

Bicycling Magazine reviews Co-Motion's Espresso Co-Pilot

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BAGGING ON YOUR TRIP

HERE'S A GREAT BIKE THAT JUST HAPPENS TO FIT IN A SUITCASE

Besides South Africa, I've lugged bikes on hellish odysseys to Australia, Madagascar and Muncie, Indiana. Hauling your ride through multiple airports is more mind-wrecking than traveling with a 2-year-old. You also need transportation on both ends that can carry a bike box. Mailing is easier, but adds ship time to your schedule.

The best solution is a full-size travel bike, like the Co-Motion Espresso Co-Pilot I rode in South Africa. Sized to

match the dimensions of my everyday bikes, the \$2,790-\$3,650 Espresso frame is fitted with cable splitters and couplings that unscrew to break the bike into two pieces (plus wheels) that fit into a 26x26x10-inch, \$270 suitcase. The case is easy to carry and doesn't incur an excess baggage fee. Once you're used to it, build-up or tear-down takes about 15 minutes. With 700c wheels and other standard parts, you won't worry about packing funky-size spares, as with small-wheel travel bikes.

But the remarkable thing isn't that the Co-Pilot fits in a suitcase; it's the ride. This is not a good collapsible bike; this is a good bike that happens to be collapsible. The double-butted, Reynolds 725 steel frame yields a supple, smooth ride with decent stiffness for sprints or climbs. The geometry is well balanced between aggressive and stable. The TIG welding is artfully pleasing; no lumps or ugly scallops here.

If you travel with your bike more than three times a year, treat yourself to a Co-Pilot. And if you're one of those people who saves all your cash for exotic trips, think about this: The Co-Pilot is good enough to serve not just away from home but as your only bike.—B.S.



The Co-Motion Espresso Co-Pilot was ridden in a South African race called the Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour

By Bill Strickland

Besides South Africa, I've lugged bikes on hellish odysseys to Australia, Madagascar and Muncie, Indiana. Hauling your ride through multiple airports is more mind-wrecking than traveling with a 2-year-old. You also need transportation on both ends that can carry a bike box. Mailing is easier, but adds ship time to your schedule. The best solution is a full-size travel bike, like the Co-Motion Espresso Co-Pilot I rode in South Africa. Sized to match the dimensions of my everyday bikes, the \$2,790-\$3,650 Espresso frame (**Co-Motion note: prices for complete bikes**) is fitted with cable splitters and couplings that unscrew to break the bike into two pieces (plus wheels) that fit into a 26x26x10-inch, \$270 suitcase. The case is easy to carry and doesn't incur an excess baggage fee. Once you're used to it, build-up or tear-down takes about 15 minutes. With 700c wheels and other standard parts, you won't worry about packing funky-size spares, as with small-wheel travel bikes. But the remarkable thing isn't that the Co-Pilot fits in a suitcase; it's the ride. This is not a good collapsible bike; this is a good bike that happens to be collapsible. The double-butted, Reynolds 725 steel frame yields a supple, smooth ride with decent stiffness for sprints or climbs. The geometry is well balanced between aggressive and stable. The TIG welding is

artfully pleasing; no lumps or ugly scallops here. If you travel with your bike more than three times a year, treat yourself to a Co-Pilot. And if you're one of those people who saves all your cash for exotic trips, think about this: The Co-Pilot is good enough to serve not just away from home but as your only bike.—B-S.

(END OF REVIEW)

Note: For current pricing and specifications, please refer to the [Espresso](#) page.

To request our printed catalog or correspond by email, click [here](#).