

MBA TECH

held for a \$6,499 ransom

Exclusive first look at Scott USA's Ransom LTD Carbon

"I only have one production Ransom LTD Carbon in the United States," said Adrian Montgomery of Scott USA. "What do you say we hit the Phoenix area and rip up the trails of South Mountain? You guys can be the first ones in North America to ride the final version of our Equalizer shock."

This was certainly a no-brainer, and we packed our bags for a weekend of riding the sport's most high-tech all-mountain bike on the market.

WHAT IS IT?

Leave it to the Germans (where Scott USA bikes are designed) to come up with a carbon fiber frame with adjustable rear wheel travel between 3.7 and 6.7 inches, operated with a one-of-a-kind dual-chamber shock that allows you to turn on and off the pedaling platform, then choose between two travel modes plus lockout from a handlebar-actuated switch. The Ransom LTD carbon costs \$6499 and weighs 29 pounds.

JUST THE FACTS

There are five bikes in the Scott Ransom line, beginning with the aluminum Ransom 40 at \$2999 and ending with

the flagship Ransom LTD carbon. The LTD is made with Scott's CR1 carbon technology, previously used to develop the lightest road bike in the world. The heart of the Ransom is the Equalizer shock. It features Traction Control, where the dual-chamber shock volume is reduced by 50 percent, decreasing the shock volume and roughly cutting rear-wheel travel in half. With a flip of the handlebar lever, both chambers of the shock are opened, allowing more shock travel with the same amount of air pressure. The third position is full lockout. The Equalizer also has a separate pedaling platform adjustment that can be turned on and off.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

In addition to the unique shock technology, the top-of-the-line Ransom showcases some of the finest components in the sport, like an air-sprung Fox 36 TALAS RC2 fork, Shimano XTR front derailleur, SRAM X.0 carbon rear derailleur, SRAM X.0 trigger shifters, Avid Juicy carbon brakes, Shimano XTR crankset and Mavic CrossMax XL disc wheels.

RIDING IMPRESSION

Before our ride, we sufficiently fueled up with an early morning waffle and steak feast and hit the demanding ter-



Two years in the making: The Scott Ransom LTD carbon chassis and Equalizer shock has been in development for two years. We had the privilege of riding what was the only production version bike in North America.



Ransom

rain of South Mountain. With terrain features rivaling some of the best in the country, we took the Ransom to task on steep climbs, super-techy downhills, and on the meandering

Travel options: *The Scott Ransom is adjustable between 3.7 and 6.7 inches of rear wheel travel. It features a one-of-a-kind, dual-chamber shock, allowing you to turn the pedaling platform on or off and then choose between two travel modes.*

Shocked: *The heart of the Ransom is the Equalizer shock. It has two travel modes, lockout, and a tuneable pedaling platform.*

Desert Classic trail. There wasn't a better place to take advantage of the Ransom's design features. The climbs were aided by the shock and fork travel options, and the downhills were full-throttle aboard a 29-pound bike with nearly seven inches of travel.

One weekend is better than none, but one weekend does not make a test. Not to worry; the MBA wrecking crew will get their hands on a Ransom LTD Carbon for a full thrashing in the near future. □