RockShox-equipped Jamis, however, which is eager and lively with plenty of grip. And yet it never hits the eject button when you go through a high-speed compression. In short, it’s effective and confidence-inspiring and ensures the Dakar is a lot of fun to ride.

The cockpit is sorted too, the superb Race Face bar and stem make for a great cockpit combo. So far, the best £1,000 full-suspension bike we’ve ridden.

**BEST IMPRESSIONS**

- The best £1,000 full-suspension bike we’ve ridden.
- Tyres can’t keep up with the rest of the package.

**LIGHTS**

- Vigilante/Trail Boss combo will set you back from around £45 online.
- Despite appearances, this is not a direct comparison test against the Bossnut V2, but I’m confident that were we to do one today, the Jamis would win.
- Excess that Calibre has a new, improved Bossnut on the way, and it’s due out imminently. So this is one match that’s heading for a tie-breaker, and a due out imminently. So this is one match that’s heading for a tie-breaker, and a